



The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Local Government

18 April 2016

Dear Mayor,

As you are aware, the Government is aiming to complete the council boundary review process by around the middle of 2016.

No decision has yet been made on any merger proposal. However, as far as possible, the Government wants to provide certainty to councils on matters that affect council business. To this end I am writing to councils to provide advice on the Government's intention on the timing of council elections. This advice applies to all councils - those that are subject to a merger proposal currently under examination and those that are not.

As you will be aware, ordinary local government elections are scheduled to occur on 10 September 2016. For councils not subject to a merger proposal that is under examination, ordinary elections will proceed on this date.

Given the Government's timeframe for completion of the council boundary review process, it is anticipated that any councils that are merged as a result of this process may not be adequately prepared for a 10 September 2016 election. The Government therefore intends to delay local government elections for all councils subject to a merger proposal currently under examination.

An order to delay elections for those councils with a merger proposal currently before the Boundaries Commission was Gazetted on 15 April. Another order will be made for those councils also subject to a merger proposal (but not listed in the 15 April Gazette) once the relevant Delegate report is before the Boundaries Commission. The order delays elections for a period of up to twelve months.

The date the Government is working towards for the elections for these Councils is March 2017. The exact date will be confirmed following the conclusion of the council boundary review process and consultation with the Electoral Commission.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Corin Moffatt, Special Adviser in my office on (02) 8574 7016 or at corin.moffatt@minister.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Paul Toole MP

Minister