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16 AUG 2024

Mr Andrew Wardlaw  
Commissioner  
Dorset Council  
Commissioner@dorset.tas.gov.au

Dear Commissioner

I write in relation to the Dorset Council Board of Inquiry.

I refer to the Council's submission of 25 July 2024 in relation to the Board's findings and recommendations. I note that this submission asserts that the Board of Inquiry failed to afford the Council procedural fairness by not providing it with an opportunity to make submissions on the Board's draft findings and recommendations prior to submitting its report to me under section 224(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

Having considered this matter, I have formed the view that it is appropriate to direct the Board to reconsider its report in accordance with section 224(2) of the Act. Accordingly, I have now issued the Board with such a direction.

I have made this decision in recognition of the Board's obligation to observe the rules of natural justice and in the interests of ensuring a fair and proper process for the Council. I appreciate that it is in the best interests of the Dorset community to resolve this process as soon as possible, however it is vital that all legal requirements are met.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience with this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nic Street MP  
**Minister for Local Government**