



Norfolk Island Regional Council

Temporary suspension of Council

February 2021

FAQ

General information on the temporary suspension of the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC).

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 interim administrator is appointed to fulfil the role of elected councillors (including the Mayor).

Why is temporary suspension necessary?

The recently released independent audit reports identify significant issues with the NIRC's financial and operational performance. Temporary suspension is necessary to restore the proper or effective functioning of the NIRC.

How long will the temporary suspension last?

The temporary suspension of the NIRC will last for three months.

What does it mean for the NIRC and the community?

The day-to-day functions of the NIRC will continue and staff will 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 is the role of the interim administrator?

An interim administrator has been appointed to fulfil the role of the elected councillors (including the Mayor) for three months.

What happens next?

The Department will continue to provide immediate financial support to NIRC for payment of immediate critical priorities, such as staff salaries