

## Media release

Monday 17 February 2014

### Panel appointed to advise on new Sunbury shire

The establishment of the Sunbury out of Hume Local Government Panel is the next big step in the Victorian Coalition Government's commitment to implement the local community's desire for a new municipality, Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell said today.

Speaking at the Sunbury Library, Mrs Powell announced the appointment of panel members Brian Haratsis, Kelvin Spiller and Maxine Cooper to provide expert advice on the most effective way to achieve the successful separation of Sunbury from the City of Hume.

"Over the coming months the panel will investigate new municipal boundaries and transition arrangements including the distribution of assets and delivery of municipal services while having regard to the economic sustainability of the two restructured councils," Mrs Powell said.

"The panel will work closely with the recently announced Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to ensure widespread community input into separating Sunbury from Hume."

The CCC will be chaired by Member for Northern Victoria Region Amanda Millar MLC who said the committee would comprise up to eight community volunteers.

"Recommendations from the Community Consultative Committee will be formally considered by the Sunbury out of Hume Local Government Panel and reported to me as a requirement of the panel's terms of reference," Mrs Millar said.

Panel members:

- ☐ Brian Haratsis (Panel Chair) is an economist and strategist with over 30 years experience as an adviser to governments and major corporate clients throughout Australia. He was recently a member of the Ministerial Advising Committee providing advice to the Planning Minister on Plan Melbourne;
- ☐ Kelvin Spiller was recently Acting Chief Executive Officer with the Wangaratta Rural City Council and has around 35 years of experience in local government in Victoria and Queensland. He has specific skills in restructuring of local governments, including planning and managing transitions; and

- ☐ Maxine Cooper has considerable experience in social research, community development and planning in a range of organisations in both the private and public sectors. She is currently a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria.

Mrs Powell said that in October last year 60 per cent of Hume residents and ratepayers who participated at a voluntary poll voted in favour of Sunbury separating from the City of Hume.

“The establishment of a Local Government Panel to investigate and make recommendations on the separation of Sunbury from Hume City Council is required by the Local Government Act 1989,” Mrs Powell said.

The panel’s report and recommendations are expected to be submitted to the Minister by 30 June 2014.

Further information: [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/localgovernment](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/localgovernment)

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