



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 12 March 2021

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL SUSPENDED

The NSW Government has suspended Wingecarribee Shire Council and appointed an administrator for three months.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said it followed serious concerns about the council's ability to function properly and effectively following a worsening and ongoing breakdown of relationships between councillors and senior staff.

Under the Local Government Act, all councillors are required to work together in the best interests of the community. It is clear that the elected body of Wingecarribee Shire Council is incapable of addressing the dysfunction itself and fulfilling this important duty.

Viv May PSM, who has half a century of experience in the NSW local government sector, has been appointed interim administrator.

"Viv May brings the knowledge, skills and experience to restore the proper and effective operation of the council and ensure that the best interests of residents are being served now and in the future," Mrs Hancock said.

The Minister made the suspension decision after considering a submission from the council in response to a notice of intention she issued on March 3.

Suspension applies to the mayor and councillors, with the interim administrator performing their functions. It does not affect council staff and daily operations. The interim administrator's salary will be the same as the fees paid to the suspended councillors.

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