

The Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government (OLG) encourage and support councils to voluntarily take action to address issues of dysfunction and/or poor performance. Where this is not successful, or where the Minister otherwise considers it necessary, the elected council can be suspended, and one or more administrators appointed.

This is a quick guide to the suspension process.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

- Notice of intention to issue a suspension order will be given.
- The council will be given no less than 14 days to respond (except in urgent circumstances, where the response time will be 7 days).
- The notice of intention will outline what action is required.
- The council will be encouraged to consider and table the notice of intention at an open council meeting.
- The council should provide its response to the notice of intention by resolution.
- The Minister is required to consider the council's submission when making a decision.
- If a suspension order is made, it will be published in the Government Gazette and an interim administrator will be appointed.
- The interim administrator will be asked to table the suspension order at an open meeting and publish the order on the council's website. The OLG will also publish the order on its website.
- Suspension orders, amendments or extensions to suspension orders, and orders appointing interim administrators, are also published in the Government Gazette.
- During the suspension period, councillors are suspended from office and are not entitled to exercise the functions of civic office or receive any fee or other remuneration.
- The Office of Local Government will monitor the implementation of suspension orders.
- The interim administrator will complete a compliance report on the implementation of any performance improvement order, and/or a progress report on the suspension period, if one is required.
- Interim administrators are required to prepare a final written report no less than 14 days before the end of a suspension period.

Additional information is available by searching "Early Intervention Orders" on the Office of Local Government website at olg.nsw.gov.au.