



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 12 June 2020

ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL SUSPENDED

The NSW Government today suspended Armidale Regional Council and appointed an administrator for three months.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock made the decision to suspend the council after carefully considering its submission in response to a notice of intention issued on May 19.

In its submission to the Minister, the council welcomed the Minister's intervention and appointment of an administrator.

The suspension follows serious concerns about the council's ability to function properly and effectively following a breakdown of relationships between councillors and key council officers and significant reputational, legal and work, health and safety risks.

Mrs Hancock said an interim administrator would restore the proper and effective functioning of the council.

"The Armidale community deserves to have a council that is serving its best interests," Mrs Hancock said.

Local government veteran Viv May PSM has been appointed as administrator of the council for a period of three months.

Mr May has nearly 50 years' experience in the NSW local government sector. He has previously been administrator of the suspended Auburn City Council and the new Cumberland Council in 2016, and served as a general manager of Mosman Council.

The appointment of an interim administrator will provide independent governance to address organisational and governance matters.

Suspension applies to the mayor and councillors.

The interim administrator will perform the functions of the mayor and councillors for three months. The administrator's salary will be the same as the fees paid to the suspended councillors.

"Viv May is well placed to ensure the best interests of ratepayers are being served now and in the future," Mrs Hancock said.

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