

# DORSET COUNCIL BOARD OF INQUIRY

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## BOARD OF INQUIRY UPDATE

To whom it may concern,

The Board appreciates that suspended and former councillors and current and former Council staff may be anxious to know about the Board of Inquiry process going forward and how it is likely to impact on them. Accordingly, the Board would like to take the opportunity to clarify its process in relation to the Inquiry.

### Submissions

Following announcement of the Board of Inquiry, the Board invited submissions in relation to the matters contained in its Terms of Reference in early August 2023. The Board's invitation was advertised in the three regional newspapers and the North Eastern Advertiser. The Board also wrote to persons and Government agencies that may have an interest in the Inquiry inviting submissions, including the suspended councillors and the former general manager. Submissions closed on 8 September 2023.

The Board received 59 submissions in response to its invitation.

### Appearances

The Board is currently continuing its inquiry phase, which involves gathering information and evidence in relation to the matters contained in its Terms of Reference. As part of this process, the Board is currently conducting appearances to obtain further information and evidence. Appearances will continue through November and December 2023 and into January 2024.

Appearances are not hearings and are being conducted in private. All persons requested to appear will be issued with a Summons containing further details, including the matters that the Board wishes to receive further information and evidence on and any documents that are required to be produced. Where the Board requests a person to appear before it, a Summons will be issued at the earliest opportunity to provide adequate notice of the date, time and venue for the appearance. Summons' will be accompanied by additional information explaining the appearance process and

what to expect. This includes advice in relation to legal representation and support persons at appearances.

Not every person or employee that provided a submission will be requested to appear. The Board does not anticipate that a large number of Council employees will be requested to appear. All suspended councillors and some former councillors will be summonsed to appear.

#### Board's findings

Following completion of its inquiry phase, the Board will prepare its findings.

During this phase, if the Board is contemplating making an adverse finding against any person, that person will be informed and provided with an adequate opportunity to respond to the proposed finding and the evidence that the Board intends to rely on in making such a finding.

Once all persons affected have had an adequate opportunity to respond, the Board will finalise its findings and recommendations and report to the Minister.

#### Further information

If you have any questions in relation to the Board of Inquiry process, please contact the Board Secretariat by telephone on 6232 7022 or by email at [DorsetBol@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:DorsetBol@dpac.tas.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mr Andrew Paul



Mr Andrew Walker

Dorset Council Board of Inquiry

16 November 2023