

**Submission
No 81**

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (SPLITTING OF THE HUNTER NEW ENGLAND HEALTH DISTRICT) BILL 2025

Organisation: Gwydir Shire Council

Date Received: 24 April 2025

24th April 2025

Mr Clayton Barr MP
Chair
The Committee on Community Services
communityservices@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Gwydir Shire Council is writing this submission in support of the proposed Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025.

It is this Council's view that all services, particularly health services, should be provided locally as far as possible rather than being controlled remotely with all the attendant problems that are created by absentee management.

A revitalized management of health services within the New England North West would allow the return of a measure of control to the local communities that are so reliant on their local hospitals.

This could certainly be achieved, for example, through reestablishing local hospital Boards with significant management responsibilities to recreate the sense of ownership that has been lost through the enormous size of the current Hunter New England Area Health Service.

Unfortunately, residents tend to feel alienated from the current health system rather than embracing it simply due to the size and remoteness of the current management leadership.

I also speak from personal experience, having previously worked within the current structure for some time as a nurse.

For these reasons Gwydir Shire Council supports the proposal outlined in the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025.

Yours faithfully



Cr Tiffany Galvin
Mayor