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Contact: Client Services
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Mrs Helen Orchard
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Dear Mrs Orchard

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 October 2020 to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP regarding Central Coast Council. The Minister has asked the Office of Local Government (OLG) to respond on her behalf.

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, is very concerned about the dire financial position of Central Coast Council and the uncertainty surrounding the extent to which the decisions of the elected body have contributed to this. Public confidence in the council as a functional decision-making representative body needs to be restored.

One of the more significant concerns was Council's cash position on 21 October 2020, meaning it was unable to pay its staff and suppliers without a significant injection of funds from an external source. The State Government arranged an emergency funding advance of \$6.2 million to the Council so that it could meet its immediate financial obligations.

These are serious matters. On 30 October 2020, having considered Council's submission on her intention to issue a suspension order, the Minister suspended the councillors from civic office for three months and appointed an interim administrator, Mr Dick Persson AM, for the period up until 29 January 2021.

The Minister is concerned about the significant reputational and financial risks currently facing the council that must be addressed. The temporary suspension and appointment of an interim administrator provides an opportunity for Council to

address these significant concerns that have been raised with the Minister and with OLG.

The interim administrator takes on the role of the Mayor and councillors for the term of the administration. You may wish to bring your concerns to the attention of the interim administrator at ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to the Government's attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Ewens
Acting Leader, Client Services

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**Office of
Local Government**

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

