



# Norfolk Island Regional Council

## Notice of Intention to temporarily suspend Council

December 2020

### FAQ

[Here is some general information on the temporary suspension process](#)

#### What is temporary suspension of a council?

A council may be temporarily suspended where it is considered necessary to restore the proper or effective functioning of the council.

During a temporary suspension, the councillors are suspended from office and an administrator is appointed to fulfil the role of elected councillors.

#### What is a notice of intention to temporarily suspend a council?

Before a decision is made to temporarily suspend a council a notice of intention, outlining reasons, is provided to the council.

The council is given the opportunity to make submissions which are considered in making the decision about whether to temporarily suspend the council.

#### Why is this necessary?

The recently released independent audit reports identify significant issues with NIRC's financial and operational performance.

#### What does it mean for the Council and the community?

If a council is temporarily suspended, its day-to-day functions continue and staff continue to perform their roles, under direction of the General Manager.

The community's service delivery experience should not change simply as a result of a temporary suspension.

Councillors are suspended from office, are not entitled to exercise any of the functions of the civic office and are not entitled to any fees, remuneration, payment of expenses, or to the use of council facilities.

#### What happens next?

Council will make submissions in response to the notice and these will be considered in making the decision about whether to temporarily suspend the council.

In this next period before a decision is made, the Department will provide immediate financial support to NIRC for payment of immediate critical priorities, such as staff salaries.