

Local MPs call for suspension of Wingecarribee Council

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER



Member for Goulburn, Wendy Tuckerman and Member for Wollondilly, Nathaniel Smith have been inundated with complaints about WSC.

Local state members, Nathaniel Smith, Member for Wollondilly, and Wendy Tuckerman, Member for Goulburn, have written to the Minister for Local Government, Shelly Hancock, urging the suspension of Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC).

In their letter to the Minister dated 1 March, Mr Smith and Ms Tuckerman said, "We write to urge you to use your powers under the Local Government Act and suspend Wingecarribee Shire Council."

They said they supported the Performance Improvement Order (PIO) that the Minister issued on 8 September last year, "... as we believed it was desirable for Council to resolve its internal difficulties and return to focusing on de-

living positive outcomes for the community."

However, the State MPs said that, in their opinions, the PIO has not achieved its desired outcome.

"Council meetings, which are held online, continue to fail to meet the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW," they wrote. "Councillors are regularly muted or even banished to virtual waiting rooms. This behaviour is contributing to poor decision-making and poor outcomes for the community."

The letter continued: "We also express concern at allegations that we have received that council is not acting in an open and transparent manner regarding major projects it intends to undertake."

"In addition to the community's loss of confidence in the elected officials, we believe there may be significant management issues contributing to the Council's inability to deal with the matters at hand. Moreover, we, along with the community, are particularly concerned that Council has commenced a process to appoint a new General Manager at a time when it is heavily divided and dysfunctional."

Mr Smith and Ms Tuckerman said that both their electorate offices have been inundated with complaints regarding the recruitment of a General Manager for WSC.

"It has also led to a Petition to the NSW Parliament, organised rallies in the Shire, and enormous disquiet within the community. Given the current dysfunction and poor decision-making, we do not think the current Council is fit to make such a significant appointment at this time," they added.

The MPs then again called for the Minister's "urgent intervention".

"As State Members of Parliament we have patiently waited for the Mayor and Councillors to abide by the PIO, however, they have failed to heed our advice and continue to fail the communities they represent," they concluded.

Hume PD welcomes three new recruits

Hume Police District has welcomed three new NSW Police Force recruits after the first graduation ceremony of 2021.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott joined Member for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman and NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller APM at an attestation ceremony at the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn.

"Over the course of last year, we have seen first-hand the crucial role our police officers play in protecting the community and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts," Mr Elliott said.

Mrs Tuckerman welcomed the three recruits who will join the local Police District and congratulated them on the



start of their careers.

All new police officers have completed eight months of foundational training and reported to their new stations this week.



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