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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Report tabled on the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025**

The Committee on Community Services has completed its inquiry into the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025 and tabled its report.

The Bill was introduced by the member for Barwon, Roy Butler, to improve health services in the Hunter New England Local Health District (LHD) by splitting the existing district into two separate health districts – the Hunter LHD and the New England North West LHD.

Committee Chair, Clayton Barr MP, said that the Committee heard from a range of stakeholders with differing views on the potential risks and benefits of splitting the Hunter New England LHD.

"We heard from members of some communities in the New England region who had the view that splitting the district would improve healthcare in their area, as there would be more scope for local decision making and planning, and increased funding for health services," said Mr Barr.

"However, some stakeholders who work in the healthcare sector told us that a split could worsen access to some health services, would require funds to be spent on setting up a separate administration, and would not address workforce shortages."

The Committee received 107 submissions from members of the community, community groups, local councils, the agricultural sector, unions, professional associations, the Hunter New England LHD and NSW Health. Committee members also heard from 50 witnesses during four public hearings, including two hearings held in Narrabri and Tamworth.

"It was important for us to hear from a wide range of stakeholders so that we could better understand the practical impacts of splitting the LHD. We have recommended that the Bill be considered by the Parliament, and the views of stakeholders outlined in our report be considered as part of the deliberations on the Bill," said Mr Barr.

"On behalf of the Committee, I thank everyone who took the time to make a submission and appear as a witness at one of our public hearings. We hope that the report will assist the Parliament's consideration of the Bill."

The report can be found on the inquiry [webpage](#).

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