

OFFICE OF THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR



28 September 2021

Civic Centre 
68 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale
PO Box 141 Moss Vale NSW 2577

Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner
Wingecarribee Shire Council Public Inquiry
Via email: Wingecarribee.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au

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ABN 49 546 344 354

Dear Commissioner

Further to my letter of 23 September 2021, your attention is drawn to the report of the Small Business Commissioner dated June 2021 *Small Business Consultation: Wingecarribee Shire Council*. The report can be found on our website on the following link:
<https://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/resources/small-business-consultation-wingecarribee-shire-council>

Following the suspension of Council in March 2021, the NSW Minister for Finance & Small Business asked the Commissioner to consult with small businesses on their experience(s) with Council and a Terms of Reference was released.

The report was tabled at a meeting of Council held on 23 June 2021 when I noted in my Interim Administrator's Minute.... *the Small Business Commissioner released his report into small business relationships and support across the Southern Highlands. As I predicted in an earlier update, it was quite critical of the Council from a reputation perspective. Together with the report from Earnest Consulting, these works and recommendations have now been referred to the General Manager to report to Council. There is no question that communication and land use planning at the Council, quite frankly has just not been good enough.*

The community, whether small business or mums and dads with a simple DA, have been badly let down. In making this statement, I do not point a finger of blame at assessment or compliance officers but at the lack of leadership and consistency of successive Councils and former employees.

I have asked the General Manager to provide an update to you on the report's recommendations to the 10 November Council meeting when I would expect the final report of Earnest Consulting to also be tabled.

Yours faithfully

Viv May PSM
Interim Administrator

Working with you