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**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 9 SEPTEMBER 2020  
REPORTS TO COUNCIL – GENERAL MANAGER**

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## **1. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.2.8 Implement best practice governance standards, transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture

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### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to elect both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a 1 year term.

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### **Report**

The Mayor elected by the Councillors holds the office of Mayor for 2 years. The Deputy Mayor may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.

At the September 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council elected Cr Davies as Mayor and Cr Collins as Deputy Mayor for a two-year term.

Council must now hold an election for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to hold their office until the Ordinary Elections are held on 4 September 2021.

### **Election of Mayor by Councillors Procedure**

#### **Returning Officer**

The General Manager (or a person appointed by the General Manager) is the returning officer.

#### **Nomination**

A Councillor may be nominated without notice for election as Mayor or Deputy Mayor. The nomination is to be made in writing by two or more Councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing. The nomination is delivered or sent to the returning officer. The returning officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the Council Meeting at which the election is to be held.

#### **Election**

If only one Councillor is nominated, that Councillor is elected. If more than one Councillor is nominated, the Council is to resolve whether the election is to proceed by preferential ballot (place 1, 2, 3 against each candidate), by ordinary ballot (secret ballot – place and "X" against the candidate of their choice) or by open voting (show of hands). A similar procedure applies for the election of a Deputy Mayor. The election is to be held at the Council Meeting at which the Council resolves on the method of voting.

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**1. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR (Cont'd)**

Open ballots can be undertaken remotely where a council is conducting its meetings via audio visual link.

Ordinary and preferential ballots are secret ballots and Councillors will need to attend the meeting in person if the election is to be by way of an ordinary or preferential ballot.

In deciding which method to use Council should consider the personal circumstances of their Councillors to ensure that all Councillors can participate in the Mayoral Election. Councillors may attend Council Meetings in person under the *Public Health (COVID-19) Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No. 4) 2020* for the purposes of participating in a mayoral election and staff may attend for the purposes of conducting the election.

Note: Previous elections in recent years have been by ordinary ballot.

**Ordinary Ballot or Open Voting**

If the election proceeds by ordinary ballot, the returning officer is to decide the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot-papers. The formality of a ballot-paper must be determined in terms of clause 345(1)(b), (c) and (6) of the Regulations. An informal ballot-paper must be rejected at the count.

**Count – 2 Candidates**

If there are only two candidates, the candidate with the higher number of votes is elected. If there are only two candidates and they are tied, the one elected is chosen by lot.

**Count – 3 or more Candidates**

- (1) If there are three or more candidates, the one with the lowest number of votes is to be excluded.
- (2) If three or more candidates then remain, a further vote is to be taken of those candidates and the one with the lowest number of votes from that further vote is to be excluded.
- (3) If, after that, 3 or more candidates still remain, the procedure set out in sub-clause (2) is to be repeated until only 2 candidates remain.
- (4) A further vote is taken of the 2 remaining candidates.
- (5) The procedure for the count for two candidates then applies as if the two remaining candidates had been the only candidates.
- (6) If at any stage during a count under sub-clause (1) or (2), two or more candidates are tied on the lowest number of votes, the one excluded is to be chosen by lot.

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**1. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR (Cont'd)**

**Choosing by Lot**

To choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the returning officer, the slips are folded by the returning officer so as to prevent the names being seen, the slips are mixed and one is drawn at random by the returning officer and the candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen.

**Result**

The result of the election (including the name of the candidate elected as Mayor or Deputy Mayor) is (a) to be declared to the Councillors at the Council Meeting at which the election is held by the returning officer, and (b) to be delivered or sent to the Director General of the Office of Local Government and the Secretary of Local Government NSW.

**Financial Implications**

Operational Plan and Budget 2020/2021

**Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Section 230, 231, 290 of the *Local Government Act 1993*  
Clause 345(1)(b), (c) and (6) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*  
Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

**Risk Management Issues**

Compliance with legal and regulatory implications  
Council must observe appropriate social distancing when conducting mayoral elections and take any other steps necessary to minimise the risk of infection by the COVID-19 virus to ensure the health and safety of all attendees.

**Internal/External Consultation**

Nil

Attachments

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That in the event of more than one candidate for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor the election(s) be conducted by ordinary ballot.

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## **2. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.2.8 Implement best practice governance standards, transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture

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### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to consider the current Order of Business for Ordinary Meetings.

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### **Report**

Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that the order of business is fixed by a resolution of the Council.

The current order of business is as follows: -

1. Opening Meeting
2. Prayer
3. Acknowledgement of Country
4. Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
5. Confirmation of Minutes
6. Disclosures of Interests
7. Mayoral Minute
8. Reports of Committees
9. Reports to Council
10. Notices of Motion/Questions With Notice
11. Business Without Notice – Urgent Matters
12. Confidential Matters
13. Conclusion of Meeting

It is recommended that Council retain the above Order of Business for its Ordinary Council Meetings.

Clause 239(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 states that the order of business may be altered for a particular meeting of the Council if a motion to that effect is passed at the meeting. Such a motion can be moved without notice.

### **Financial Implications**

Operational Plan and Budget 2020/2021

## **2. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS - ORDER OF BUSINESS (Cont'd)**

### ***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Clause 239(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

Clause 239(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* allows for a procedural motion without notice to change the order of business at a meeting from that set out in the agenda.

### ***Risk Management Issues***

Nil

### ***Internal/External Consultation***

Nil

### **Attachments**

Nil

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Order of Business be set as follows: -

1. Opening Meeting
2. Prayer
3. Acknowledgement of Country
4. Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence by Councillors
5. Confirmation of Minutes
6. Disclosures of Interests
7. Mayoral Minute
8. Reports of Committees
9. Reports to Council
10. Notices of Motion/Questions With Notice
11. Business Without Notice – Urgent Matters
12. Confidential Matters
13. Conclusion of Meeting

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**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
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### **3. FIXING A TIME AND DAY FOR HOLDING OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.2.8 Implement best practice governance standards, transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to consider the fixing of a time and day for holding of Ordinary Council Meetings.

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#### **Report**

Council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month (section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993*).

Council's Code of Meeting Practice states the Council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place of its Ordinary Meetings.

Council currently holds its meetings on the second Wednesday of the month (except for January), to be held in Council Chambers commencing at 5.30 pm.

#### **Financial Implications**

Operational Plan and Budget 2020/2021

#### **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Section 365 of the Local Government Act 1993

Council's Code of Meeting Practice

Section 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 – Council must give notice to the public of the times and places of its meetings

#### **Risk Management Issues**

In setting the time for Council Meetings Council should consider a time that is convenient to Councillors considering employment or business commitments, carer responsibilities and safety issues (e.g. long travel distances at night).

The *COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020* provides for Council members to attend a meeting by audio visual link, and enable meetings that are required to be open to members of the public to be held by webcast. It is noted however, that the amendments generally only have sunset clauses of between 6 and 12 months.

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**3. FIXING A TIME AND DAY FOR HOLDING OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

The *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order No. 4) 2020* further relaxes restrictions on attendance at meetings by persons other than Councillors and Staff. However, Council must not allow persons to attend a meeting if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending. Councillors and staff are not to be counted when calculating the space available for each person at the meeting venue and the number of persons who are attending a meeting.

***Internal/External Consultation***

Nil

**Attachments**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council continue to hold Ordinary Council Meetings in Council's Chambers, on the second Wednesday of the month, commencing at 5.30 pm.
2. That Council not hold an Ordinary Meeting in January.

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.1.3 Provide opportunities for community members to participate in Council's decision making DP – 4.3.1.3 Continue to facilitate section 355 Advisory Committees

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**Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council with information in order to consider the appointment of Committees, Statutory Committees and delegates and representatives of Council.

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**Report**

Council may appoint or elect such Committees as it may consider necessary in the exercise of its functions, consisting of such number of members as the Council shall decide. The Mayor is an ex-officio member of all Council Committees of which all members are Councillors and Chair of other Committees when stated in the Charter.

Under Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, a "Committee" of Council may consist of members who are all Councillors or may involve members of the community or other organisations; for example the Narromine and Trangie Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committees, the Narromine Australia Day Committee.

Committee Members are usually appointed for a 12-month period, with the exception of the Western Regional Joint Planning Panel which is a three-year appointment.

Council Staff can be appointed to Committees in an advisory capacity; however they do not have voting rights unless in a Statutory Committee which provides for this.

Previous members of each Committee requiring re-appointment are noted for your information.

Please note that when the membership of a Committee changes, it is necessary to elect a Chair (if not the Mayor) and, if considered necessary, a Deputy Chair, to be held at the first meeting of the Committee following the appointment of delegates. Council Committee Charters currently provide that at least one Councillor must be present for a quorum and the Chair of each Committee should be a Councillor.



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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

If the Councillor is unable to attend a committee meeting, they are requested to arrange attendance of the alternate delegate or another Councillor in their absence. The quorum does not include staff representatives unless they have a voting right. In most section 355(b) Committees of Council, staff have the right to contribute to the debate and provide guidance, however do not vote.

**Statutory Committees**

**1. Local Emergency Management Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Mayor, Cr Craft (Alternate Delegate)

**2. Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Jablonski and Hamilton, Cr McCutcheon (Alternate Delegate)

**3. Local Traffic Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Cr Collins, Cr Jablonski (Alternate Delegate)

**4. General Manager's Performance Review Panel**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council Delegate – Cr Munro, Councillor nominated by General Manager, Cr Craft

**5. Internal Audit Committee**

Councillor delegate appointed 2019 – Cr Craft

**Appointment of Committees – under Section 355(b)**

*(of which not all members are Councillors)*

**1. Narromine Australia Day Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Lambert and Munro

**2. Narromine Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Lambert and Collins

**3. Trangie Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Davies and Collins

**4. Tomingley Advancement Association Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Cr Craft, Cr Jablonski (Alternate Delegate)

**5. Trangie Memorial Hall Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs McCutcheon and Davies

**6. Floodplain Management Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Hamilton and McCutcheon

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

**7. Economic Development Group Committee**

Councillor delegates appointed 2019 – Crs Jablonski, Munro and Craft

**Representatives of Council**

The following external Committees require Council to elect representatives for a one year term:-

**1. Narromine Health Council**

*(To bring local health needs and issues to the attention of the Health Service; participate in service planning and delivery; promote and improve the health of the local community in partnership with the Health Service and others; develop and strengthen networks and links within the community).*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Cr Jablonski, appointed 2020 - Cr Hamilton (Alternate)

**2. Orana Crime Prevention Partnership**

*(An initiative whereby local government representatives meet with the Police Local Area Command and other agencies and organisations to develop a plan of activities to address crime)*

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Mayor

**3. Trangie Action Group Incorporated**

*(To organise activities of a cultural or educational nature for the people of Trangie and district; generally, promote the village of Trangie for the betterment and improvement of the village and its community; establish facilities for the betterment of the community)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Crs Hamilton and Davies

**4. Bush Fire Management Committee**

*(Provides a forum for cooperative and coordinated bushfire management in the local area. The committee is responsible for preparing, coordinating, reviewing and monitoring the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the area. Also assist in coordination of bush fire detection, mitigation, control and suppression).*

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Cr Hamilton

**5. Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee**

*(A regional network of Councils, Local Land Services and other stakeholders working together to improve weed management across Central and Western NSW)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Crs McCutcheon and Jablonski

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

**6. Narromine Aviation Museum**

*(To raise the profile of the museum in the community; collect, conserve, manage and make accessible aviation related material and recorded evidence of the past in western NSW and the impact of aviation on community life; provide cultural resources for the enrichment and entertainment of the community; preserve items of aviation heritage; increase resources to support ongoing development of the museum and archive facilities etc.)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Crs Jablonski and appointed 2020 Cr Collins

**7. Macquarie Flood Mitigation Zone (MFMZ) Reference Group**

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Cr Munro

**8. Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Project Community Consultative Committee**

*(To provide a forum for discussion between a proponent and representatives of the community, stakeholder groups and Council on issues directly relating to this State significant project)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Cr Craft, Cr Lambert (Alternate)

**9. Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Community Fund**

*(As part of the Voluntary Planning Agreement terms, the fund is to contribute to notable projects and events in the Narromine Shire on an applications basis. Administered by a panel of Tomingley Gold Operations and Council representatives, the fund is used to support projects in the Shire with economic benefit, community connectivity, education and training, and community infrastructure)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2019 – Crs Craft and Davies, Cr Lambert (Alternate)

**10. Western Regional Planning Panel (3-year appointment – appointed 2018)**

*(Determines regionally significant DAs and s4.56 modification applications; acts as the Planning Proposal Authority when directed; undertakes rezoning reviews; provides advice on other planning and development matters when requested; determines site compatibility certificates under the SEPP (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004)*

Councillor representatives appointed 2018 – Cr Davies, Cr Lambert, Cr Collins (Alternate Delegate)

**11. Floodplain Management Association (FMA)**

*(A non-profit organisation of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, climate change, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood preparedness, warning and recovery)*

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Chair Floodplain Management Committee

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

**12. Murray Darling Association (MDA)**

*(To provide for effective representation of local government and communities at State and Federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information; facilitating debate; and seeking to influence government policy)*

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Mayor

**13. Country Mayor's Association of New South Wales**

Councillor representative appointed 2019 – Mayor

**14. Orana Joint Organisation – Alternate Board Representative**

*(Elevates the shared priorities of member councils' strategic plans, programs, priorities and policies to perform three principle functions in their region: strategic planning and priority setting; intergovernmental collaboration; shared leadership and advocacy)*

Voting representatives include the Mayors of each of the member councils. Member councils may appoint the Deputy Mayor, or another Councillor, to attend board meetings in place of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable to attend.

**15. NSW Public Libraries Association**

*(Membership is open to all Local Government Councils in NSW that have adopted the NSW Library Act 1939. The purpose of the association is to provide strong representation to all levels of government, work with State Library of NSW for the betterment of the public library network, promote understanding of the value that public libraries contribute, develop and review services and standards to public libraries, apply for grants and raise finance for specific purposes where appropriate, assist Councils to recognise the value of library services to their communities)*

Councillor representative Cr Lambert – currently vice president

**Committee Charters**

Charters for each of Council's Statutory Committees and Section 355 Committees are attached for Council's consideration and adoption. The Office of Local Government released a circular in 2016 encouraging Councils to review the operations of committees established under section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, and in particular, stated that the committees should be fit for purpose and be able to demonstrate clear links for the goals of Council's Delivery Program.

Council's Charters have accordingly been reviewed by staff and suggested amendments have been marked in red for ease of reference (**see Attachment No 1**).

There is no Charter for the General Manager's Performance Review Panel. This panel must operate in accordance with the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers*.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

***Financial Implications***

Administrative costs in attending meetings etc.

***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993

***Risk Management Issues***

Committees must be fit for purpose and demonstrate clear links with the goals of Council's Delivery Program

***Internal/External Consultation***

Nil

**Attachments**

- Committee Charters

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Statutory Committees of Council**

1. That Council adopt the Charter for the Local Emergency Management Committee and appoint the Mayor as Council's Delegate to the committee and one Councillor as an Alternate Delegate to the committee.
2. That Council adopt the Charter for the Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates and one Councillor as an Alternate Delegate to the committee
3. That Council adopt the Charter for the Local Traffic Committee and appoint one Councillor Delegate and one Councillor as an Alternate Delegate to the committee
4. That in accordance with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers:
  - (a) The whole process of performance management of the General Manager including conducting performance reviews; reporting findings and recommendations of those reviews to Council and development of the performance agreement be delegated to the performance review panel; comprising of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, another Councillor appointed by Council and one Councillor nominated by the General Manager.
  - (b) That Council appoint one Councillor to form part of the General Manager's Review Panel.
5. That Council adopt the Charter for the Internal Audit Committee and appoint one Councillor Delegate and one Councillor as an Alternate Delegate to the committee.

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

**Section 355 Committees of Council**

6. That Council adopt the Charter for the Narromine Australia Day Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates to the committee
7. That Council adopt the Charter for the Narromine Showground and Racecourse Advisory Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates to the committee
8. That Council adopt the Charter for the Trangie Showground and Racecourse Advisory Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates to the committee
9. That Council adopt the Charter for the Tomingley Advancement Association Committee and appoint one Councillor Delegate and one Councillor as an alternate delegate to the committee
10. That Council adopt the Charter for the Trangie Memorial Hall Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates to the committee
11. That Council adopt the Charter for the Floodplain Management Committee and appoint two Councillor Delegates to the committee
12. That Council adopt the Charter for the Economic Development Group Committee and appoint three Councillor Delegates

**Representatives to External Committees**

13. That Council appoint one Councillor representative and one Councillor as the alternate representative to the Narromine Health Council
14. That Council appoint the Mayor and General Manager (or nominee) to the Orana Crime Prevention Partnership
15. That Council appoint two Councillors as representatives to the Trangie Action Group
16. That Council appoint one Councillor representative and the Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services to the Bushfire Management Committee
17. That Council appoint two Councillor representatives to the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee
18. That Council appoint two Councillor representatives to the Narromine Aviation Museum Committee
19. That Council appoint one Councillor representative to the Macquarie Flood Mitigation Zone (MFMZ) Reference group
20. That Council appoint one Councillor representative and one Councillor as the alternate representative to the Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Project Community Consultative Committee
21. That Council appoint two Councillor representatives and one Councillor as alternate representative to the Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Community Fund

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**4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, STATUTORY COMMITTEES, AND APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

22. That Crs Davies and Lambert remain as representatives to the Western Regional Joint Planning Panel and that Cr Collins remain as the alternate representative to the Western Regional Joint Planning Panel.
23. That the Chair of the Floodplain Management Committee be the Councillor representative to the Floodplain Management Association (FMA) and that the General Manager and Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services (or nominee) be representatives to the Floodplain Management Association (FMA).
24. That the Mayor and General Manager be appointed as representatives to the Murray Darling Association (MDA)
25. That the Mayor and General Manager be appointed as representatives to the Country Mayors' Association of New South Wales
26. That the Deputy Mayor be appointed to attend Orana Joint Organisation board meetings in the place of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable to attend
27. That Council appoint one Council representative to the NSW Public Libraries Association

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## **5. LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.4.3 Work regionally to advocate on issues that affect us and our neighbouring Shires CSP – 4.4.1 Provide sound input into State, Regional and Non-Government Organisation Plans and Strategies

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### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to consider motions to be submitted to the LGNSW Annual Conference.

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### **Report**

Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 12 August 2020 resolved motions to the LGNSW Annual Conference (if any) be forwarded to the General Manager for consideration at Council's September meeting.

Voting members are able to put forward motions to the Conference via an online portal. Members are requested to submit their motions by 12 midnight Monday 28 September 2020 to allow for assessment of the motions and distribution of the business papers before the Conference. The latest date motions will be accepted for inclusion in the business papers is 12 midnight on Sunday 25 October 2020.

Motions need to be: -

- Consistent with the objects of the Association
- Relate to local government in NSW and/or across Australia
- Concern or are likely to concern local government as a sector
- Seek to advance the local government policy agenda of the Association and/or improve governance of the Association
- Have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws)
- Are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature, and
- Do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

The format of the motions, as much as possible, should call on a specific body (e.g. LGNSW, State Government, Federal Government etc) and have a specific outcome that the motion is aiming to achieve. The motion should state whether it is seeking to change a LGNSW Fundamental Principle.



**5. LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS (Cont'd)**

The motion is also required to have a background note (a paragraph or two to explain the context and importance of the issue to the local government sector).

Motions must be supported by Council, i.e. extract from minutes of the Council Meeting, or in the absence of a Council Meeting, the evidence should be a letter signed by both the Mayor and General Manager.

No motions have been received.

***Financial Implications***

Nil

***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Council has one voting member. This year the voting member is the Mayor as resolved by Council at its August Ordinary Meeting.

***Risk Management Issues***

Motions must be in accordance with the LGNSW 2020 Annual Conference Motions Submission Guide.

***Internal/External Consultation***

Nil

Attachment

- Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council determine any motions to be submitted to the 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference.

## **6. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 4.2.8 Implement best practice governance standards, transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture

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### **Executive Summary**

This report is presented to Council to consider the adopting the revised Model Code of Conduct and Procedures.

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### **Report**

The Office of Local Government has released an amended Model Code of Conduct and Procedures. The new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures take effect immediately as the amendments to the procedures largely reflect existing practice following the Supreme Court decision in the matter of *Cornish v Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2019) NSWSC 1134*, and the amendments to the Model Code of Conduct are minor in nature.

Councils have been advised to adopt a code of conduct and procedures based on the prescribed Model Code of Conduct and Procedures as soon as possible.

Key amendments to the Procedures include:

- Councils have the following options when taking disciplinary action against councillors for breaches of their codes of conduct
  - That a councillor be formally censured for a breach under Section 440G of the Act
  - That a councillor be formally censured for a breach under Section 440G and the matter referred to OLG for further disciplinary action
- When censuring councillors, the resolution must state the grounds on which the councillor is censured by disclosing the investigator's findings, determination and any other grounds relevant
- Public censure may be avoided by voluntarily agreeing to undertake training or counselling, apologise or give an undertaking not to repeat the conduct, however this will be a matter for the investigator.
- Investigators to consult with OLG before recommending the referral of matters to ensure the conduct in question is sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary action
- Panels of conduct reviewers to be can be appointed without a resolution of Council
- Allow referral of investigators reports to OLG under misconduct provisions where the Council will not have a quorum

## **6. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES (Cont'd)**

Key amendments to the Model Code of Conduct

- Update of definition of discrimination to reflect more contemporary standards
- Lift cap on \$50 on the value of gifts that may be accepted to \$100 (Council may choose to retain the cap of \$50 or impose another cap lower than \$100)
- Clarify items with a value of \$10 or less are not “gifts and benefits” for the purposes of the Model Code of Conduct and do not need to be disclosed.
- Clarify that benefits and facilities provided by Councils (as opposed to third parties) to staff and Councillors are not “gifts and benefits” for the purposes of the Model Code of Conduct
- Remove cap on the value of meals and refreshments that may be accepted by Council officials in conjunction with the performance of their official duties.

It is noted that Council's existing panel of conduct reviewers was appointed in 2017, and as such will not need to be reviewed until 2021.

### ***Financial Implications***

Council has a budget allocation for code of conduct matters. Total costs and other statistics relating to code of conduct matters have to be reported to Council and the OLG annually.

### ***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993 prescribes that a council must adopt a code of conduct that incorporates the provisions of the model code. The adopted code may include provisions that supplement the model code.

### ***Risk Management Issues***

Compliance with legislative requirements.

It is recommended that Council retains the supplementary provision governing the use of social media.

It is the personal responsibility of all Council Officials to ensure that their conduct complies with the ethical and behavioural standards prescribed under the Model Code of Conduct. This applies to both the exercise by Council Officials of their functions as a Council Official and any conduct (including in a private capacity) that is connected with their role as a Council Official.

### ***Internal/External Consultation***

There is no requirement to place this policy on public exhibition.

## **6. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES (Cont'd)**

### Attachments

- Code of Conduct and Procedures (**See Attachment No. 2**)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopts the Model Code of Conduct and Procedures as attached to the report.

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## **7. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES 2020 - 2024**

<b>Author</b>	Director Governance
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	General Manager
<b>Link to Strategic Plans</b>	CSP – 1.1.1 Advocate, represent and promote programs that will minimise crime and assist in crime protection for our community D.P. – 1.1.1.2 Review Alcohol Free Zones within the Shire

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### **Executive Summary**

This report provides Council with information to consider re-adopting Alcohol Free Zones in both Narromine and Trangie for a further four-year period.

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### **Report**

In November 2008, Council resolved to implement Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) in Narromine and Trangie for a further period of three years, using the 50km speed signs to determine the area within each town. The zones were then renewed in 2001, 2014, and 2017, with the current zones expiring in November 2020.

The AFZ may only be established to include a public road, footpath or a public place that is a carpark (i.e. carparks on public land or Crown land) and for a maximum period of four years.

Police and authorised Council enforcement officers have the power to tip out or otherwise confiscate alcohol being consumed in an Alcohol Prohibited Area. Since the implementation of the ALZ in 2008, Council and the NSW Police have seen a reduction in the number of complaints relating to broken bottles and irresponsible behaviour.

## **7. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES 2020 – 2024 (Cont'd)**

Council must gain approval from the relevant Police Local Area Commander prior to establishing the AFZ (Section 632A(8) of the Local Government Act 1993). Accordingly, the General Manager met with Police earlier in the year (including the licensing sergeant) who reviewed the relevance of the location of the existing alcohol-free zones and recommended retaining them.

In accordance with Section 644 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council then published a notice of the proposed alcohol-free zones in a newspaper circulating in the area inviting representations or objections within 30 days from the date of publication. In addition, Council wrote to representative groups such as the Local Aboriginal Land Council, Narromine Police and all licenced premises within the AFZ areas, inviting representations/objections.

Council received one comment regarding the Alcohol-Free Zones for 2020 to 2024 which was in favour of the existing zones.

Council must now, by resolution, adopt a proposal to establish an alcohol-free zone. The resolution itself will establish the zone.

Following this resolution, Council must publicly advise the establishment of an alcohol-free zone by notice published in a newspaper circulating in the area that includes the zone.

The AFZ will not operate until 7 days after publication of the notice and until the roads, footpaths and public carparks affected are adequately signposted.

### ***Financial Implications***

Operational Plan and Budget 2020 - 2021

### ***Legal and Regulatory Compliance***

Local Government Act 1993 – Sections 632 – 644  
Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol-Free Zones 2009

### ***Risk Management Issues***

Compliance with legislative requirements.

There is evidence that when Alcohol Free Zones are established in appropriate areas and operated with the required level of resources to promote and enforce the zones, they can be an effective tool in assisting Police manage public safety.

### ***Internal/External Consultation***

Meeting with Local Area Police  
Public Notification allowing 30 days for written submissions  
Written notification to appropriate parties

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**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 9 SEPTEMBER 2020  
REPORTS TO COUNCIL – GENERAL MANAGER**

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**7. ALCOHOL FREE ZONES 2020 – 2024 (Cont'd)**

Attachments

- Proposed Alcohol-Free Zones 2020 – 2024 for Narromine and Trangie

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council establish Alcohol Free Zones in Narromine and Trangie using the 50km speed signs to determine the area within each town, for a period of 4 years effective 8 November 2020 to 7 November 2024.

Jane Redden  
**General Manager**



## **CHARTER – LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012 Resolution No 2012/311  
Amended By Council 20 November 2012 Resolution No 2012/428  
Amended By Council 9 October 2013 Resolution No 2013/383  
Amended By Council 13 November 2013 Resolution No 2013/426  
Amended By Council 13 September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Section 28 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, shall be known as the **Narromine Shire Council Local Emergency Management Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Local Emergency Management Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

"Emergency" means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence (such as fire, flood, storm, earthquake, explosion, terrorist act, accident, epidemic or warlike action) which:

- (a) endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State, or
- (b) destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, property in the State,

being an emergency which requires a significant and co-ordinated response.

"Local Emergency Operations Controller" means a Police Officer appointed by the Regional Emergency Operations Controller as the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the Local Government Area.

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Statutory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to be responsible for the preparation and review of plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies in the local government area for which it is constituted.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

- 5.1 The Committee is responsible for the preparation and review of plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies in the local government area for which it is constituted.
- 5.2 The Committee may give effect to and carry out emergency management policy and practice, consistent with information on that policy and practice disseminated by the State Emergency Management Committee.



- 5.3 Review and prepare plans in respect of the relevant local government area that are, or are proposed to be, subplans or supporting plans established under the State Emergency Management Plan.
- 5.4 Make recommendations about and assist in the co-ordination of training in relation to emergency management in the relevant local government area.
- 5.5 Develop, conduct and evaluate local emergency management training exercises.
- 5.6 Facilitate local level emergency management capability through inter-agency co-ordination, co-operation and information sharing arrangements.
- 5.7 Assist the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the relevant local government area in the Controller's role.
- 5.8 Such other functions as are
  - (i) related to the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
  - (ii) assigned to the Committee (or to Local Emergency Management Committees generally) from time to time by the relevant Regional Emergency Management Committee or by the State Emergency Management Committee.

## **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure.
- 6.2 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.3 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in written form, accompanied by a report from relevant Council officers. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.4 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership.

### **Council Representation**

General Manager or nominee

### **Emergency Services Organisation Representation**

NSW Fire and Rescue Representative

NSW Rural Fire Service Representative

NSW Police Representative

Regional Emergency Management Officer Representative

NSW Ambulance Representative

VRA Representative

SES Representative

### **Functional Area Representatives**

One Alternate Councillor Delegate, The Mayor (annually nominated by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

ARTC Representative

DOCS Representative

Industry and Investment Representative

Country Energy / Essential Energy Representative

Western NSW Local Health Network Representative

Local Land Services Representative (DPI)

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be the General Manager or a Council Officer appointed by the General Manager.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the Director of Engineering Services will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee.

## **9. TERM OF OFFICE**

Emergency Services Organisation representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year).

## **10. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of six and must include a delegated Council representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **12. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meeting will occur every three months or more often as determined by the Committee.

The meeting will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **13. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business Papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **14. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's media relations policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – RURAL FIRE SERVICE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

*Adopted by Council 18 September 2012 Resolution No 2012/313  
Amended By Council 11 March 2014 Resolution No 2015/69  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL RURAL FIRE SERVICE LIAISON COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Part 9 of the Narromine Rural Fire District Service Level Agreement 1 July 2012, shall be known as the **Narromine Shire Council Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee.**

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

"FCO" means Fire Control Officer

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Statutory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to review the following documents prepared by the Fire Control Officer prior to submission to and consideration by the Council:

- (a) The annual budget and business plan, and
- (b) The quarterly financial and performance reports.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

- 5.1 The Committee is to advise and assist Council in monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Narromine Rural Fire District Service Level Agreement by the Council and the Rural Fire Service.

### **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure.
- 6.2 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.3 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in written form, accompanied by a report from relevant Council officers. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.4 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership.

### **Council Representation**

- Two Councillors from the Council appointed by resolution of the Council
- One Alternate Councillor from the Council appointed by resolution of the Council
- General Manager or his/her delegate

### **Rural Fire Service Representation**

- One volunteer rural fire fighter from the District appointed by the local branch of the NSW Rural Fire Service Association Inc (the RFSA), or, in the absence of a local branch of the RFSA, elected in accordance with the applicable Service Standard
- One member of the Service staff assigned to the District of Team nominated by the FCO and approved by the Commissioner
- FCO who will be the Committee's Executive Officer.

The Commissioner, the Council and the groups or entities which appoint or elect members of the Liaison Committee pursuant of sub-clause 9.1(a) to (b) may appoint another person to attend any meeting of the Liaison Committee in the event that the person they have elected is unable, for any reason, to attend that meeting.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Council staff send meeting requests and record the minutes of the meetings. Rural Fire Service staff set the meeting dates and prepare meeting agendas and business papers.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be a Councillor. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the other Councillor will preside.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee.



## **9. TERM OF OFFICE**

The Rural Fire Service representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year).

## **10. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of four and must include a delegated Councillor representative and one ranking Rural Fire Service Staff Member.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **12. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meeting will occur every three months or more often as determined by the Committee.

The meeting will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

### **13. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

### **14. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

### **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range

of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's media relations policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council on 18 September 2012, Resolution No 2012/314,  
Amended By Council 13 May 2015, Resolution No 2015/116,  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended by Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended by Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 50 of the Transport Administration Act 1988, shall be known as the **Local Traffic Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Local Traffic Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

"RMS" means Roads and Maritime Services

"Police" means NSW Police Force

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Technical Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to advise and review the provision of traffic control facilities and traffic control measures on public roads in the Narromine Shire Council area.

The RMS has delegated certain powers to Councils with respect to the provision of traffic control facilities and traffic management measures on public roads. Exercise of the powers is conditional upon Council forming a "Local Traffic Committee" and seeking its advice/approval before a traffic control facility/traffic management measure is implemented or removed.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The committee shall consider the following traffic measures to ensure technical criteria and local requirements are being met as required by the RMS.

The functions are outlined in "A guide to delegation to Councils for the regulation of traffic, including the operation of a Traffic Committee" Attachment A.

### **6. OUTCOMES**

The Committee will advise and assist Council by reviewing the provision of traffic control facilities and traffic control measures on public roads in the Narromine Shire Council area.

## **7. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1 The Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure.
- 7.2 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 7.3 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in written form, accompanied by a report from relevant Council officers. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 7.4 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership.

### **FORMAL MEMBERS**

#### **Councillor Representation**

One Councillor (annually appointed by Council in September)

If the appointed Councillor is unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

#### **NSW Police Representation**

One NSW Police Representative

#### **RMS Representation**

One RMS Representative

#### **Local Member Representation**

One Delegate for State Member for Dubbo

#### **Council Staff Advisors**

The following staff members are assigned to this Committee:-

- General Manager
- Director of Infrastructure & Engineering Services
- Manager Engineering Services

#### **Informal Advisors**

Informal advisors and other interest sectors for example, Bus Operators, Ambulance Services and other Council Staff may be invited to attend from time to time as required, will participate equally with Council in terms of discussion and/or debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be the Councillor Representative.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the alternate Councillor shall become the Acting Chairperson for that meeting.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no other office bearers on the Committee.

## **9. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis as provided by the residing State Member.

Councillor and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be re-appointed each year.

## **10. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of 3 formal members and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting, the committee members present may discuss the agenda items although any decisions taken will not become formalised until they have been ratified at the next committee meeting with a quorum present.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General

Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only formal committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **12. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur every two months on the first Monday (unless there is a Public Holiday whereby the meeting will occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday).

The meetings will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

In the event there is no business, the meeting can be cancelled in consultation with the Chairperson and General Manager.

In the event of special or urgent matters, the Chairperson or General Manager can elect to conduct electronic meetings were the advice of the members is sought via facsimile or email.

Minutes of electronic meetings will be confirmed at the next meeting.

## **13. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be forwarded to the committee members for endorsement and then provided to Council for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **14. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.



## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Information Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Information Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's media relations policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy, strategic and emergency matters and through the General Manager for procedural and operational matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



# A guide to the delegation to councils for the regulation of traffic

Including the operation of Traffic Committees



[Inside front cover  
– provided for double sided printing purposes only]

# **A Guide to the Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic** (including the operation of Traffic Committees)





**Roads and Traffic Authority**  
[www.nsw.rta.gov.au](http://www.nsw.rta.gov.au)

**VERSION:** 1.3  
**ISSUED:** March 2009

**APPROVED BY:**

**SIGNED**

Phil Margison  
General Manager  
Traffic Management

**AUTHORISED FOR USE BY:**

**SIGNED**

Michael Bushby  
Director  
Network Management

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## Amendment record

Please note that the following updates have been made to this document.

Version Number	Page(s)	Description	Issued
1.1	8-11	Sections 5.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.4 & 5.3.5 amended to introduce optional public galleries	December 2007
1.2	Various	Hyperlink to Council Delegation Reference document updated	February 2009
1.3	Various	Sections 1.0, 2.0, 3.1, 5.1, 7.1, 7.2 & Flowcharts amended to reflect release of a new Delegation	March 2009





## 1. Introduction

The Roads and Traffic Authority is legislated as the organisation responsible for the control of traffic on all roads in New South Wales. Traffic is controlled by the installation of prescribed traffic control devices, such as regulatory signs, or traffic control facilities, such as medians.

New South Wales has many roads, which range from freeways to local streets. All these roads require the control of traffic. The RTA believes that the most effective means of dealing with the number and range of traffic related matters, particularly those which arise on regional and local roads, is to deal with them at the local level. The RTA has therefore delegated certain aspects of the control of traffic on regional and local roads to the Councils of Local Government areas.

The RTA continues to manage NSW's State road network. However, local government continues to also play an important role in the management of this road network by providing traffic input and advice when necessary.

These guidelines provide the policy and framework for Councils to exercise the traffic functions delegated to them by the RTA. They outline the delegated functions, the limitations that apply to Councils when exercising their delegated functions, the responsibilities of the various parties involved in the process, and the roles of the local and regional traffic committees.

**Note:** These guidelines do not cover B-double route approvals as they are the subject of a separate delegation.

These guidelines have been prepared by the RTA:

- (i) in accordance with current NSW legislation; and
- (ii) in consultation with RTA's Legal Branch, the NSW Police, LGSA, and representatives from a number of metropolitan Councils.

**It is important to note that the legislative power to control traffic through the authorisation of traffic control devices, lies with the RTA and the delegation of this power does not remove the RTA's ability to exercise those delegated functions should circumstances warrant action.**

## 2. Definitions and abbreviations

**classified road** – any of the following: a main road, a State highway, a freeway, a controlled access road, a secondary road, a tourist road, a tollway, a State work. See *Roads Act 1993, Part 5* for further details.

**Council** – the council of a local government area and includes an Administrator.

**Delegation** – 'Delegation to Councils – Regulation of Traffic' document.

**LGSA** – Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW.

**LTC** – Local Traffic Committee.



**prescribed traffic control device** - a sign, signal, marking, structure or other device to direct or warn traffic on a road or road related area (or part of a road or road related area) that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

**regulate traffic** – for the purposes of the *Roads Act* means to restrict or prohibit the passage along a road of persons, vehicles or animals.

**Roads Act** – *Roads Act 1993*.

**roads and road related areas** – have the same meaning as in *ARR Rules 12 and 13*. Each reference to a road includes reference to a road-related area unless otherwise expressly stated.

**Regional Road** – a road shown to be a Regional road in the RTA's *Schedule of Classified Roads and State and Regional Roads*.

**RR** – NSW Road Rules 2008.

**RTA** – Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW.

**RTC** – Regional Traffic Committee.

**State Road** – a road declared to be a State Road under the *Roads Act 1993* and documented in the RTA's *Schedule of Classified Roads and State and Regional Roads*.

**STMA** – *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999*.

**STMR** – *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999*.

**Sub-delegate** – any Councillor, the General Manager or an employee of the Council who has been formally delegated by the Council.

**TMP** – Traffic Management Plan.

**Traffic control facility** – means:

- (a) traffic control lights and equipment used in connection with traffic control lights; or
- (b) any sign, marking, structure or device containing or relating to a requirement or direction, contravention of which is an offence arising under:
  - (i) the *Transport Administration Act, 1988* or the regulations; or
  - (ii) any other Act, regulation or by-law prescribed for the purposes of Section 45E of the *Transport Administration Act, 1988*; or
- (c) any sign, marking, structure or device that is intended to promote safe and orderly traffic movement on roads or road related areas or to warn, advise or inform the drivers of vehicles or pedestrians of any matter or thing in relation to vehicular or pedestrian traffic or road conditions or hazards; or
- (d) any bridge or subway or other facility for use by pedestrians over, across, under or alongside a road or road related area; or
- (e) any other thing prescribed as a traffic control facility by the Regulations under the *Transport Administration Act, 1988*.



### 3. Delegation of functions

Traffic control facilities and prescribed traffic control devices may be authorised for use on a road or road related area, whether a public road or on private land, only by the RTA or Councils. In addition, traffic may be regulated for various purposes by means of notices or barriers erected by a roads authority.

The *Transport Administration Act, 1988* confers the following powers to the RTA:

- to exercise the functions relating to safety and traffic management set out in Section 52A;
- to delegate its functions to other public agencies such as councils (Section 50);
- to give directions to public authorities in relation to RTA functions under Part 6 (Section 53A).

The *Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Act, 1999* provides for a system of traffic laws relating to all vehicles (motorised and non-motorised) and pedestrians found in subordinate legislation made under the Act. Principally, these are:

- *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation 1999*, and
- *Road Rules 2008*.

Part 8 (Sections 114 to 124) of the *Roads Act, 1993* deals with the regulation of traffic on public roads by erecting notices or barriers or taking any other action which may be necessary in order to manage traffic. The reference to regulating traffic in Part 8 should not be confused with the authorisation of prescribed traffic control devices under Division 1 of Part 4 (Sections 50 to 55) of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999*. For the purposes of Part 8, regulating traffic includes such things as implementing road closures and other physical restrictions. Road closures effected by this part of the legislation remain as public roads after the road closure.

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**Note:** Road closures effected under Part 4 of the *Roads Act, 1993* do not remain as a public road.

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A Council can regulate traffic for the specific reasons set out in Division 1 of Part 8 (Section 115) of the *Roads Act, 1993* such as carrying out work on a road, etc. whereas the RTA can regulate traffic for any purpose.

If a Council wishes to regulate traffic for purposes other than those specified in Division 1 of Part 8 (Section 115) of the *Roads Act, 1993*, (e.g. for amenity reasons) it must seek the advice of its Local Traffic Committee. The procedures for regulating traffic covering road closures, traffic calming, etc. are detailed in Division 2 of Part 8 (Sections 116 to 119) of the *Roads Act, 1993*.

The delegation of these functions is carried out by the RTA, issuing Councils the RTA document, *Delegation to Councils – Regulation of Traffic*.



The functions delegated to Council in the *Delegation* are:

1. authorisation of prescribed traffic control devices covered under Division 1 of Part 4 (Sections 50 to 55) of the *STMA*;
2. regulation of traffic under Division 2 of Part 8 (Sections 116 to 119) of the *Roads Act*;
3. authorisation of special event parking schemes under Division 2 of Part 5 (Clauses 122 and 123) of the *STMR* on public roads other than classified roads.

The Council may sub-delegate their powers to Councillors, the General Manager or an employee of the Council for Items 1 and 3 above.

The Council **may not** sub-delegate Item 2.

Note: There is a separate delegation for B-double route approvals.

### 3.1 Limitations

The exercise of functions delegated to Council is subject to a number of conditions or limitations as documented in Schedule 4 (Limitations) of the [Delegation](#).

Councils:

- are only permitted to authorise the implementation of certain traffic control facilities / prescribed traffic control devices on roads and road related areas within their area of operations. Council cannot exercise a function on a State Road as defined in the RTA document [Schedule of Classified Roads and State and Regional Roads](#).
- may only authorise prescribed traffic control devices as nominated in the RTA's online [Traffic Signs Database](#) indicated as "Delegated to Council for Authorisation – Yes".
- listed in Schedule 1 of the *Delegation*, must not exercise delegated functions listed in Schedule 4 of the *Delegation* including referral of issues for formal advice until a TMP has been assessed by the RTA. Refer to Section 3.1.1 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS.
- must not exercise a function in respect of the following signs:

Permissive parking signs

No Parking signs

No Stopping signs

on any public road or road or road related area (or any part thereof), which falls within a 1 km radius of any train station listed in the RTA's document [Nominated Train Stations with Commuter Parking](#), and which has current unrestricted parking, without the approval of the RTA.

- are not empowered to authorise traffic control lights.
- are not empowered to interfere with traffic control lights, including the addition of any signs.



## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

- may authorise portable traffic control lights for roadworks, see RTA's document, *Portable Traffic Signals Guide to Use*.
- cannot authorise an internally illuminated traffic control device.
- must obtain the advice of the NSW Police and the RTA prior to exercising their delegated powers.
- must establish an LTC. Refer to Section 5 LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.
- may authorise "Roadwork Speed Limit" signs under the conditions outlined in the *Delegation*.
- may sub-delegate traffic management powers (delegated functions), in respect of Division 1 of Part 4 (Traffic control devices) of the *STMA*, and Division 2 of Part 5 (Special Event parking schemes) of the *STMR*.
- **may not** sub-delegate traffic management powers (delegated functions), in respect of Division 2 of Part 8 (Sections 116 to 119) of the *Roads Act*.

### 3.1.1 Traffic Management Plans

A Council, listed in Schedule 1 (*Delegates*) of the RTA's *Delegation*, must develop and submit to the RTA, a TMP if it intends to do any of the following:

- prohibit the passage of pedestrian, vehicle or motor vehicle traffic on a road or road related area by physical means or regulatory signs or both;
- install or display any road sign, marking or physical device that prohibits or compels a vehicle with respect to a turning movement;
- change a two-way street into a one-way street or reversing the direction of a one-way street; and
- reduce the number of traffic lanes on a road or road related area by physical means or regulatory signs or both.

A TMP is not required if a council certifies to the RTA in writing that a NO TRUCKS or NO BUSES traffic control sign is to be erected solely for the purposes of protecting a road from damage by the passage of motor vehicles.

Where a Council seeks to exercise its delegated powers in respect of a function that requires a TMP, the Council must submit the TMP to the RTA for review prior to the matter being referred to the LTC for formal advice.

The TMP must outline the scope of the traffic management changes proposed. It must also include an assessment of the impact of those changes and proposed measures to ameliorate any potential impact arising from the proposal.



See the RTA document, *Procedures for use in the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan*.

Note: The RTA's acceptance of the TMP merely indicates that due process has been followed and does not indicate its position on the proposal when it is referred to the LTC for consideration.

## 4. Exercising delegated functions

Councils may only exercise their delegated functions in accordance with the *Delegation*. Councils may sub-delegate certain powers to Councillors, the General Manager or an employee of the Council. Refer to Section 3 DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.

The *Delegation* requires Council to seek the advice of the NSW Police and the RTA prior to exercising their delegated functions. This is usually done via the LTC.

In cases where the LTC advice is unanimous, and Council intends to follow that advice, Council may authorise the implementation of the facility or device without further notifying the RTA or the NSW Police.

If the elected Council wishes to exercise a delegated function when the LTC advice is not unanimous, or the elected Council wishes to act contrary to unanimous LTC advice, then Council must notify in writing, both the NSW Police and the RTA representatives on the LTC.

Note: Council does not need to notify the NSW Police or the RTA if Council decides not to proceed with any proposal for any reason.

Council then must refrain from taking any action for 14 days so that the NSW Police or the RTA is given an opportunity to appeal to the Chairperson, Regional Traffic Committee should they wish.

In the case of an appeal, the decision of the Chairperson, Regional Traffic Committee is binding and final for matters under the STMA. For matters under the Roads Act, further appeals may be made to the Minister for Roads. Refer to Section 6 REGIONAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE, for more details.

## 5. Local Traffic Committee

### 5.1 General

The LTC has no decision-making powers. The LTC is primarily a technical review committee, which is required to advise the Council on matters referred to it by Council. These matters must be related to prescribed traffic control devices and traffic control facilities for which Council has delegated authority.

The LTC should consider the technical merits of the proposal and ensure that the proposal meets current technical guidelines.



## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

The Council must refer all traffic related matters to the LTC prior to exercising its delegated functions. Matters related to State Roads or functions that have not been delegated to the elected Council must be referred directly to the RTA or relevant organisation. Such matters must not be referred to the LTC. However, the RTA will generally seek the views of the Council on State Road traffic issues via the informal items process.

A Council is not bound by the advice of its LTC. Refer to Section 4 EXERCISING DELEGATED FUNCTIONS.

Where required, a TMP must be submitted to, and reviewed by, the RTA before that matter can be referred to the LTC. Refer to Section 3.1.1 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS.

The LTC should not consider any proposal requiring a TMP prior to the review of the TMP by the RTA.

Similarly, the LTC should not consider any proposal to alter unrestricted parking to permissive or restricted parking on roads within a 1 km radius of any train station nominated in the RTA's document *Nominated Train Stations with Commuter Parking*, without the prior approval of the RTA.

Note: The LTC should not be confused with a separate Council Traffic Committee, formed by Council under the Local Government Act. The establishment of which is a Council prerogative. Refer to Section 8 TRAFFIC ENGINEERING ADVICE.

## 5.2 Members

The LTC is to be made up of four formal members. The members are as follows:

- one representative of Council
- one representative of the NSW Police
- one representative of the RTA
- the local State Member of Parliament (MP) or their nominee.

The Council's representative may be any Councillor or Council officer. The Council representative may be a sub-delegate if Council has formally approved this.

Where a Council LGA is represented by more than one MP, or covered by more than one NSW Police LAC, MPs or NSW Police officers representing the relevant electorate or LAC are entitled to be members of the LTC. However they are only permitted to vote on matters, which effect their electorate or LAC. Refer to Section 5.3.6 VOTING.

The Council (in consultation with the formal members of the LTC) may also decide to have additional informal (non-voting) advisors to the LTC who can provide input into the process. These additional advisors can include a:

- Road Safety Officer



- Ministry of Transport representative
- Fire Brigade representative
- Ambulance Service representative
- Bus operator representative
- Transport Workers Union representative
- Chamber of Commerce representative

Generally, informal advisors are not required to attend every LTC meeting. Their attendance is only required when items appear on the Agenda which effect their area of expertise or responsibility.

The informal advisors of the committee are not entitled to a vote. Refer to Section 5.3.6 VOTING.

### 5.3 Meetings

The LTC is not a committee within the meaning of the *Local Government Act, 1993*. The operating arrangements for the LTC are contained in these guidelines.

At LTC meetings the following are at the discretion of Council:

- conduct at meeting
- frequency of meetings
- format of meetings. [Within the following guidelines.]
- provision for a public gallery.

#### 5.3.1 Meeting Formats

The most common format for LTC meetings is a monthly face to face meeting held in the offices of the Council.

The meeting is to be convened by a Council representative. The convenor may be the Council's voting member or may be an additional non-voting member of the LTC.

While there is no need for a specific quorum to allow an LTC meeting to proceed, it must be remembered that any advice can only be returned to the elected Council by the LTC if the views of the RTA and the NSW Police have been obtained.

Acceptable alternative meeting formats include:

- Electronic meetings – where the advice of the members is sought via facsimile or email. This allows items to be considered as they arise and may reduce response time.
- A combination of electronic (for minor issues) and face-to-face meetings. This allows minor issues to be addressed between meetings. The response time for minor issues may be reduced using this format and this format can result in shorter face to face meetings. It may even be possible to increase the interval between meetings.





## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

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**Note:** Should Council wish to adopt these (or any other) alternate formats then they should seek the advice of the RTA prior to making a final decision."

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It is strongly recommended that any format where the LTC and the normal Council meeting are held concurrently is to be avoided. The LTC is principally a technical review committee, and due consideration and debate is required when considering a proposal. This particular meeting format does not lend itself to this process.

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**Note:** Any change to the meeting format must be agreed to by the formal members of the LTC. When proposing to discuss a format change, reasonable advanced notice must be provided.

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### 5.3.2 Agendas, minutes and reports

All LTC meetings require the preparation of an agenda.

An LTC agenda must be prepared by Council and circulated to all formal members and informal advisors of the committee a minimum of one week prior to the meeting. This will allow members to fully consider the issues and determine their response on each item. This period will also allow a site visit if necessary.

For each agenda item, Council must prepare a report which must contain a brief summary of the issue, details of the proposed solution including a plan if the proposal involves signs, lines or structures, details of the policies / guidelines / standards used (if any) and the proposed recommendation to the elected Council. This report must be sent to the members of the LTC with the Agenda.

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**Note:** For the information of the members of the LTC, the meeting papers should also include a summary of the final decisions made by the elected Council (or their sub-delegate) on items addressed at the previous meeting or on any items addressed since the last meeting.

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The LTC agenda should only contain items, which require the elected Council to exercise its delegated functions. If no action is required, or advice only is being sought, or the issue does not require the exercise of delegated functions then the issue should not appear on the LTC agenda. Such issues should be dealt with as general traffic advice. Refer to Section 8 TRAFFIC ENGINEERING ADVICE.

Items, which do not appear on the agenda (i.e. items without notice), must only be considered if the elected Council has referred the issue and Council officers have been able to prepare a report on the proposal in the normal manner. Items raised without notice must be referred to the next meeting (or dealt with separately between meetings) if any member of the committee requests time to consider the issue.

All LTC meetings require the preparation of minutes.



Council must prepare the minutes of the meeting. Copies of the LTC minutes must be forwarded to all LTC members for their concurrence prior to the recommendations either being presented to the elected Council or acted on by the Council's sub-delegate.

**Note:** B-double routes are the subject of a separate delegation and should have a separate agenda and minutes.

**Note:** The RTA members of the LTC must keep a copy of all minutes for the future reference of the RTA.

Councils may also need to prepare a report to the elected Council. This report must indicate the type of support from the LTC (i.e. unanimous or not unanimous). Where the advice is not unanimous, dissenting votes should be noted. Refer to Section 5.3.6 VOTING.

**Note:** All proposals recommended by the LTC must still be formally approved by the elected Council (or their sub-delegate), subject to certain limitations. Refer to Section 3.1.

### 5.3.3 Site visits

It is recommended that each member of the LTC undertake a site visit prior to considering any proposal. This site visit may be undertaken individually by LTC members, or may be organised by Council as a joint visit of all members of the LTC.

Where this is not practical due to issues such as time or distance, then it is recommended that modern electronic alternative methods be used.

### 5.3.4 Public participation

The role of the LTC is to consider the technical aspects of any proposal and make a recommendation to the Council. The merits of the scheme, from a public perspective, is the responsibility of the Council and thus residents views should be taken into account by the Council rather than the LTC.

However, there is nothing preventing the LTC members from agreeing to allow residents, or other interested stakeholders, to address the committee, if it so chooses. In addition, the LTC members may agree to limit the number of public presenters on any particular item and/or place time limits on them. Any such constraints should be conveyed to the presenters at the time they are notified of the LTC's agreement for them to address the committee.

The LTC's advice to Council is not binding upon the Council therefore ideally this advice should not be released to the public until the Council has decided whether or not to exercise its delegated authority. However, where Council has decided to allow the public to be in attendance at the LTC meetings, the convenor must make it clear to the public gallery that the Council is still required to accept the recommendation of the LTC to finalise the issue. This should be done after each item to cater for members of the public who may only attend the meeting for a specific item.



### 5.3.5 Media participation

The role of the LTC is to consider the technical aspects of proposals and provide their advice to Council. Media involvement, or interest, in the process should be addressed through the normal Council meeting process.

However, should the media be interested in a proposal, they can attend the LTC meeting if the Council has decided to allow a public gallery. Again as with the general public, the convenor must make it clear that the Council is still required to accept the recommendation of the LTC to finalise the issue. This should be done after each item to cater for the media who may only attend for a single item. The media is not permitted to address the LTC.

### 5.3.6 Voting

While an organisation, which is a voting member, may choose to send more than one representative, that organisation is still limited to one vote only. For example:

- Where the LTC is chaired by a convenor who is a member of the elected Council and the LTC also has a Council staff member on the committee, the Council as an organisation is still only entitled to one vote [i.e. the Council representatives are not entitled to a vote each]
- Where the Council representative is also the convenor, the Council is still only entitled to one vote. There is no casting vote available to the convenor in the case of a tied vote.
- Where a Council LGA is represented by more than one State MP, only the MP representing the State electorate containing the proposal is permitted to vote. However, if the proposal is actually contained in more than one State electorate, then each State MP for those electorates may vote.
- Where a Council LGA has more than one NSW Police LAC, only the NSW Police officer representing the LAC containing the proposal is permitted to vote. However, if the proposal is actually contained in more than one LAC, then each NSW Police officer for those LACs may vote.

Council must consult with the Ministry of Transport where public passenger transport matters are affected.

LTC advice to Council on a proposal referred to it by Council must be one of the following:

- 1) unanimous support;
- 2) majority support;
- 3) split vote;
- 4) minority support; or
- 5) unanimous decline.



A Council's action on the above LTC advice will be:

- (a) If Council is in agreement with the LTC unanimous support then the proposal may be approved. In these cases there is no conflict between Council and the advice of the LTC, consequently there is no need for Council to inform the RTA or the NSW Police representatives of the decision.
- (b) If Council is in agreement with the LTC unanimous support, but no longer wants to proceed, the proposal may still be rejected.
- (c) If Council is in agreement with the LTC unanimous decline then the proposal may be rejected. Again there is no conflict between Council and the advice of the LTC. Consequently there is no need for Council to inform the RTA or the NSW Police representatives of the decision.
- (d) If Council decides to proceed with a proposal where the advice of the LTC is not unanimous support, then the Council must first advise the RTA and the NSW Police representatives in writing of their intention to approve the proposal. The RTA or the NSW Police may then lodge an appeal to the RTC. Refer to Section 5.4, APPEALS.
- (e) If Council decides to proceed with a proposal where the advice of the LTC is a unanimous decline, then the Council must first advise the RTA and NSW Police representatives in writing of their intention to approve the proposal. The RTA or the NSW Police may then lodge an appeal to the RTC. See Section 5.4, APPEALS.

Flowcharts have been provided to assist with the understanding of this process.

Refer to the relevant flowcharts in Appendix A for:

- the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999*; or
- the *Roads Act, 1993*.

Due to the fact that the RTA and the NSW Police have the power to appeal certain decisions of the Council, the LTC cannot provide its advice to Council until both the RTA and the NSW Police have provided their vote on the issue.

## 5.4 Appeals

### 5.4.1 Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999

Where a determination of Council to proceed is contrary to a unanimous decline or is based on the non-unanimous advice of the LTC, then Council must notify both the NSW Police and the RTA representatives of its decision. Council must not exercise any of the functions, in relation to the subject proposal, for a period of 14 days from the date of notification in writing.

An appeal, may only be lodged by either the NSW Police or the RTA. The appeal is made to the Chairperson, RTC and must be lodged within the 14 day period. As a matter of courtesy, it is expected that the appellant informs Council in the initial stages of their intention to lodge an appeal.



#### Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

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To assist with the process the appeal should be lodged using RTC Form 1 Regional Traffic Committee – Appeal. A copy of this form can be found in Appendix A of this document.

The RTA provides secretarial services to the RTC and appeals must be forwarded to:

Secretariat  
Office of the Chairperson  
Regional Traffic Committees  
Level 16 101 Miller Street  
Locked Bag 928  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Facsimile: 8588 4164

Email: [regional\\_traffic\\_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional_traffic_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au)

The Secretary will then notify all parties in writing that an appeal has been lodged.

The Chairperson, RTC notifies Council regarding the outcome of the appeal hearing. It is important that Council does not act until further advice has been received from the Chairperson, RTC about the issue under appeal.

The Chairperson's decision may:

- (i) uphold the appeal, i.e. not support the Council's decision, or
- (ii) reject the appeal. Rejection of the appeal could either support the Council's decision unconditionally or apply conditions.

Refer to Appendix A of this document for the Terms of Reference for the RTC and flowcharts indicating the process involved in the implementation or rejection of a proposal.

#### **5.4.2 Roads Act 1993 – Division 2 of Part 8**

The appeal process is similar to that specified above for *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999* matters. However, in cases where Council is not satisfied with the determination by the Chairperson, RTC, Council may further appeal to the Minister for Roads.

The Minister's decision may be:

- (i) rejection of the Council appeal, or
- (ii) approval of the Council proposal either unconditionally or with conditions.

See the flowcharts in Appendix A which indicate the process involved in the implementation or rejection of a Council proposal.



## 6. Regional Traffic Committee

The RTC operates across the state. Meetings are generally held in the offices of the local Council.

The purpose of the RTC is to deal with appeals from the RTA or the NSW Police members of the LTC on matters delegated to Councils.

The members of the RTC are:

- Independent Chairperson (appointed by the RTA with concurrence from the LGSA )
- LGSA nominee (usually a Local Government Engineer from the region)
- RTA representative (usually the Regional Traffic Manager)

It should be noted the LGSA and RTA representatives merely provide advice as required by the Chairman.

In addition, nominees of the NSW Police, Council and the local State MP may attend as observers.

When a notice of appeal and relevant information is lodged with the RTC, the Chairperson will convene a meeting and the appeal matter is discussed. The Chairman shall determine who, if anyone, shall be permitted to address the appeal based on the documented evidence presented by each party prior to the Appeal. Generally the members of the RTC and each party to the appeal attend the meeting only.

The decision of the Chairperson, RTC in regard to such matters is final, except in matters relating to the *Roads Act, 1993*, wherein Council may further appeal to the Minister for Roads. Refer to Section 5.4.2.

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**Note:** The RTC should not be confused with the Regional Development Committee, which deals with SEPP11 issues under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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## 7. Responsibilities

### 7.1 Council

The Council has responsibility for:

- exercising the delegated functions related to the *Roads Act 1993*
- documenting the sub-delegation of Council powers

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**Note:** Councils cannot sub-delegate their Roads Act powers.

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- seeking the advice of the NSW Police and the RTA prior to exercising delegated functions.
- obtaining the views of local residents affected by any proposal, if necessary. [This is to be done outside the LTC process]
- preparing any TMP required under Schedule 4 of the *Delegation* or when considered necessary by Council.



## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

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- seeking the approval of the RTA to any proposal to alter unrestricted parking to permissive or restricted parking on any road within a 1 km radius of any train station nominated in the RTA's document Nominated Train Stations with Commuter Parking. [This is to be done outside the LTC process]
- convening meetings of the LTC.
- referring items to the LTC.
- providing secretarial services to the LTC.
- preparing the LTC meeting agenda.
- preparing a technical report on each issue.
- documenting the LTC advice (including providing a report to the elected Council)
- providing minutes of meetings to all LTC members
- providing a summary of the final decisions made by Council on items addressed at previous LTC meetings or any addressed since the last meeting.
- notifying the RTA and the NSW Police if the elected Council intends to exercise its delegated functions contrary to the advice of the LTC.

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Note: Deciding not to proceed does not constitute exercising a function and therefore does not require notification.

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## 7.2 RTA

The RTA has responsibility for:

- reviewing any TMP submitted to it.
- approving any proposal to alter unrestricted parking to permissive or restricted parking on any road within a 1 km radius of any train station nominated in the RTA's document Nominated Train Stations with Commuter Parking.
- providing advice on Council proposals referred to the LTC.
- appointing the Chairperson of the RTC (with the concurrence of LGSA)
- providing secretarial services to the RTC.

## 7.3 NSW Police

The NSW Police have responsibility for:

- providing advice on Council proposals referred to the LTC.

## 7.4 Local State Member of Parliament

The local State Member of Parliament has responsibility for:

- providing advice on Council proposals referred to the LTC.
- nominating someone to represent them if necessary.



## 8. Traffic engineering advice

Councils often require advice on, or investigation of options for, difficult traffic problems. Council may also wish to consider traffic issues, which are outside the *Delegation* (e.g. installation of speed limits or traffic control signals). As these problems or issues do not require the exercise of delegated functions at that point in time (though they may or may not require it in the future) they should not be dealt with as formal items by the LTC.

Council may take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the LTC members to help them to resolve or clarify an issue. When wishing to utilise the expertise of the LTC members in this manner, Council could either include items on the agenda under a separate Informal Items section or produce a separate agenda.

Informal items should be dealt with following the completion of formal LTC items where Council intends to exercise a delegated function. Any outcomes from discussions on informal items cannot be included in the LTC report to the Council. However, Council can use any outcomes from these discussions in their deliberations on such issues.





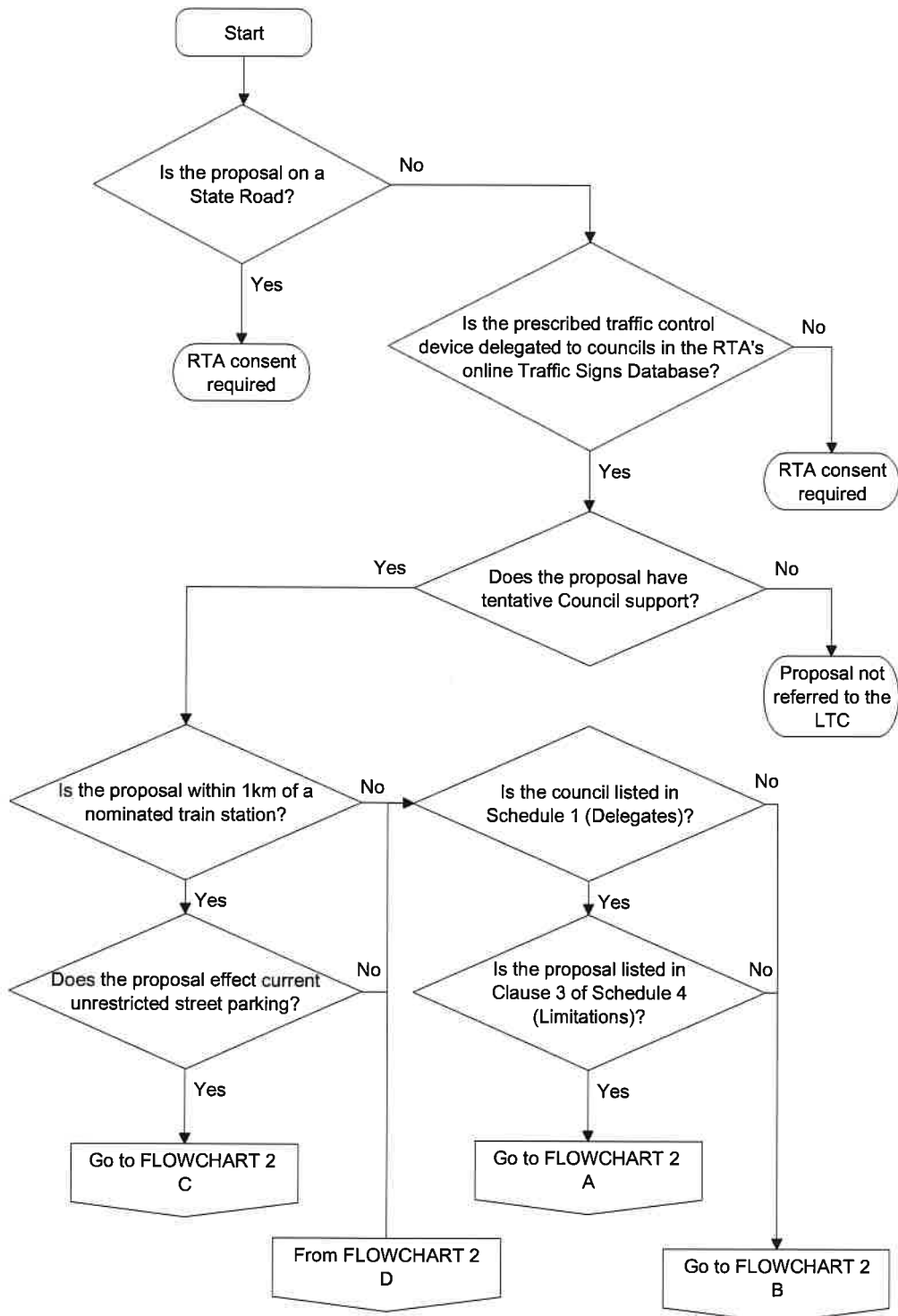
# APPENDIX A



## Process for Exercising Delegated Road Transport Powers

### FLOWCHART I

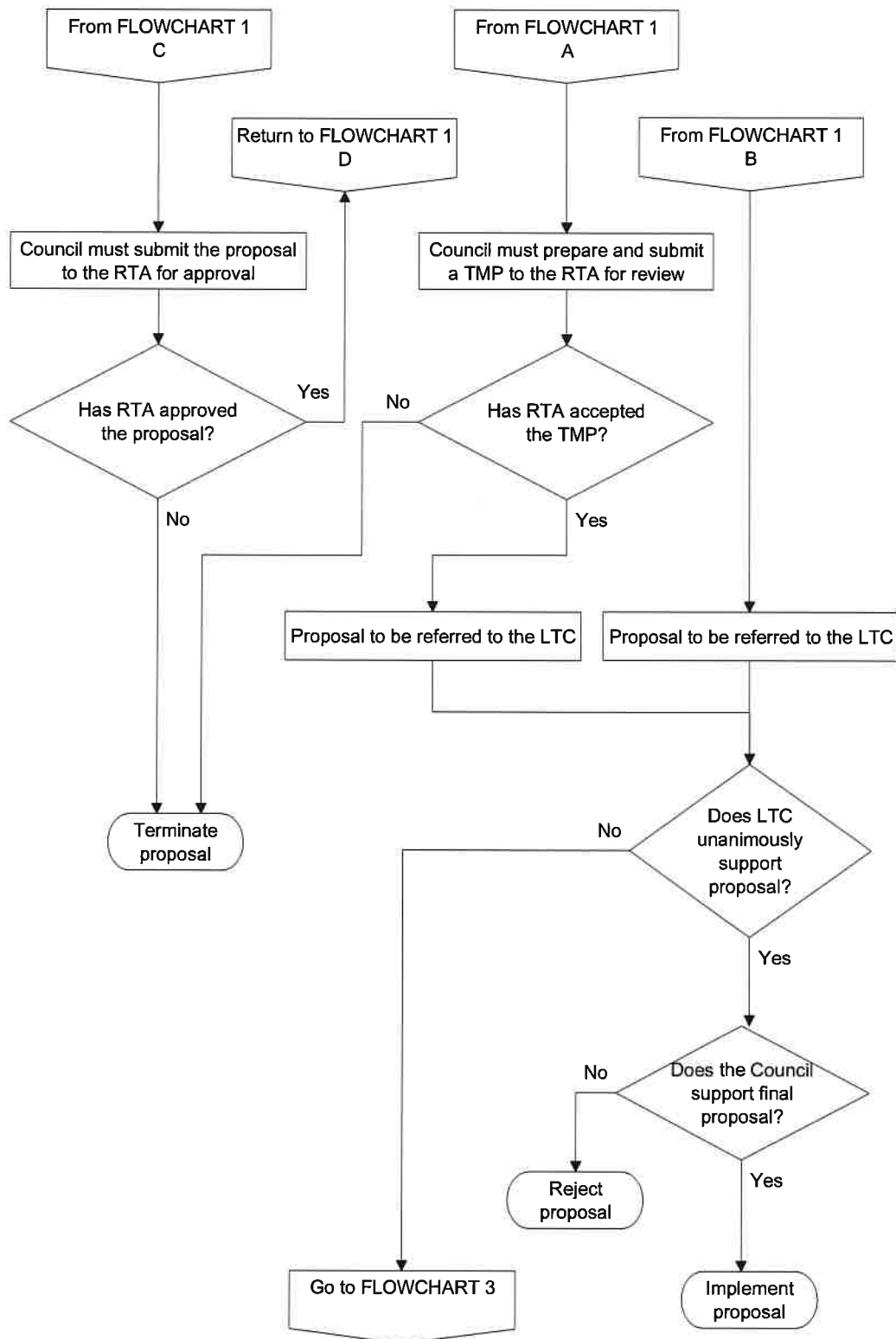
(Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999)





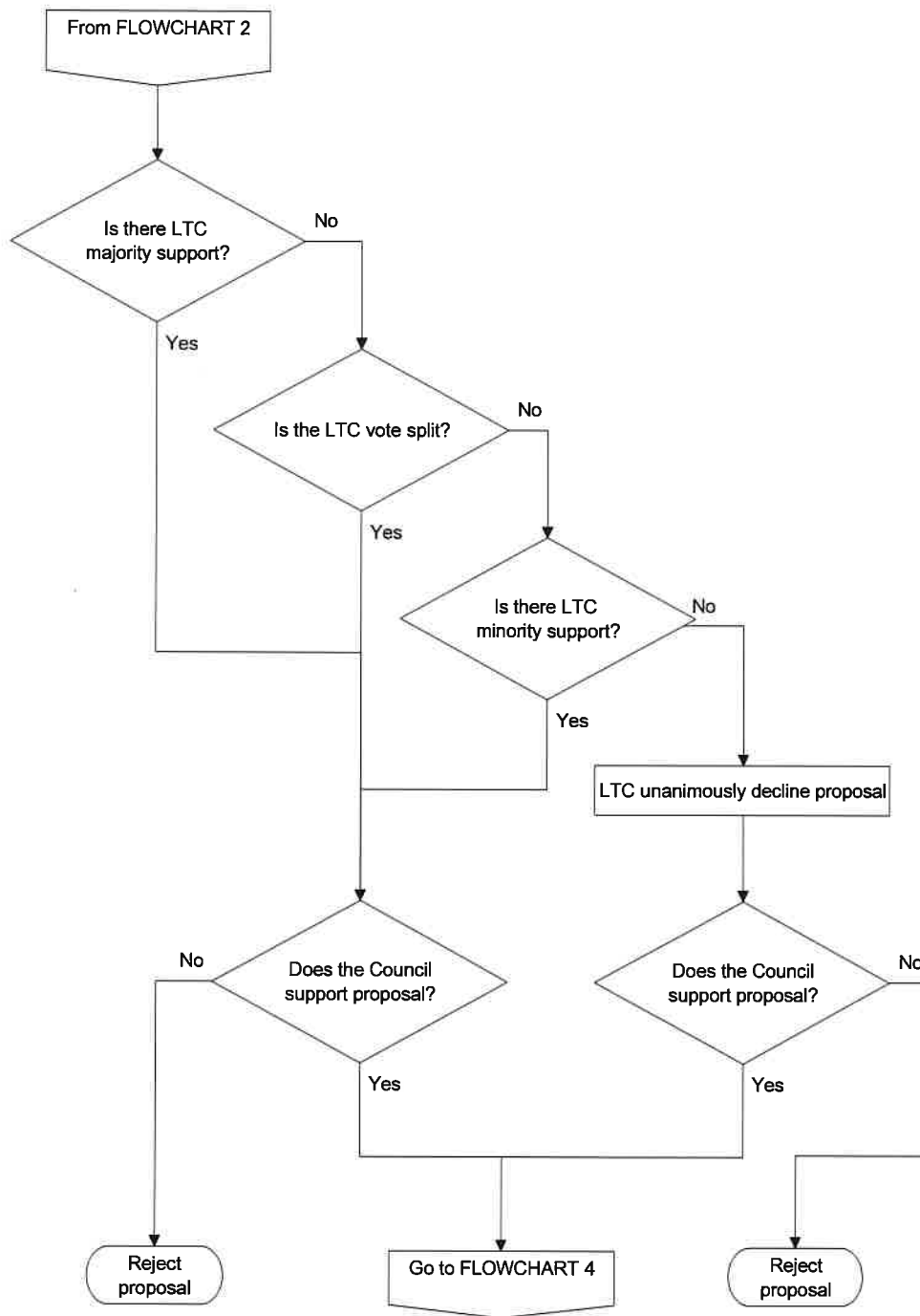
## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

**FLOWCHART 2**  
*(Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999)*





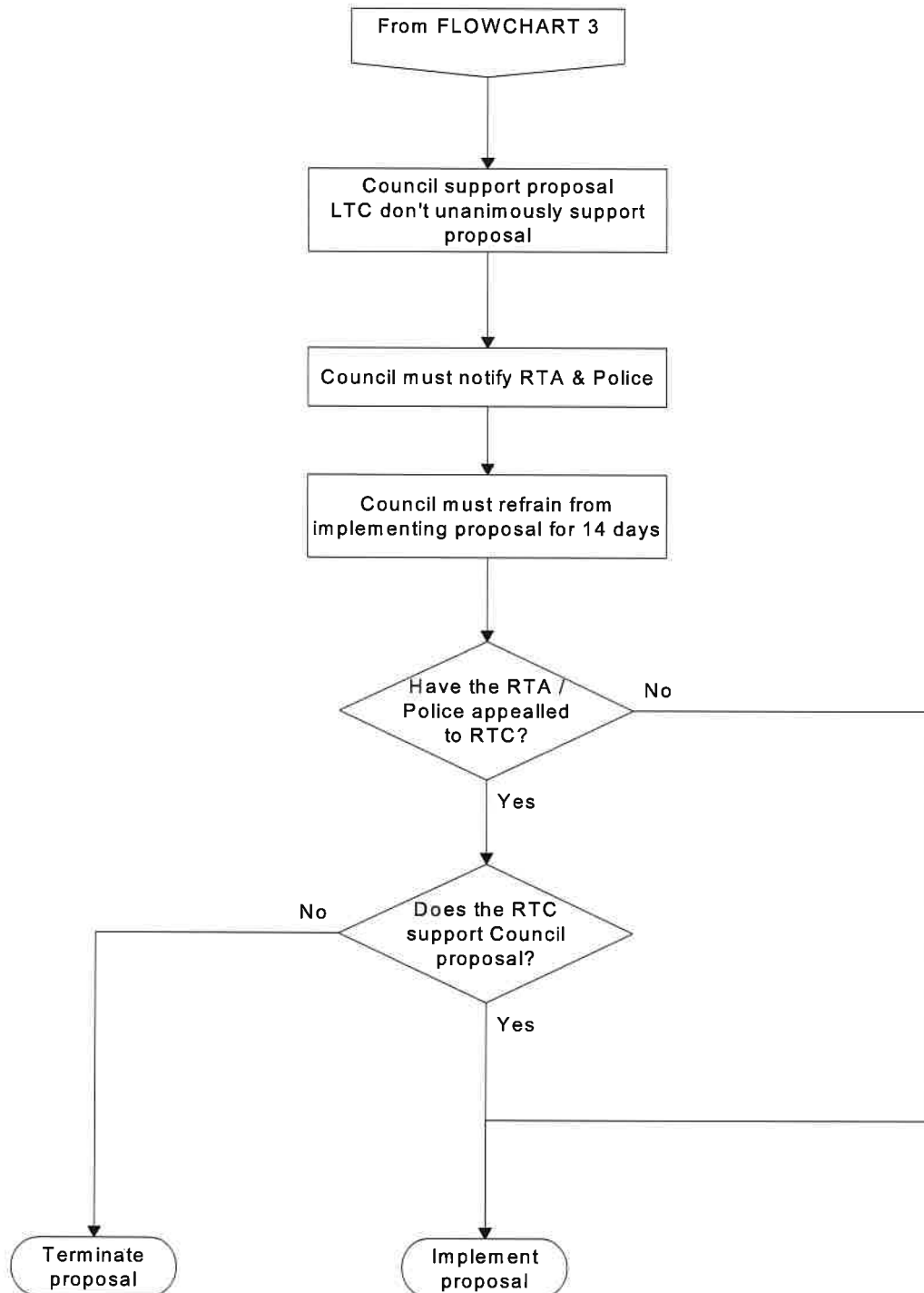
**FLOWCHART 3**  
*(Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999)*





## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

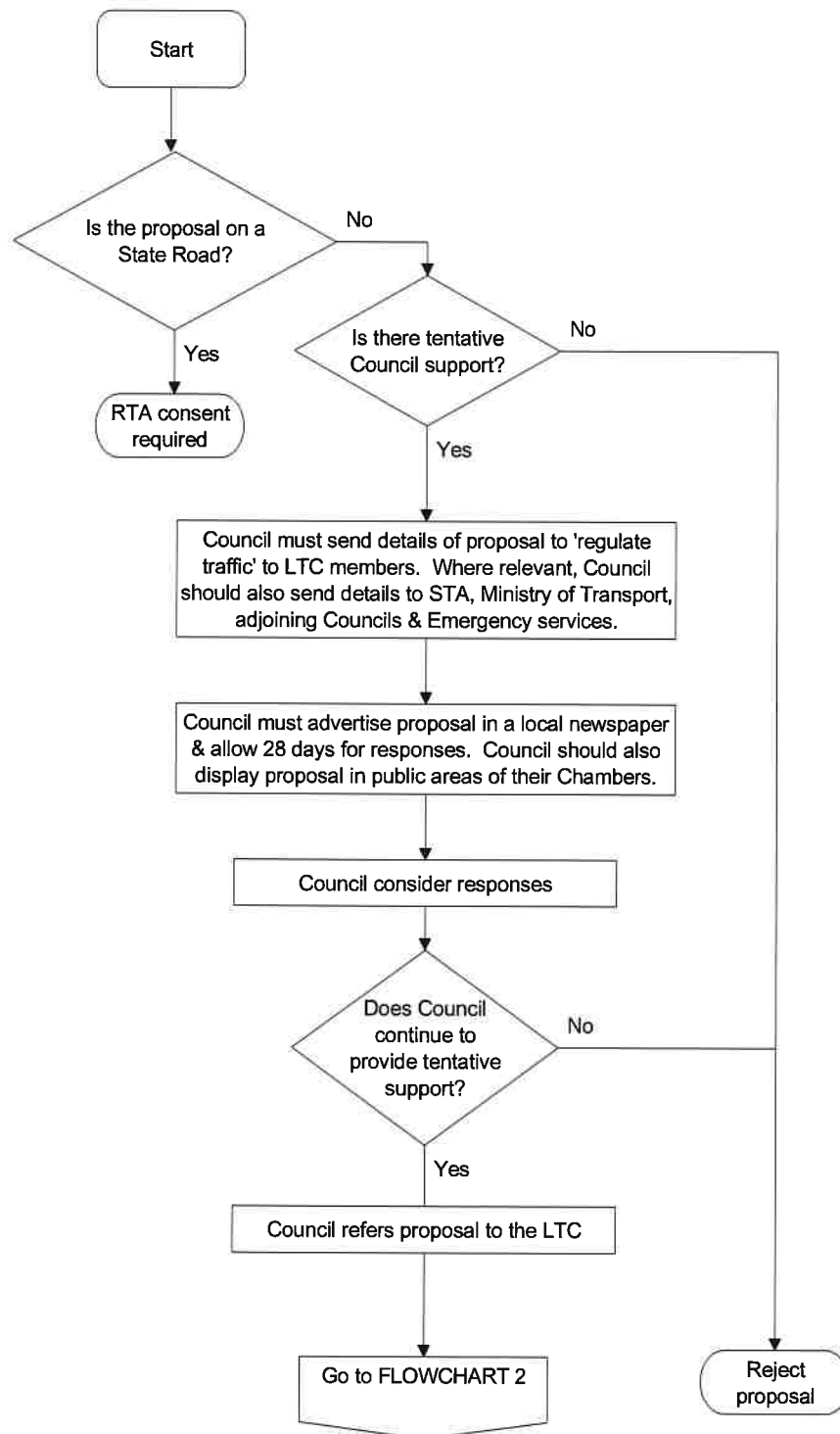
**FLOWCHART 4**  
*(Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act, 1999)*





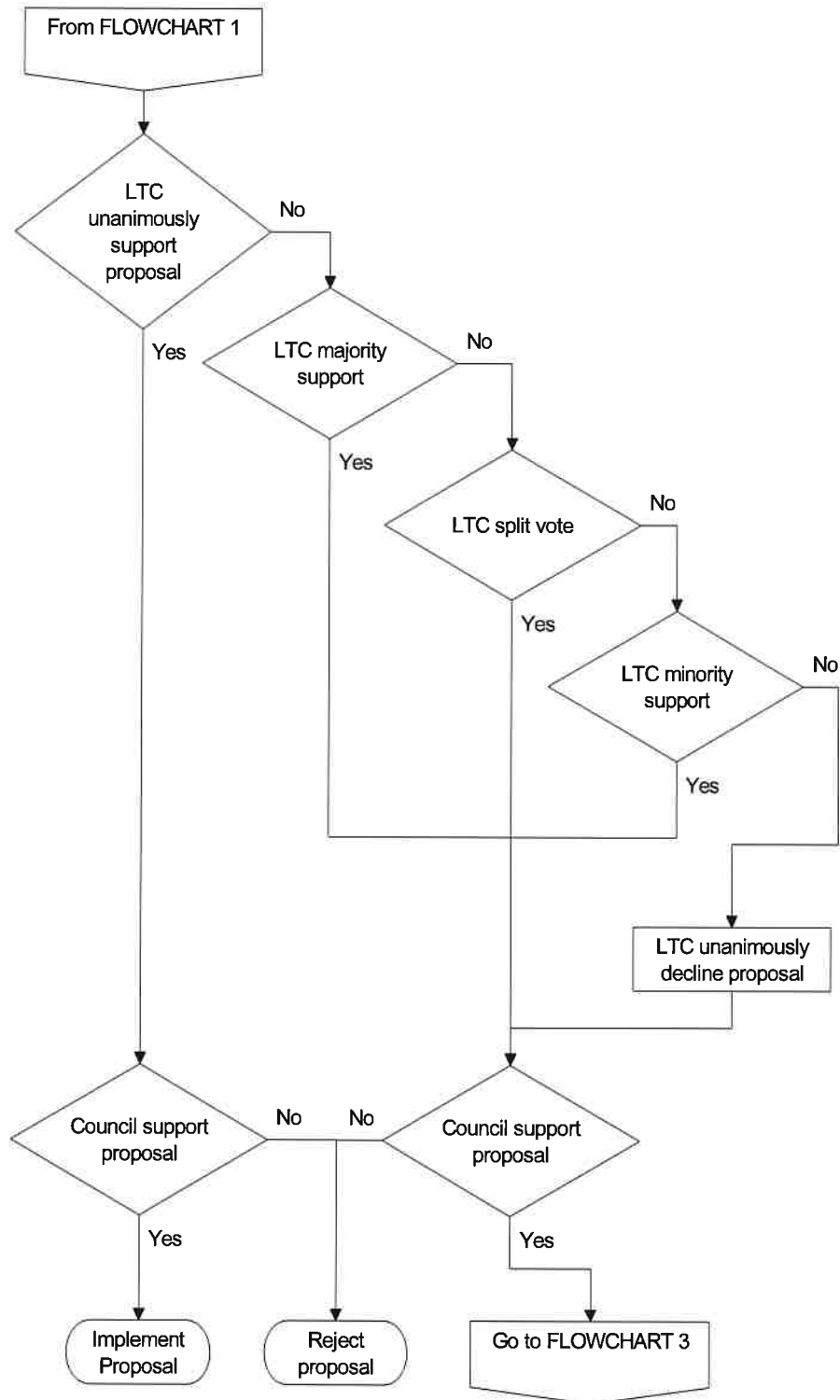
## Process for Exercising Delegated Roads Act Powers

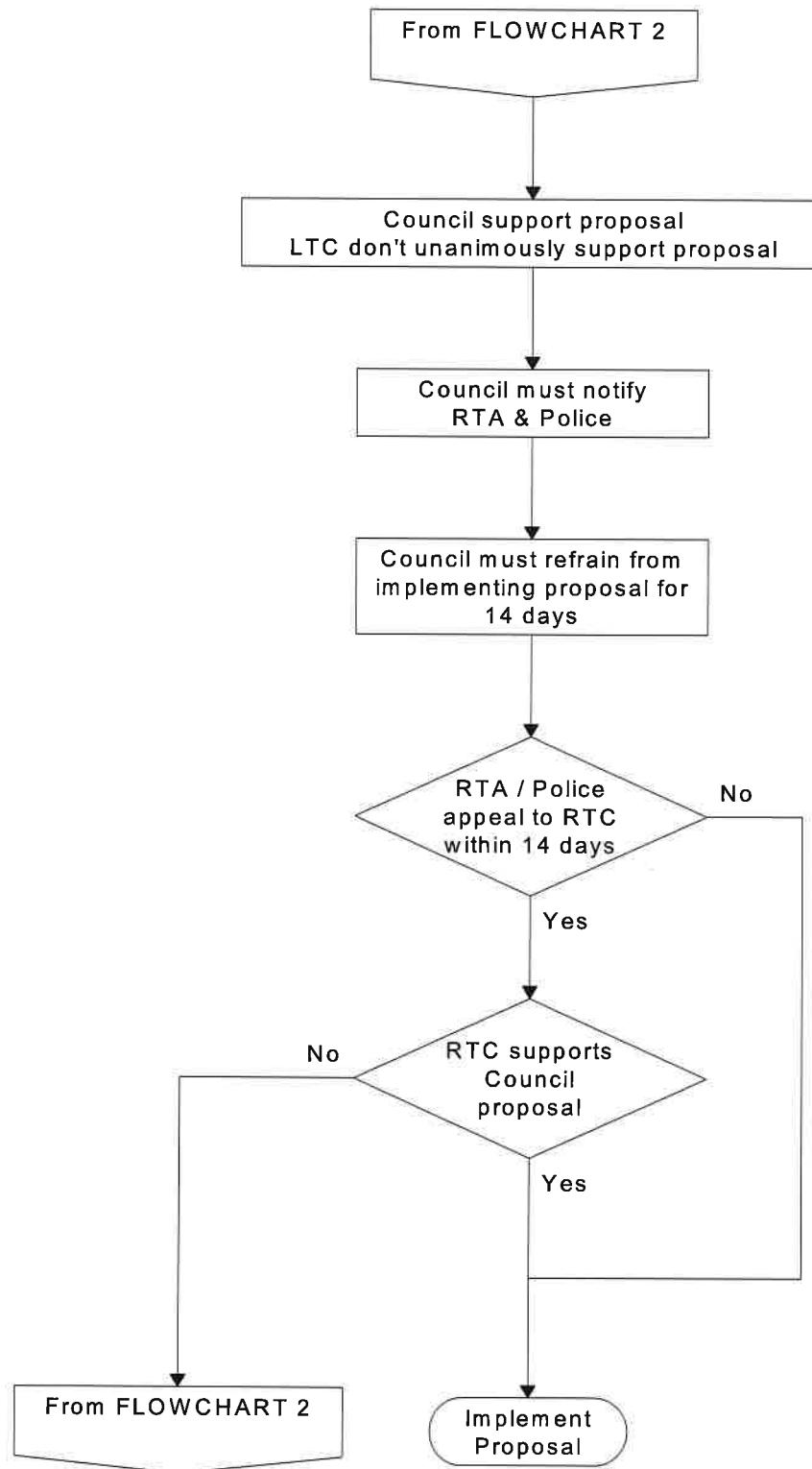
### FLOWCHART 1 (Roads Act, 1993)



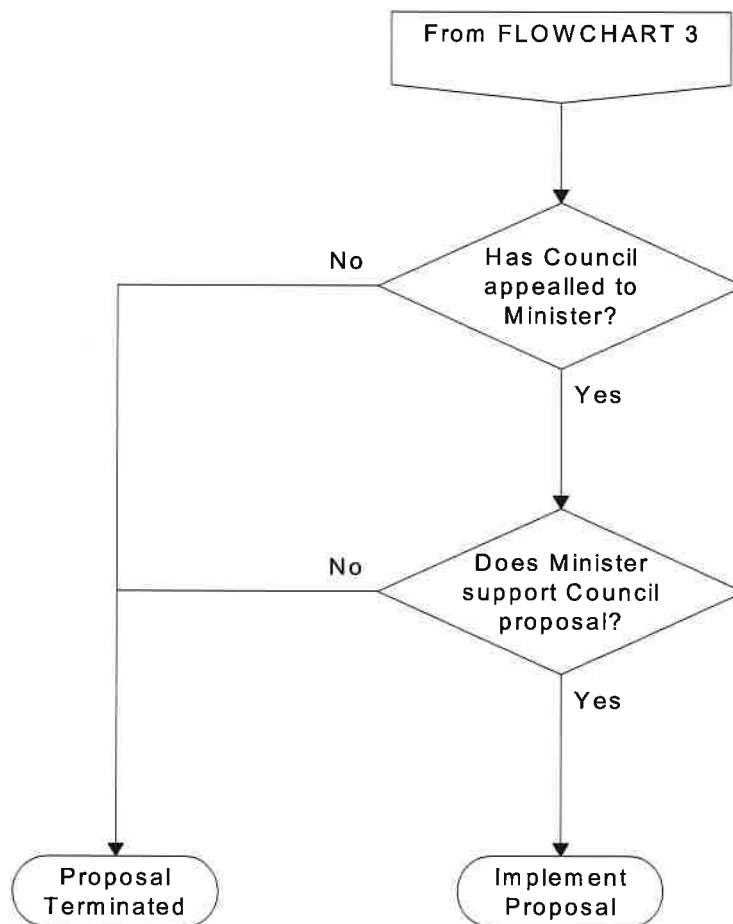


## Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

**FLOWCHART 2**  
*(Roads Act, 1993)*


**FLOWCHART 3**  
(Roads Act, 1993)



**FLOWCHART 4**  
*(Roads Act, 1993)*



## RTC TERMS OF REFERENCE

<b>SCOPE</b>	<b>The Regional Traffic Committee deals with appeals from members of the Local Traffic Committees (RTA and NSW Police only) on matters delegated to Councils by the Roads and Traffic Authority.</b>
<b>ROLES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Roads and Traffic Authority (hereinafter called "the Authority") pursuant to Section 50 of the Transport Administration Act 1988 and all other enabling powers hereby delegates to the chairperson of a Regional Traffic Committee appointed by the Authority.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- The exercise of all those functions of the Authority necessary to determine appeals by a member of the Local Traffic Committee in connection with the exercise of any of the functions delegated by the Authority to a council, or any of the functions sub-delegated by it, in respect of:                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Division 2 of Part 8 (Regulation of traffic by roads authorities) of the Roads Act 1993.</li> <li>Division 1 of Part 4 (Traffic control devices) of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999.</li> <li>Division 2 of Part 5 (Special event parking schemes) of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) (Road Rules) Regulation 1999.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent Chairperson, Regional Traffic Committees</li> <li>Local Government and Shires Associations for each RTA Region</li> <li>Roads and Traffic Authority for each RTA Region</li> </ul>
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	<p>Should you have any further enquires please do not hesitate to contact the <b>Secretary, Regional Traffic Committees</b> by Facsimile on 8588 4164 or</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:regional_traffic_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au">regional_traffic_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au</a></p>



Delegation to Councils for the Regulation of Traffic

## REGIONAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE APPEAL FORM

<b>SUBJECT OF APPEAL:</b>		
<b>APPELLANT (APPEAL) CONTACT:</b>	Title: Name: Organisation: Phone: Fax: E-mail:	
<b>DATE APPEAL SUBMITTED:</b>	•	
<b>REASON FOR APPEAL:</b>	•	
<b>RELEVANT HISTORY:</b>	• • • •	
<b>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:</b>	• • <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">(Please attach documents)</div>	
<b>PARTIES TO APPEAL:</b>	• • •	
<b>DATE RECEIVED</b>		
<b>RTC use only</b>		

Forward to:

Secretariat  
 Office of the Chairperson  
 Regional Traffic Committees  
 Level 16 101 Miller Street  
 Locked Bag 928  
 NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Facsimile: 8588 4164  
 Email: [regional\\_traffic\\_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional_traffic_committee@rta.nsw.gov.au)

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal black lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings present.

[Inside rear cover  
– provided for double sided printing purposes only]



For further enquiries:



[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/guidelines](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficinformation/guidelines)



[technical\\_directions\\_publication@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:technical_directions_publication@rta.nsw.gov.au)

# Internal Audit Committee Charter

## 1 Name

The Committee will be called the Narromine Shire Council Internal Audit Committee.

## 2 Status

Established by resolution of Council on 14 February 2018, reviewed by Council 12 September 2018 and 11 September 2019.

## 3 Purpose

The Audit Committee Charter sets out the authority, composition, roles and responsibilities, reporting and administration for the Audit Committee.

## 4 Objective

The objective of this Committee is to provide independent assurance and assistance to Council on risk management, control, governance and external accountability responsibilities.

## 5 Authority

The Council authorises the Committee, within the scope of its role and responsibilities, to:

- i) Obtain any information it needs from any employee or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information).
- ii) Discuss any matters with the external auditor or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations).
- iii) Request the attendance of any employee or Councillor at Audit Committee meetings.
- iv) Obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities subject to the concurrence of the General Manager.

## 6 Composition and Tenure

**The Committee will consist of:-**

### **Members (voting):-**

- One Councillor (excluding the Mayor)
- Two Independent External Members (one with financial expertise, and one of which will be Chair)

### **Attendees (non-voting)**

- General Manager
- Internal Auditor
- Director Finance and Corporate Strategy
- Executive Manager Corporate Governance

### **Invitees (non-voting) for specific Agenda items**

- Representatives of the external auditor
- Other officers may attend by invitation as requested by the Committee

The independent external member will be appointed for the term of Council, after which they will be eligible for extension or re-appointment following a review of their performance.

The members of the Committee, taken collectively, will have a broad range of skills and experience relevant to the operation of Council. At least one member of the Committee shall have accounting or related financial management experience, with understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a public sector environment.

## **7 Roles and Responsibilities**

- i) The Committee has no executive powers, except those expressly provided by the Council.
- ii) In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of Council rests with the Council and the General Manager as defined by the Local Government Act.
- iii) The responsibilities of the Committee may be revised or expanded by Council from time to time.

Specifically, the Audit Committee's responsibilities are:

### **7.1 Risk Management**

Review whether or not:

- i) Management has in place a current and comprehensive risk management framework, and associated procedures for effective identification and management of business and financial risks, including fraud.
- ii) A sound and effective approach has been followed in developing strategic risk management plans for major projects or undertakings.
- iii) The impact of the risk management framework on its control environment and insurance arrangements.
- iv) A sound and effective approach has been followed in establishing business continuity planning arrangements, including if plans have been tested periodically.

### **7.2 Control Framework**

Review whether or not:

- i) Management has adequate and effective internal controls in place, including over external parties such as contractors and advisors.
- ii) Management has in place relevant policies and procedures, and if these are periodically reviewed and updated.
- iii) Appropriate processes are in place to assess if policies and procedures are complied with appropriately.
- iv) Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations.



- v) Management has taken steps to embed a culture which is committed to ethical and lawful behaviour.

### 7.3 External Accountability:

- i) Satisfy itself that the annual financial reports comply with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and are supported by appropriate management sign-off on the statements and the adequacy of internal controls.
- ii) Review the External Audit opinion, including whether or not appropriate action has been taken in response to audit recommendations and adjustments.
- iii) Consider contentious financial reporting matters in conjunction with Council's management and External Auditors.
- iv) Review the processes in place designed to ensure financial information included in the annual report is consistent with the signed financial statements.
- v) Satisfy itself that there are appropriate mechanisms in place to review and implement, where appropriate, relevant State Government reports and recommendations.
- vi) Satisfy itself that there is a performance management framework linked to organisational objectives and outcomes.

### 7.4 Legislative Compliance

- i) Determine whether management has appropriately considered legal and compliance risks as part of risk assessment and management arrangements.
- ii) Review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring compliance with relevant laws, regulations and associated government policies.

### 7.5 Internal Audit

- i) Act as a forum for communication between the Council, General Manager, senior management, Internal Audit and External Audit.
- ii) Review the internal audit coverage and Internal Audit Plan, ensure the plan has considered the Risk Management Plan, and approve the plan.
- iii) Consider the adequacy of internal audit resources to carry out its responsibilities, including completion of the approved Internal Audit Plan.
- iv) Ensure and support the independence of the Internal Audit function.
- v) Review all audit reports and consider significant issues identified in audit reports and action taken on issues raised, including identification and dissemination of better practices.
- vi) Monitor the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations by management.
- vii) Periodically review the Internal Audit Charter to ensure appropriate organisational structures, authority, access and reporting arrangements are in place.
- viii) Periodically review the performance of Internal Audit.

## 7.6 External Audit

- i) Act as a forum for communication between the Council, General Manager, senior management, Internal and External Audit.
- ii) Provide input and feedback on the financial statement and performance audit coverage proposed by the external audit, and provide feedback on the external audit services provided.
- iii) Review all external plans and reports in respect of planned or completed external audits, and monitor the implementation of audit recommendations by management.
- iv) Consider significant issues raised in relevant External Audit reports and better practice guides, and ensure appropriate action is taken.

## 7.7 Responsibilities of Members

Members of the Committee are expected to:

- i) Understand the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements appropriate to Council.
- ii) Contribute the time needed to study and understand the papers provided.
- iii) Apply good analytical skills, objectivity and good judgment.
- iv) Express opinions frankly and ask questions that go to the fundamental core of issues, and pursue independent lines of enquiry,

## **8 Reporting**

- 8.1 At the first Committee meeting after 30 June each year, the Internal Auditor will provide a performance report of the performance of Internal Audit for the financial year as measured against agreed key performance indicators and the approved Internal Audit Plan of work for the previous financial year showing the current status of each audit.
- 8.2 The Committee may, at any time, consider any other matter it deems of sufficient importance to do so. In addition, at any time an individual Committee member may request a meeting with the Chair of the Committee.
- 8.3 The Committee will report annually to the governing body of Council on the management of risk and internal controls.

## **9 Administrative Arrangements**

### 9.1 Meetings

- i) The Committee shall meet at least two times per year (March and November) with one of these meetings to include review and endorsement of the annual audited financial reports and external audit opinion.
- ii) The need for any additional meetings will be decided by the Chair, although the other Committee members may make requests to the Chair for additional meetings. The Chair will advise the General Manager prior to an invitation being issued.
- iii) Meetings can be held in person, by telephone or by video conference.

- iv) A forward meeting plan, including meeting dates and agenda items, will be agreed by the Committee each year. The forward meeting plan will cover all Committee responsibilities as detailed in this Audit Committee Charter.

## 9.2 Attendance at Meetings and Quorums:

- i) A quorum will consist of the majority of Voting Members, including at least one independent member. The attendance of non-members is subject to invitation by the Chair.
- ii) The Internal Auditor will be invited to attend each meeting unless requested not to do so by the Chair of the Committee.

## 9.3 Secretariat

- i) The Council will provide secretariat support to the Committee.
- ii) The Secretariat will ensure the agenda for each meeting and supporting papers are circulated, at least one (1) week before the meeting, and ensure minutes of the meetings are prepared and maintained.
- iii) Minutes shall be approved by the Chair and circulated to each member within three (3) weeks of the meeting being held.

## 9.4 Conflicts of Interest

- i) Committee members must comply with the applicable provisions of Council's Code of Conduct in carrying out the functions as Council Officials. It is the personal responsibility of Council Official's to comply with the standards in the Code of Council and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.
- ii) Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting or before discussion of a relevant agenda item or topic. Details of any conflicts of interest should be appropriately minuted.
- iii) Where members or invitees at Committee meetings are deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest, it may be appropriate they be excused from Committee deliberations on the issue where the conflict of interest may exist. The final arbiter of such a decision is the Chair of the Committee.

## 9.5 Induction

New members will receive relevant information and briefings on their appointment to assist them to meet their Committee responsibilities.

## 9.6 Decision Making

- i) The Committee is expected to make decisions by consensus but if voting becomes necessary then the details of the vote are to be recorded in the minutes.
- ii) Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote only. In the case of an equality of votes on any issue the Chair shall have the casting vote.

## 9.7 Assessment of Committee Performance

- i) The Chair of the Committee will initiate a review of the performance of the Audit Committee at least once every two years. The review will be conducted on a self-assessment basis (unless otherwise determined by the Chair), with appropriate input from management and any other relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Chair.

### 9.8 Review of Audit Committee Charter

The Audit Committee will review this Charter every 4 years prior to endorsement by Council.

### **Document Control**

<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Endorsed By Committee</b>	<b>Adopted by Council</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
<b>Executive Manager Corporate Governance</b>	1.0	N/A	14 February 2018	4 years
<b>Executive Manager Corporate Governance</b>	2.0	N/A	12 September 2018	4 years
<b>Executive Manager Corporate Governance</b>	3.0	N/A	11 September 2019	4 years



## **CHARTER – NARROMINE AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012, Resolution No 2012/319  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended by Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended by Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Narromine Australia Day Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Narromine Australia Day Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Operational Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to organise and run the annual Australia Day celebration in Narromine.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

- 5.1 Provide a forum for discussion of the strategic direction of the event.
- 5.2 Organisation and delivery of the Australia Day event.

### **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. The Committee can make recommendations to Council for membership and can invite relevant persons to attend the meetings when required. They will not have voting rights.

### **Councillor Representation**

Two Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Community Representation**

Six Community Representatives

### **Council Staff Representation**

The following staff are assigned to this Committee:-

Director Community and Economic Development or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes. Council staff will prepare a financial statement for each meeting.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, another Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee

## **8. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be reappointed each year.

## **9. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of four and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **11. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur as required. Usually from the first Monday in October through to the first Monday in February. A brief recess between the months of April and September is held.

The meetings will be limited where possible to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.



Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **12. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's business papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **13. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee (refer Section 15. Disciplinary Action)

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend

on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **15. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Should a member of the Committee breach Council's Code of Conduct, the matter will be referred to Council's General Manager for deliberation. The General Manager may consider a range of sanctions, depending on the nature of the breach. Serious breaches may result in removal of the member concerned from the Committee. In such cases the General Manager would convene a meeting of the Chairperson and person concerned to discuss the matter prior to the decision being finalised. The member who has committed the breach may be suspended from the Committee until the matter is determined.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's Media Relations Policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – NARROMINE SHOWGROUND & RACECOURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012, Resolution No 2012/320  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE SHOWGROUND & RACECOURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Narromine Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to manage the day to day operation of the Narromine Showground and Racecourse by making recommendations to Council, who is the Trust Manager of the Reserve.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

- 5.1 Provide input on the strategic direction of the Narromine Showground and Racecourse
- 5.2 Provide advice on proposed capital improvements and maintenance of the Narromine Showground and Racecourse.

### **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. The Committee can make recommendations to Council for membership and can invite relevant persons to attend the meetings when required. They will not have voting rights.

### **Councillor Representation**

Two Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Community Representation**

Two representatives from Narromine Agricultural Show Society  
Two representatives from Narromine Turf Club  
Two representatives from Narromine Pony Club

### **Council Staff Representation**

The following staff are assigned to this Committee:-

Director Community and Economic Development or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes. A financial report will also be prepared by Council.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, another Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee.

## **8. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be reappointed each year.

## **9. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of five and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **11. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur quarterly.

The meetings will be limited where possible to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **12. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business Papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **13. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.



Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **15. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **16. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's Media Relations Policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **17. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



# **CHARTER – TRANGIE SHOWGROUND & RACECOURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012, Resolution No 2012/321  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE TRANGIE SHOWGROUND & RACECOURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Trangie Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Trangie Showground & Racecourse Advisory Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to manage the day to day operation of the Trangie Showground and Racecourse by making recommendations to Council, who is the Trust Manager of the reserve.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

- 5.1 Provide input on the strategic direction of the Trangie Showground and Racecourse
- 5.2 Provide advice on proposed capital improvements and maintenance of the Trangie Showground and Racecourse.

### **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. The Committee can make recommendations to Council for membership and can invite relevant persons to attend the meetings when required. They will not have voting rights.

### **Councillor Representation**

Two Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Community Representation**

Two representatives from Macquarie Picnic Race Club

Two representatives from Trangie Jockey Club

Two representatives from Trangie Horse & Pony Club

Two representatives from Trangie Campdraft Association

Two representatives from Trangie Truck and Tractor Show Committee

Two community representatives

### **Council Staff Representation**

The following staff are assigned to this Committee:-

Director Community and Economic Development or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes. Council will prepare a financial statement for each meeting.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, another Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee.

## **8. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be reappointed each year.

## **9. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of five and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **11. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur quarterly.

The meetings will be limited where possible to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **12. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business Papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **13. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **15. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **16. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's Media Relations Policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **17. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – TOMINGLEY ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

*Adopted by Council 21 September 2016, Resolution No 2016/247  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2016/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*



## **CHARTER OF THE TOMINGLEY ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Tomingley Advancement Association Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Tomingley Advancement Association Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to enable additional consultation in regards to items such as Community Strategic Planning, priorities within Council's Delivery Plan and issues that may directly affect the village and nearby residents. The Committee may also offer input into the management of Council owned community facilities such as the Tomingley Memorial Hall and Tomingley Community Centre.

In addition the Committee has also been established to organise and run the annual Australia Day celebration in Tomingley when held.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

Provide advice to Council on issues that affect the residents of the Tomingley area.

Provide a forum for the discussion of issues within the Community Strategic Plan

Organise and deliver the Tomingley Australia Day event when held.

## **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee is open to those interested community members who wish to join.

### **Councillor Representation**

One Councillor

One Alternate Delegate (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Community Representation**

Five Community Representatives

### **Council Staff Representation**

The following staff are assigned to this Committee:-  
Director Community and Economic Development or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes. Council will provide a financial report to each meeting.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the other Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee

## **8. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for one year. They can be reappointed each year.

## **9. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of four (4) attendees and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The General Public are welcome to attend meetings. Representatives of organisations may be invited to address the committee on matters on the agenda.

## **11. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur twice a year. If there is no quorum, the meeting will be deferred and another meeting must be held within 1 month.

The meetings will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of seven (7) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **12. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's business papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **13. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a

meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **15. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **16. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's Media Relations Policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **17. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – TRANGIE MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012, Resolution No 2012/327,  
Amended by Council 11 September 2013, Resolution No 2013/313,  
Amended By Council 12 April 2017, Resolution No 2017/76,  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE TRANGIE MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Trangie Memorial Hall Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Narromine Shire Council Trangie Memorial Hall Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to be responsible for the care, protection, management, operation and improvement of the Trangie Memorial Hall in Trangie (hereinafter called "the Hall").

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

- 5.1 Consider and advise Council of the requirements of all users of the Hall, including patrons, hirers, artists and staff.
- 5.2 To liaise and consult with persons, groups and organisations in relation to the operation of the Hall.
- 5.3 To actively promote the use of the Hall and do all in its power to have its facilities fully utilised.
- 5.4 To regularly report to, and consult with, the Council on the progress and performance of the Committee and its purposes and the Hall's operation.
- 5.5 To ensure that all users of the Hall abide by any by-laws, regulations or rules applicable within the Hall, and to advise Council in respect of any suggested laws, regulations or rules, or amendments to any regulations or rules applicable to the Hall's operation.

## **6. OUTCOMES**

The Committee will assist Council by liaising and consulting with all persons, groups and organisations in relation to the operation of the Hall and providing relevant advice to Council staff to ensure the ongoing care, protection and management of the Hall.

## **7. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 7.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 7.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. Any recommendations for new membership must be approved by Council.

### **Councillor Representation**

Two Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to present them.

### **Community Representation**

Trangie Men's Shed Representative  
Trangie Local History Group Representative  
Five Community Representatives

### **Council Staff Representation**

The following staff are assigned to this Committee:-  
Director Community and Economic Development or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes. A financial report will be provided by Council.



### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the other Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee

## **9. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be reappointed each year.

## **10. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of four and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **12. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur twice a year.

The meetings will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **13. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business Papers for Council ratification, at the following Meeting of Council.

## **14. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy

of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's Media Relations Policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*Adopted By Council 18 September 2012, Resolution Nos 2012/330, 2012/384  
Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253  
Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216  
Amended By Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Floodplain Management Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

“The Committee” means the Narromine Shire Council Floodplain Management Committee

“Council” means Narromine Shire Council

“Member” means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established primarily to assist Council in respect to studies undertaken in regards to the Narromine Flood Plain Risk Management Plan, the Narromine Town Levee and Concept Design.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall assist in:-

- 5.1 formulating objectives, strategies and outcomes sought from the process, after a review of specialist studies;
- 5.2 providing a link between the local community and Council;
- 5.3 indentifying the flood problem to be assessed within the study area;
- 5.4 providing input into known flood behaviour as part of the flood study;
- 5.5 co-ordinate with relevant emergency agencies and management boards.

### **6. OUTCOMES**

The Committee will act as a forum for the discussion of technical, social, economic, environmental and cultural issues and for the distillation of possibly differing viewpoints on these issues in regards to potential flood related impacts for the Narromine Township.

## **7. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1 The Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure.
- 7.2 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 7.3 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all relevant business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the written form of minutes, accompanied by the agenda or reports from relevant Council officers. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 7.4 Actions which are determined by the General Manager to be operational will be dealt with by the relevant Director/Manager, and any action or decision not to act will be reported to the Committee.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. Any recommendations for new membership must be approved by Council.

### **Councillor Representation**

Two (2) Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Community and Industry Representation**

Representatives of the local community, relevant industry bodies and environmental groups (maximum of seven (7) members across affected areas).

### **Council Staff Representation**

Council staff representation must include a mix of engineering, strategic and planning and environmental.

Staff required to attend the Committee will participate equally with other members in terms of discussion and/or debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Office of Environment and Heritage**

Minimum of one (1) representative from a Floodplain Risk Management perspective (no voting rights).

### **State Emergency Service Representation**

Minimum of one (1) representative required to consider any implications with emergency operations.

## **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, the other appointed Council representative shall become the Acting Chairperson for that meeting.

## **Other Office Bearers**

There are no other office bearers on the Committee.

## **9. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors serving on the Committee shall have a duration of the Council term for committees (usually 1 year). They can be re-appointed each year.

## **10. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of five representatives and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting, the committee members present may discuss the agenda items although any decisions taken will not become formalised until they have been ratified at the next committee meeting with a quorum present.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **11. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General



Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **12. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur as required.

The meetings will be limited to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **13. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's Business Papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **14. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the

interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Information Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Information Officer.

## **17. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's media relations policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy, strategic and emergency matters and through the General Manager for procedural and operational matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **18. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.



## **CHARTER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP COMMITTEE**

*Adopted by Council 8 March 2017*

*Amended By Council September 2017, Resolution No 2017/253*

*Amended By Council 12 September 2018, Resolution No 2018/216*

*Amended by Council 11 September 2019, Resolution No 2019/222*

## **CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP COMMITTEE**

### **1. NAME**

The committee, as appointed under the provision of Section 355(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, shall be known as the **Economic Development Group Committee**.

### **2. INTERPRETATION**

For the purpose of this charter:-

"The Committee" means the Economic Development Group Committee

"Council" means Narromine Shire Council

"Member" means a member of the committee

### **3. STATUS OF COMMITTEE**

Advisory Committee

### **4. PURPOSE**

The Committee has been established to assist Council in the implementation of Council's Economic Development Strategy **and Social Plan**.

### **5. FUNCTIONS**

The Committee shall:-

- 5.1 Provide a forum for industry, local government and the non-government sector to grow the regional economy.
- 5.2 Identify strategic opportunities to enhance the economic **and social** viability of our community.
- 5.3 Encourage business diversity, innovation and new technologies to help stimulate jobs, collaboration and creativity.

### **6. COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS**

- 6.1 The Committee does not have the power to bind Council.
- 6.2 The Committee can make recommendations to the Council on all business presented before it. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to Council in the minutes from the meetings. Recommendations made by the Committee may or may not be adopted by Council.
- 6.3 To operate in accordance with the provisions of any Regulations, as adopted by Council.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee does not have the authority to co-opt anyone to its membership. The Committee can make recommendations to Council for membership and can invite relevant persons to attend the meetings when required. They will not have voting rights.

### **Councillor Representation**

Three Councillors (annually appointed by Council in September). If any of the appointed Councillors are unable to attend meetings of this Committee, that Councillor must arrange for an alternative Councillor to represent them.

### **Business Representation**

Five representatives from the local business industry  
One representative from Regional Development Australia  
One arts/culture representative

### **Community Representation**

~~Five~~ **Seven** representatives from the community

### **Council Staff Representation**

General Manager or nominee

Staff required to attend the committee will participate equally with Council Representation and Community Representation in terms of discussion and debate but will not have any voting rights.

### **Support Staff**

Staff from Council will attend meetings to provide administrative support to the Committee. Administrative support is provided for the preparation of the agenda, business papers and recording of the minutes.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson of this Committee shall be elected from the Councillor Representatives. At the first Committee meeting after the annual nomination of Councillor Representatives to the Committee (usually conducted in September), the Chairperson shall be elected by the members present at the meeting.

The role of the Chairperson is to preside at a meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson requires the skills to be able to facilitate the effective functioning of the Committee.

If the Chairperson of the Committee is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, another Councillor representative will preside at the meeting as an Acting Chairperson.

### **Other Office Bearers**

There are no office bearers on the Committee.

## **8. TERM OF OFFICE**

Community representatives continue on the Committee on an ongoing basis.

Councillors and designated staff remain on the Committee for the duration of the Council term (usually 1 year). They can be reappointed each year.

## **9. QUORUM & RECOMMENDATION MAKING**

The quorum required to enable business to be transacted at meetings is a minimum of four and must include a delegated Councillor representative.

In the absence of a quorum, 15 minutes after the advertised start of the meeting the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened for another date.

Wherever possible, decisions of the Committee will be made on the basis of consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson or person acting in the position of Chairperson shall in addition to their ordinary vote, have the casting vote.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC**

The Committee will not usually be open to members of the general public. However, the Committee can decide to open the meeting to the public, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson in consultation with the General Manager. Voting does not extend to members of the general public and is restricted to only elected committee members.

Representatives of organisations or the general community may be invited to address the Committee on matters on the agenda.

## **11. TIMETABLE FOR MEETINGS**

The meetings will occur quarterly.

The meetings will be limited where possible to a maximum of two hours duration unless the committee resolves to extend the length of the meeting to a particular time or the completion of business.

Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the General Manager.

The location, date and starting time for meetings will be advised on the agenda.

Committee meetings can only be held if a minimum of three (3) working days notice has been given to all members.

## **12. MEETING PRACTICES & PROCEDURES**

The administrative provisions of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice shall apply.

The Committee will observe any other relevant Council protocols.

The minutes of the Committee will be included in Council's business papers for Council ratification, at the following Council Meeting.

## **13. INSURANCE**

Committee members are covered by Council's personal accident insurance only for attendance at meetings and other activities formally endorsed by the Committee, and reported to Council via the minutes.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All members of Council committees are required to observe the provisions of Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee. All new members will be provided with a copy of Council's Code of Conduct and will sign to indicate that they have read and understood their obligations. A breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the member being excluded from the Committee and may include disciplinary action.

In particular, if a committee member has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Committee is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the committee at which the matter is being considered, they must disclose the interest to the meeting and must not be present during any discussion or decision making relating to that matter. Leaving the room is necessary because to remain in the presence of the meeting but refrain from voting is taken to be a vote against the motion (see Clause 251 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

A person does not breach the above clause if he or she did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

A member of a committee who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in any matter with which the committee is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is being considered will disclose the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. If a member of the committee has declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest there are a range of options for managing the conflict. The option chosen will depend on an evaluation of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the importance of the issue being dealt with.

Committee members must act in a professional and conscientious manner with any information they obtain as a committee member, especially as



committees need openness and honesty to operate efficiently. Committee members should feel free to express their opinions and views without fear of recrimination. It is therefore important that committee members respect each other, despite differences, and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere.

## **15. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY**

Members, through their involvement on the Committee, may come in contact with confidential or personal information retained by Council. Committee members are required to maintain the security and confidentiality of any such information and not access, use or remove that information, unless authorised to do so.

Privacy legislation governs the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure and transfer of personal information. More information about the legislation can be obtained by contacting Council's Public Officer.

Should a committee member become aware of any breach of the security, or misuse of Council's confidential or personal information they are asked to contact the Public Officer.

## **16. MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Council's media relations policy states that all media relations shall be conducted through the Mayor for policy matters and through the General Manager for procedural matters.

No other member of the committee is permitted to speak to the media in his or her capacity as a committee member.

## **17. REVIEW**

Amendments to this charter may be proposed to the Council by the Committee at any time, and change will not take effect until such time as Council has resolved to make any required amendments.

# Code of Conduct

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2020



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## Part 1:

## Introduction

This *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (“the Model Code of Conduct”) is made under section 440 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (“LGA”) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (“the Regulation”).

The Model Code of Conduct sets the minimum standards of conduct for council officials. It is prescribed by regulation to assist council officials to:

- understand and comply with the standards of conduct that are expected of them
- enable them to fulfil their statutory duty to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence (section 439)
- act in a way that enhances public confidence in local government.

Section 440 of the LGA requires every council (including county councils) and joint organisation to adopt a code of conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. A council’s or joint organisation’s adopted code of conduct may also include provisions that supplement the Model Code of Conduct and that extend its application to persons that are not “council officials” for the purposes of the Model Code of Conduct (eg volunteers, contractors and members of wholly advisory committees).

A council’s or joint organisation’s adopted code of conduct has no effect to the extent that it is inconsistent with the Model Code of Conduct. However, a council’s or joint organisation’s adopted code of conduct may prescribe requirements that are more onerous than those prescribed in the Model Code of Conduct.

Councillors, administrators, members of staff of councils, delegates of councils, (including members of council committees that are delegates of a council) and any other person a council’s adopted code of conduct applies to, must comply with the applicable provisions of their council’s code of conduct. It is the personal responsibility of council officials to comply with the standards in the code and to regularly review their personal circumstances and conduct with this in mind.

Failure by a councillor to comply with the standards of conduct prescribed under this code constitutes misconduct for the purposes of the LGA. The LGA provides for a range of penalties that may be imposed on councillors for misconduct, including suspension or disqualification from civic office. A councillor who has been suspended on three or more occasions for misconduct is automatically disqualified from holding civic office for five years.

Failure by a member of staff to comply with a council’s code of conduct may give rise to disciplinary action.

**Note:** References in the Model Code of Conduct to councils are also to be taken as references to county councils and joint organisations.

**Note:** In adopting the Model Code of Conduct, joint organisations should adapt it to substitute the terms “board” for “council”, “chairperson” for “mayor”, “voting representative” for “councillor” and “executive officer” for “general manager”.

**Note:** In adopting the Model Code of Conduct, county councils should adapt it to substitute the term “chairperson” for “mayor” and “member” for “councillor”.

## Part 2:

## Definitions

In this code the following terms have the following meanings:

administrator	an administrator of a council appointed under the LGA other than an administrator appointed under section 66
committee	see the definition of “council committee”
complaint	a code of conduct complaint made for the purposes of clauses 4.1 and 4.2 of the Procedures.
conduct	includes acts and omissions
council	includes county councils and joint organisations
council committee	a committee established by a council comprising of councillors, staff or other persons that the council has delegated functions to and the council’s audit, risk and improvement committee
council committee member	a person other than a councillor or member of staff of a council who is a member of a council committee other than a wholly advisory committee, and a person other than a councillor who is a member of the council’s audit, risk and improvement committee
council official	includes councillors, members of staff of a council, administrators, council committee members, delegates of council and, for the purposes of clause 4.16, council advisers
councillor	any person elected or appointed to civic office, including the mayor and includes members and chairpersons of county councils and voting representatives of the boards of joint organisations and chairpersons of joint organisations
delegate of council	a person (other than a councillor or member of staff of a council) or body, and the individual members of that body, to whom a function of the council is delegated
designated person	a person referred to in clause 4.8
election campaign	includes council, state and federal election campaigns
environmental planning instrument	has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
general manager	includes the executive officer of a joint organisation
joint organisation	a joint organisation established under section 4000 of the LGA
LGA	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
local planning panel	a local planning panel constituted under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
mayor	includes the chairperson of a county council or a joint organisation



members of staff of a council	includes members of staff of county councils and joint organisations
the Office	Office of Local Government
personal information	information or an opinion (including information or an opinion forming part of a database and whether or not recorded in a material form) about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion
the Procedures	the <i>Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW</i> prescribed under the Regulation
the Regulation	the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i>
voting representative	a voting representative of the board of a joint organisation
wholly advisory committee	a council committee that the council has not delegated any functions to



## Part 3:

### General Conduct

### Obligations

## General conduct

- 3.1 You must not conduct yourself in a manner that:
- a) is likely to bring the council or other council officials into disrepute
  - b) is contrary to statutory requirements or the council's administrative requirements or policies
  - c) is improper or unethical
  - d) is an abuse of power
  - e) causes, comprises or involves intimidation or verbal abuse
  - f) involves the misuse of your position to obtain a private benefit
  - g) constitutes harassment or bullying behaviour under this code, or is unlawfully discriminatory.
- 3.2 You must act lawfully and honestly, and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out your functions under the LGA or any other Act. (*section 439*).

## Fairness and equity

- 3.3 You must consider issues consistently, promptly and fairly. You must deal with matters in accordance with established procedures, in a non-discriminatory manner.
- 3.4 You must take all relevant facts known to you, or that you should be reasonably aware of, into consideration and have regard to the particular merits of each case. You must not take irrelevant matters or circumstances into consideration when making decisions.
- 3.5 An act or omission in good faith, whether or not it involves error, will not constitute a breach of clauses 3.3 or 3.4.

## Harassment and discrimination

- 3.6 You must not harass or unlawfully discriminate against others, or support others who harass or unlawfully discriminate against others, on the grounds of age, disability, race (including colour, national or ethnic origin or immigrant status), sex, pregnancy, marital or relationship status, family responsibilities or breastfeeding, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status or political, religious or other affiliation.
- 3.7 For the purposes of this code, "harassment" is any form of behaviour towards a person that:
- a) is not wanted by the person
  - b) offends, humiliates or intimidates the person, and
  - c) creates a hostile environment.

## Bullying

- 3.8 You must not engage in bullying behaviour towards others.
- 3.9 For the purposes of this code, "bullying behaviour" is any behaviour in which:
- a) a person or a group of people repeatedly behaves unreasonably towards another person or a group of persons, and
  - b) the behaviour creates a risk to health and safety.
- 3.10 Bullying behaviour may involve, but is not limited to, any of the following types of behaviour:
- a) aggressive, threatening or intimidating conduct
  - b) belittling or humiliating comments

- c) spreading malicious rumours
- d) teasing, practical jokes or 'initiation ceremonies'
- e) exclusion from work-related events
- f) unreasonable work expectations, including too much or too little work, or work below or beyond a worker's skill level
- g) displaying offensive material
- h) pressure to behave in an inappropriate manner.

3.11 Reasonable management action carried out in a reasonable manner does not constitute bullying behaviour for the purposes of this code. Examples of reasonable management action may include, but are not limited to:

- a) performance management processes
- b) disciplinary action for misconduct
- c) informing a worker about unsatisfactory work performance or inappropriate work behaviour
- d) directing a worker to perform duties in keeping with their job
- e) maintaining reasonable workplace goals and standards
- f) legitimately exercising a regulatory function
- g) legitimately implementing a council policy or administrative processes.

- a) take reasonable care for your own health and safety
- b) take reasonable care that your acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons
- c) comply, so far as you are reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given to ensure compliance with the WHS Act and any policies or procedures adopted by the council to ensure workplace health and safety
- d) cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure of the council relating to workplace health or safety that has been notified to council staff
- e) report accidents, incidents, near misses, to the general manager or such other staff member nominated by the general manager, and take part in any incident investigations
- f) so far as is reasonably practicable, consult, co-operate and coordinate with all others who have a duty under the WHS Act in relation to the same matter.

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## Land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory functions

3.13 You must ensure that land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory decisions are properly made, and that all parties are dealt with fairly. You must avoid any occasion for suspicion of improper conduct in the exercise of land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory functions.

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## Work health and safety

3.12 All council officials, including councillors, owe statutory duties under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act). You must comply with your duties under the WHS Act and your responsibilities under any policies or procedures adopted by the council to ensure workplace health and safety. Specifically, you must:

- 3.14 In exercising land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory functions, you must ensure that no action, statement or communication between yourself and others conveys any suggestion of willingness to improperly provide concessions or preferential or unduly unfavourable treatment.

## Binding caucus votes

- 3.15 You must not participate in binding caucus votes in relation to matters to be considered at a council or committee meeting.
- 3.16 For the purposes of clause 3.15, a binding caucus vote is a process whereby a group of councillors are compelled by a threat of disciplinary or other adverse action to comply with a predetermined position on a matter before the council or committee, irrespective of the personal views of individual members of the group on the merits of the matter before the council or committee.
- 3.17 Clause 3.15 does not prohibit councillors from discussing a matter before the council or committee prior to considering the matter in question at a council or committee meeting, or from voluntarily holding a shared view with other councillors on the merits of a matter.
- 3.18 Clause 3.15 does not apply to a decision to elect the mayor or deputy mayor, or to nominate a person to be a member of a council committee or a representative of the council on an external body.

## Obligations in relation to meetings

- 3.19 You must comply with rulings by the chair at council and committee meetings or other proceedings of the council unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.
- 3.20 You must not engage in bullying behaviour (as defined under this Part) towards the chair, other council officials or any members of the public present during council or committee meetings or other proceedings of the council (such as, but not limited to, workshops and briefing sessions).
- 3.21 You must not engage in conduct that disrupts council or committee meetings or other proceedings of the council (such as, but not limited to, workshops and briefing sessions), or that would otherwise be inconsistent with the orderly conduct of meetings.
- 3.22 If you are a councillor, you must not engage in any acts of disorder or other conduct that is intended to prevent the proper or effective functioning of the council, or of a committee of the council. Without limiting this clause, you must not:
- a) leave a meeting of the council or a committee for the purposes of depriving the meeting of a quorum, or
  - b) submit a rescission motion with respect to a decision for the purposes of voting against it to prevent another councillor from submitting a rescission motion with respect to the same decision, or
  - c) deliberately seek to impede the consideration of business at a meeting.

## Part 4:

# Pecuniary Interests

## What is a pecuniary interest?

- 4.1 A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.
- 4.2 You will not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision you might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this Part, you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is:
- (a) your interest, or
  - (b) the interest of your spouse or de facto partner, your relative, or your partner or employer, or
  - (c) a company or other body of which you, or your nominee, partner or employer, is a shareholder or member.
- 4.4 For the purposes of clause 4.3:
- (a) Your “relative” is any of the following:
    - i) your parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
    - ii) your spouse’s or de facto partner’s parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
    - iii) the spouse or de facto partner of a person referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii).
  - (b) “de facto partner” has the same meaning as defined in section 21C of the *Interpretation Act 1987*.
- 4.5 You will not have a pecuniary interest in relation to a person referred to in subclauses 4.3(b) or (c):
- (a) if you are unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of your spouse, de facto partner, relative, partner, employer or company or other body, or
  - (b) just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, a council or a statutory body, or is employed by the Crown, or
  - (c) just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of a council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter, so long as the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

## What interests do not have to be disclosed?

- 4.6 You do not have to disclose the following interests for the purposes of this Part:
- (a) your interest as an elector
  - (b) your interest as a ratepayer or person liable to pay a charge
  - (c) an interest you have in any matter relating to the terms on which the provision of a service or the supply of goods or commodities is offered to the public generally, or to a section of the public that includes persons who are not subject to this code
  - (d) an interest you have in any matter relating to the terms on which the provision of a service or the supply of goods or commodities is offered to your relative by the council in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as apply to persons who are not subject to this code



- (e) an interest you have as a member of a club or other organisation or association, unless the interest is as the holder of an office in the club or organisation (whether remunerated or not)
  - (f) if you are a council committee member, an interest you have as a person chosen to represent the community, or as a member of a non-profit organisation or other community or special interest group, if you have been appointed to represent the organisation or group on the council committee
  - (g) an interest you have relating to a contract, proposed contract or other matter, if the interest arises only because of a beneficial interest in shares in a company that does not exceed 10 per cent of the voting rights in the company
  - (h) an interest you have arising from the proposed making by the council of an agreement between the council and a corporation, association or partnership, being a corporation, association or partnership that has more than 25 members, if the interest arises because your relative is a shareholder (but not a director) of the corporation, or is a member (but not a member of the committee) of the association, or is a partner of the partnership
  - (i) an interest you have arising from the making by the council of a contract or agreement with your relative for, or in relation to, any of the following, but only if the proposed contract or agreement is similar in terms and conditions to such contracts and agreements as have been made, or as are proposed to be made, by the council in respect of similar matters with other residents of the area:
    - i) the performance by the council at the expense of your relative of any work or service in connection with roads or sanitation
    - ii) security for damage to footpaths or roads
    - iii) any other service to be rendered, or act to be done, by the council by or under any Act conferring functions on the council, or by or under any contract
  - (j) an interest relating to the payment of fees to councillors (including the mayor and deputy mayor)
  - (k) an interest relating to the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to councillors (including the mayor and deputy mayor) in accordance with a policy under section 252 of the LGA,
  - (l) an interest relating to an election to the office of mayor arising from the fact that a fee for the following 12 months has been determined for the office of mayor
  - (m) an interest of a person arising from the passing for payment of a regular account for the wages or salary of an employee who is a relative of the person
  - (n) an interest arising from being covered by, or a proposal to be covered by, indemnity insurance as a councillor or a council committee member
  - (o) an interest arising from the appointment of a councillor to a body as a representative or delegate of the council, whether or not a fee or other recompense is payable to the representative or delegate.
- 4.7 For the purposes of clause 4.6, "relative" has the same meaning as in clause 4.4, but includes your spouse or de facto partner.

## What disclosures must be made by a designated person?

4.8 Designated persons include:

- (a) the general manager
- (b) other senior staff of the council for the purposes of section 332 of the LGA
- (c) a person (other than a member of the senior staff of the council) who is a member of staff of the council or a delegate of the council and who holds a position identified by the council as the position of a designated person because it involves the exercise of functions (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the person's duty as a member of staff or delegate and the person's private interest
- (d) a person (other than a member of the senior staff of the council) who is a member of a committee of the council identified by the council as a committee whose members are designated persons because the functions of the committee involve the exercise of the council's functions (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the member's duty as a member of the committee and the member's private interest.

4.9 A designated person:

- (a) must prepare and submit written returns of interests in accordance with clauses 4.21, and
- (b) must disclose pecuniary interests in accordance with clause 4.10.

4.10 A designated person must disclose in writing to the general manager (or if the person is the general manager, to the council) the nature of any pecuniary interest the person has in any council matter with which the person is dealing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the interest.

4.11 Clause 4.10 does not require a designated person who is a member of staff of the council to disclose a pecuniary interest if the interest relates only to the person's salary as a member of staff, or to their other conditions of employment.

4.12 The general manager must, on receiving a disclosure from a designated person, deal with the matter to which the disclosure relates or refer it to another person to deal with.

4.13 A disclosure by the general manager must, as soon as practicable after the disclosure is made, be laid on the table at a meeting of the council and the council must deal with the matter to which the disclosure relates or refer it to another person to deal with.

## What disclosures must be made by council staff other than designated persons?

4.14 A member of staff of council, other than a designated person, must disclose in writing to their manager or the general manager the nature of any pecuniary interest they have in a matter they are dealing with as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the interest.

4.15 The staff member's manager or the general manager must, on receiving a disclosure under clause 4.14, deal with the matter to which the disclosure relates or refer it to another person to deal with.

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## What disclosures must be made by council advisers?

- 4.16 A person who, at the request or with the consent of the council or a council committee, gives advice on any matter at any meeting of the council or committee, must disclose the nature of any pecuniary interest the person has in the matter to the meeting at the time the advice is given. The person is not required to disclose the person's interest as an adviser.
- 4.17 A person does not breach clause 4.16 if the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which they had a pecuniary interest.

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## What disclosures must be made by a council committee member?

- 4.18 A council committee member must disclose pecuniary interests in accordance with clause 4.28 and comply with clause 4.29.
- 4.19 For the purposes of clause 4.18, a "council committee member" includes a member of staff of council who is a member of the committee.

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## What disclosures must be made by a councillor?

- 4.20 A councillor:
- (a) must prepare and submit written returns of interests in accordance with clause 4.21, and
  - (b) must disclose pecuniary interests in accordance with clause 4.28 and comply with clause 4.29 where it is applicable.

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## Disclosure of interests in written returns

- 4.21 A councillor or designated person must make and lodge with the general manager a return in the form set out in schedule 2 to this code, disclosing the councillor's or designated person's interests as specified in schedule 1 to this code within 3 months after:
- (a) becoming a councillor or designated person, and
  - (b) 30 June of each year, and
  - (c) the councillor or designated person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs (a) or (b).
- 4.22 A person need not make and lodge a return under clause 4.21, paragraphs (a) and (b) if:
- (a) they made and lodged a return under that clause in the preceding 3 months, or
  - (b) they have ceased to be a councillor or designated person in the preceding 3 months.

- 4.23 A person must not make and lodge a return that the person knows or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular.
- 4.24 The general manager must keep a register of returns required to be made and lodged with the general manager.
- 4.25 Returns required to be lodged with the general manager under clause 4.21(a) and (b) must be tabled at the first meeting of the council after the last day the return is required to be lodged.
- 4.26 Returns required to be lodged with the general manager under clause 4.21(c) must be tabled at the next council meeting after the return is lodged.
- 4.27 Information contained in returns made and lodged under clause 4.21 is to be made publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009* and any guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner.
- (b) at any time during which the council or committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.
- 4.30 In the case of a meeting of a board of a joint organisation, a voting representative is taken to be present at the meeting for the purposes of clauses 4.28 and 4.29 where they participate in the meeting by telephone or other electronic means.
- 4.31 A disclosure made at a meeting of a council or council committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.32 A general notice may be given to the general manager in writing by a councillor or a council committee member to the effect that the councillor or council committee member, or the councillor's or council committee member's spouse, de facto partner or relative, is:
- (a) a member of, or in the employment of, a specified company or other body, or
- (b) a partner of, or in the employment of, a specified person.

## Disclosure of pecuniary interests at meetings

- 4.28 A councillor or a council committee member who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- 4.29 The councillor or council committee member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the council or committee:
- (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the council or committee, or
- Such a notice is, unless and until the notice is withdrawn or until the end of the term of the council in which it is given (whichever is the sooner), sufficient disclosure of the councillor's or council committee member's interest in a matter relating to the specified company, body or person that may be the subject of consideration by the council or council committee after the date of the notice.
- 4.33 A councillor or a council committee member is not prevented from being present at and taking part in a meeting at which a matter is being considered, or from voting on the matter, merely because the councillor or council committee member has an interest in the matter of a kind referred to in clause 4.6.

- 4.34 A person does not breach clauses 4.28 or 4.29 if the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which they had a pecuniary interest.
- 4.35 Despite clause 4.29, a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a matter may participate in a decision to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another body or person.
- 4.36 Clause 4.29 does not apply to a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting if:
- (a) the matter is a proposal relating to:
    - (i) the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant portion of the council's area, or
    - (ii) the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant portion of the council's area, and
  - (b) the pecuniary interest arises only because of an interest of the councillor in the councillor's principal place of residence or an interest of another person (whose interests are relevant under clause 4.3) in that person's principal place of residence, and
  - (c) the councillor made a special disclosure under clause 4.37 in relation to the interest before the commencement of the meeting.
- 4.37 A special disclosure of a pecuniary interest made for the purposes of clause 4.36(c) must:
- (a) be in the form set out in schedule 3 of this code and contain the information required by that form, and
  - (b) be laid on the table at a meeting of the council as soon as practicable after the disclosure is made, and the information contained in the special disclosure is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 4.38 The Minister for Local Government may, conditionally or unconditionally, allow a councillor or a council committee member who has a pecuniary interest in a matter with which the council is concerned to be present at a meeting of the council or committee, to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter and to vote on the matter if the Minister is of the opinion:
- (a) that the number of councillors prevented from voting would be so great a proportion of the whole as to impede the transaction of business, or
  - (b) that it is in the interests of the electors for the area to do so.
- 4.39 A councillor or a council committee member with a pecuniary interest in a matter who is permitted to be present at a meeting of the council or committee, to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter and to vote on the matter under clause 4.38, must still disclose the interest they have in the matter in accordance with clause 4.28.



## Part 5:

# Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest

## What is a non-pecuniary conflict of interest?

- 5.1 Non-pecuniary interests are private or personal interests a council official has that do not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in clause 4.1 of this code. These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.
- 5.2 A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.
- 5.3 The personal or political views of a council official do not constitute a private interest for the purposes of clause 5.2.
- 5.4 Non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be identified and appropriately managed to uphold community confidence in the probity of council decision-making. The onus is on you to identify any non-pecuniary conflict of interest you may have in matters that you deal with, to disclose the interest fully and in writing, and to take appropriate action to manage the conflict in accordance with this code.
- 5.5 When considering whether or not you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter you are dealing with, it is always important to think about how others would view your situation.

## Managing non-pecuniary conflicts of interest

- 5.6 Where you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter for the purposes of clause 5.2, you must disclose the relevant private interest you have in relation to the matter fully and in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the non-pecuniary conflict of interest and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter. In the case of members of council staff other than the general manager, such a disclosure is to be made to the staff member's manager. In the case of the general manager, such a disclosure is to be made to the mayor.
- 5.7 If a disclosure is made at a council or committee meeting, both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises. This disclosure constitutes disclosure in writing for the purposes of clause 5.6.
- 5.8 How you manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will depend on whether or not it is significant.
- 5.9 As a general rule, a non-pecuniary conflict of interest will be significant where it does not involve a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1, but it involves:
  - a) a relationship between a council official and another person who is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly close, such as a current or former spouse or de facto partner, a relative for the purposes of clause 4.4 or another person from the council official's extended family that the council official has a close personal relationship with, or another person living in the same household



- b) other relationships with persons who are affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship.
  - c) an affiliation between the council official and an organisation (such as a sporting body, club, religious, cultural or charitable organisation, corporation or association) that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly strong. The strength of a council official's affiliation with an organisation is to be determined by the extent to which they actively participate in the management, administration or other activities of the organisation.
  - d) membership, as the council's representative, of the board or management committee of an organisation that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration, in circumstances where the interests of the council and the organisation are potentially in conflict in relation to the particular matter
  - e) a financial interest (other than an interest of a type referred to in clause 4.6) that is not a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1
  - f) the conferral or loss of a personal benefit other than one conferred or lost as a member of the community or a broader class of people affected by a decision.
- 5.10 Significant non-pecuniary conflicts of interest must be managed in one of two ways:
- a) by not participating in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter in which you have the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest and the matter being allocated to another person for consideration or determination, or
  - b) if the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to a matter under consideration at a council or committee meeting, by managing the conflict of interest as if you had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29.
- 5.11 If you determine that you have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest you must also explain in writing why you consider that the non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.
- 5.12 If you are a member of staff of council other than the general manager, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of your manager. In the case of the general manager, the decision on which option should be taken to manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest must be made in consultation with and at the direction of the mayor.
- 5.13 Despite clause 5.10(b), a councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, may participate in a decision to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another body or person.

- 5.14 Council committee members are not required to declare and manage a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in accordance with the requirements of this Part where it arises from an interest they have as a person chosen to represent the community, or as a member of a non-profit organisation or other community or special interest group, if they have been appointed to represent the organisation or group on the council committee.

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## Political donations

- 5.15 Councillors should be aware that matters before council or committee meetings involving their political donors may also give rise to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest.
- 5.16 Where you are a councillor and have received or knowingly benefitted from a reportable political donation:
- a) made by a major political donor in the previous four years, and
  - b) the major political donor has a matter before council,
- you must declare a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in the matter, disclose the nature of the interest, and manage the conflict of interest as if you had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29. A disclosure made under this clause must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 5.17 For the purposes of this Part:
- a) a “reportable political donation” has the same meaning as it has in section 6 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*
  - b) “major political donor” has the same meaning as it has in the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*.

- 5.18 Councillors should note that political donations that are not a “reportable political donation”, or political donations to a registered political party or group by which a councillor is endorsed, may still give rise to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest. Councillors should determine whether or not such conflicts are significant for the purposes of clause 5.9 and take the appropriate action to manage them.

- 5.19 Despite clause 5.16, a councillor who has received or knowingly benefitted from a reportable political donation of the kind referred to in that clause, may participate in a decision to delegate consideration of the matter in question to another body or person.

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## Loss of quorum as a result of compliance with this Part

- 5.20 A councillor who would otherwise be precluded from participating in the consideration of a matter under this Part because they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in the matter is permitted to participate in consideration of the matter if:
- a) the matter is a proposal relating to:
    - i) the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant portion of the council’s area, or
    - ii) the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant portion of the council’s area, and

- b) the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises only because of an interest that a person has in that person's principal place of residence, and
- c) the councillor discloses the interest they have in the matter that would otherwise have precluded their participation in consideration of the matter under this Part in accordance with clause 5.6.

5.21 The Minister for Local Government may, conditionally or unconditionally, allow a councillor or a council committee member who is precluded under this Part from participating in the consideration of a matter to be present at a meeting of the council or committee, to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter and to vote on the matter if the Minister is of the opinion:

- a) that the number of councillors prevented from voting would be so great a proportion of the whole as to impede the transaction of business, or
- b) that it is in the interests of the electors for the area to do so.

5.22 Where the Minister exempts a councillor or committee member from complying with a requirement under this Part under clause 5.21, the councillor or committee member must still disclose any interests they have in the matter the exemption applies to, in accordance with clause 5.6.

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## Other business or employment

5.23 The general manager must not engage, for remuneration, in private employment, contract work or other business outside the service of the council without the approval of the council.

5.24 A member of staff must not engage, for remuneration, in private employment, contract work or other business outside the service of the council that relates to the business of the council or that might conflict with the staff member's council duties unless they have notified the general manager in writing of the employment, work or business and the general manager has given their written approval for the staff member to engage in the employment, work or business.

5.25 The general manager may at any time prohibit a member of staff from engaging, for remuneration, in private employment, contract work or other business outside the service of the council that relates to the business of the council, or that might conflict with the staff member's council duties.

5.26 A member of staff must not engage, for remuneration, in private employment, contract work or other business outside the service of the council if prohibited from doing so.

5.27 Members of staff must ensure that any outside employment, work or business they engage in will not:

- a) conflict with their official duties
- b) involve using confidential information or council resources obtained through their work with the council including where private use is permitted

- c) require them to work while on council duty
- d) discredit or disadvantage the council
- e) pose, due to fatigue, a risk to their health or safety, or to the health and safety of their co-workers.

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## Personal dealings with council

- 5.28 You may have reason to deal with your council in your personal capacity (for example, as a ratepayer, recipient of a council service or applicant for a development consent granted by council). You must not expect or request preferential treatment in relation to any matter in which you have a private interest because of your position. You must avoid any action that could lead members of the public to believe that you are seeking preferential treatment.
- 5.29 You must undertake any personal dealings you have with the council in a manner that is consistent with the way other members of the community deal with the council. You must also ensure that you disclose and appropriately manage any conflict of interest you may have in any matter in accordance with the requirements of this code.

## Part 6:

## Personal Benefit

- 6.1 For the purposes of this Part, a gift or a benefit is something offered to or received by a council official or someone personally associated with them for their personal use and enjoyment.
- 6.2 A reference to a gift or benefit in this Part does not include:
- a) items with a value of \$10 or less
  - b) a political donation for the purposes of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*
  - c) a gift provided to the council as part of a cultural exchange or sister-city relationship that is not converted for the personal use or enjoyment of any individual council official or someone personally associated with them
  - d) a benefit or facility provided by the council to an employee or councillor
  - e) attendance by a council official at a work-related event or function for the purposes of performing their official duties, or
  - f) free or subsidised meals, beverages or refreshments provided to council officials in conjunction with the performance of their official duties such as, but not limited to:
    - i) the discussion of official business
    - ii) work-related events such as council-sponsored or community events, training, education sessions or workshops
    - iii) conferences
    - iv) council functions or events
    - v) social functions organised by groups, such as council committees and community organisations.

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## Gifts and benefits

- 6.3 You must avoid situations that would give rise to the appearance that a person or body is attempting to secure favourable treatment from you or from the council, through the provision of gifts, benefits or hospitality of any kind to you or someone personally associated with you.
- 6.4 A gift or benefit is deemed to have been accepted by you for the purposes of this Part, where it is received by you or someone personally associated with you.

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## How are offers of gifts and benefits to be dealt with?

- 6.5 You must not:
- a) seek or accept a bribe or other improper inducement
  - b) seek gifts or benefits of any kind
  - c) accept any gift or benefit that may create a sense of obligation on your part, or may be perceived to be intended or likely to influence you in carrying out your public duty
  - d) subject to clause 6.7, accept any gift or benefit of more than token value as defined by clause 6.9
  - e) accept an offer of cash or a cash-like gift as defined by clause 6.13, regardless of the amount
  - f) participate in competitions for prizes where eligibility is based on the council being in or entering into a customer-supplier relationship with the competition organiser
  - g) personally benefit from reward points programs when purchasing on behalf of the council.

6.6 Where you receive a gift or benefit of any value other than one referred to in clause 6.2, you must disclose this promptly to your manager or the general manager in writing. The recipient, manager, or general manager must ensure that, at a minimum, the following details are recorded in the council's gift register:

- a) the nature of the gift or benefit
- b) the estimated monetary value of the gift or benefit
- c) the name of the person who provided the gift or benefit, and
- d) the date on which the gift or benefit was received.

6.7 Where you receive a gift or benefit of more than token value that cannot reasonably be refused or returned, the gift or benefit must be surrendered to the council, unless the nature of the gift or benefit makes this impractical.

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## Gifts and benefits of token value

6.8 You may accept gifts and benefits of token value. Gifts and benefits of token value are one or more gifts or benefits received from a person or organisation over a 12-month period that, when aggregated, do not exceed a value of \$100. They include, but are not limited to:

- a) invitations to and attendance at local social, cultural or sporting events with a ticket value that does not exceed \$100
- b) gifts of alcohol that do not exceed a value of \$100
- c) ties, scarves, coasters, tie pins, diaries, chocolates or flowers or the like
- d) prizes or awards that do not exceed \$100 in value.

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## Gifts and benefits of more than token value

6.9 Gifts or benefits that exceed \$100 in value are gifts or benefits of more than token value for the purposes of clause 6.5(d) and, subject to clause 6.7, must not be accepted.

6.10 Gifts and benefits of more than token value include, but are not limited to, tickets to major sporting events (such as international matches or matches in national sporting codes) with a ticket value that exceeds \$100, corporate hospitality at a corporate facility at major sporting events, free or discounted products or services for personal use provided on terms that are not available to the general public or a broad class of persons, the use of holiday homes, artworks, free or discounted travel.

6.11 Where you have accepted a gift or benefit of token value from a person or organisation, you must not accept a further gift or benefit from the same person or organisation or another person associated with that person or organisation within a single 12-month period where the value of the gift, added to the value of earlier gifts received from the same person or organisation, or a person associated with that person or organisation, during the same 12-month period would exceed \$100 in value.

6.12 For the purposes of this Part, the value of a gift or benefit is the monetary value of the gift or benefit inclusive of GST.

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## **“Cash-like gifts”**

- 6.13 For the purposes of clause 6.5(e), “cash-like gifts” include, but are not limited to, gift vouchers, credit cards, debit cards with credit on them, prepayments such as phone or internet credit, lottery tickets, memberships or entitlements to discounts that are not available to the general public or a broad class of persons.

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## **Improper and undue influence**

- 6.14 You must not use your position to influence other council officials in the performance of their official functions to obtain a private benefit for yourself or for somebody else. A councillor will not be in breach of this clause where they seek to influence other council officials through the proper exercise of their role as prescribed under the LGA.
- 6.15 You must not take advantage (or seek to take advantage) of your status or position with council, or of functions you perform for council, in order to obtain a private benefit for yourself or for any other person or body.



## **Part 7:**

# **Relationships Between Council Officials**

## Obligations of councillors and administrators

- 7.1 Each council is a body politic. The councillors or administrator/s are the governing body of the council. Under section 223 of the LGA, the role of the governing body of the council includes the development and endorsement of the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council, including those relating to workforce policy, and to keep the performance of the council under review.
- 7.2 Councillors or administrators must not:
- a) direct council staff other than by giving appropriate direction to the general manager by way of council or committee resolution, or by the mayor or administrator exercising their functions under section 226 of the LGA
  - b) in any public or private forum, direct or influence, or attempt to direct or influence, any other member of the staff of the council or a delegate of the council in the exercise of the functions of the staff member or delegate
  - c) contact a member of the staff of the council on council-related business unless in accordance with the policy and procedures governing the interaction of councillors and council staff that have been authorised by the council and the general manager
  - d) contact or issue instructions to any of the council's contractors, including the council's legal advisers, unless by the mayor or administrator exercising their functions under section 226 of the LGA.

- 7.3 Despite clause 7.2, councillors may contact the council's external auditor or the chair of the council's audit risk and improvement committee to provide information reasonably necessary for the external auditor or the audit, risk and improvement committee to effectively perform their functions.

## Obligations of staff

- 7.4 Under section 335 of the LGA, the role of the general manager includes conducting the day-to-day management of the council in accordance with the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council, implementing without undue delay, lawful decisions of the council and ensuring that the mayor and other councillors are given timely information and advice and the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their official functions.
- 7.5 Members of staff of council must:
- a) give their attention to the business of the council while on duty
  - b) ensure that their work is carried out ethically, efficiently, economically and effectively
  - c) carry out reasonable and lawful directions given by any person having authority to give such directions
  - d) give effect to the lawful decisions, policies and procedures of the council, whether or not the staff member agrees with or approves of them
  - e) ensure that any participation in political activities outside the service of the council does not interfere with the performance of their official duties.

## Inappropriate interactions

7.6 You must not engage in any of the following inappropriate interactions:

- a) councillors and administrators approaching staff and staff organisations to discuss individual or operational staff matters (other than matters relating to broader workforce policy), grievances, workplace investigations and disciplinary matters
- b) council staff approaching councillors and administrators to discuss individual or operational staff matters (other than matters relating to broader workforce policy), grievances, workplace investigations and disciplinary matters
- c) subject to clause 8.6, council staff refusing to give information that is available to other councillors to a particular councillor
- d) councillors and administrators who have lodged an application with the council, discussing the matter with council staff in staff-only areas of the council
- e) councillors and administrators approaching members of local planning panels or discussing any application that is either before the panel or that will come before the panel at some future time, except during a panel meeting where the application forms part of the agenda and the councillor or administrator has a right to be heard by the panel at the meeting
- f) councillors and administrators being overbearing or threatening to council staff
- g) council staff being overbearing or threatening to councillors or administrators
- h) councillors and administrators making personal attacks on council staff or engaging in conduct towards staff that would be contrary to the general conduct provisions in Part 3 of this code in public forums including social media
- i) councillors and administrators directing or pressuring council staff in the performance of their work, or recommendations they should make
- j) council staff providing ad hoc advice to councillors and administrators without recording or documenting the interaction as they would if the advice was provided to a member of the community
- k) council staff meeting with applicants or objectors alone AND outside office hours to discuss planning applications or proposals
- l) councillors attending on-site inspection meetings with lawyers and/or consultants engaged by the council associated with current or proposed legal proceedings unless permitted to do so by the council's general manager or, in the case of the mayor or administrator, unless they are exercising their functions under section 226 of the LGA.



## Part 8:

# Access to Information and Council Resources

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## Councillor and administrator access to information

- 8.1 The general manager is responsible for ensuring that councillors and administrators can access information necessary for the performance of their official functions. The general manager and public officer are also responsible for ensuring that members of the public can access publicly available council information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act).
- 8.2 The general manager must provide councillors and administrators with the information necessary to effectively discharge their official functions.
- 8.3 Members of staff of council must provide full and timely information to councillors and administrators sufficient to enable them to exercise their official functions and in accordance with council procedures.
- 8.4 Members of staff of council who provide any information to a particular councillor in the performance of their official functions must also make it available to any other councillor who requests it and in accordance with council procedures.
- 8.5 Councillors and administrators who have a private interest only in council information have the same rights of access as any member of the public.

- 8.6 Despite clause 8.4, councillors and administrators who are precluded from participating in the consideration of a matter under this code because they have a conflict of interest in the matter, are not entitled to request access to council information in relation to the matter unless the information is otherwise available to members of the public, or the council has determined to make the information available under the GIPA Act.

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## Councillors and administrators to properly examine and consider information

- 8.7 Councillors and administrators must ensure that they comply with their duty under section 439 of the LGA to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence by properly examining and considering all the information provided to them relating to matters that they are required to make a decision on.

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## Refusal of access to information

- 8.8 Where the general manager or public officer determine to refuse access to information requested by a councillor or administrator, they must act reasonably. In reaching this decision they must take into account whether or not the information requested is necessary for the councillor or administrator to perform their official functions (see clause 8.2) and whether they have disclosed a conflict of interest in the matter the information relates to that would preclude their participation in consideration of the matter (see clause 8.6). The general manager or public officer must state the reasons for the decision if access is refused.

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## Use of certain council information

- 8.9 In regard to information obtained in your capacity as a council official, you must:
- a) subject to clause 8.14, only access council information needed for council business
  - b) not use that council information for private purposes
  - c) not seek or obtain, either directly or indirectly, any financial benefit or other improper advantage for yourself, or any other person or body, from any information to which you have access by virtue of your office or position with council
  - d) only release council information in accordance with established council policies and procedures and in compliance with relevant legislation.

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## Use and security of confidential information

- 8.10 You must maintain the integrity and security of confidential information in your possession, or for which you are responsible.
- 8.11 In addition to your general obligations relating to the use of council information, you must:
- a) only access confidential information that you have been authorised to access and only do so for the purposes of exercising your official functions
  - b) protect confidential information
  - c) only release confidential information if you have authority to do so
  - d) only use confidential information for the purpose for which it is intended to be used

- e) not use confidential information gained through your official position for the purpose of securing a private benefit for yourself or for any other person
- f) not use confidential information with the intention to cause harm or detriment to the council or any other person or body
- g) not disclose any confidential information discussed during a confidential session of a council or committee meeting or any other confidential forum (such as, but not limited to, workshops or briefing sessions).

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## Personal information

- 8.12 When dealing with personal information you must comply with:
- a) the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
  - b) the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*
  - c) the Information Protection Principles and Health Privacy Principles
  - d) the council's privacy management plan
  - e) the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government

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## Use of council resources

- 8.13 You must use council resources ethically, effectively, efficiently and carefully in exercising your official functions, and must not use them for private purposes, except when supplied as part of a contract of employment (but not for private business purposes), unless this use is lawfully authorised and proper payment is made where appropriate.

8.14 Union delegates and consultative committee members may have reasonable access to council resources and information for the purposes of carrying out their industrial responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- a) the representation of members with respect to disciplinary matters
- b) the representation of employees with respect to grievances and disputes
- c) functions associated with the role of the local consultative committee.

8.15 You must be scrupulous in your use of council property, including intellectual property, official services, facilities, technology and electronic devices and must not permit their misuse by any other person or body.

8.16 You must avoid any action or situation that could create the appearance that council property, official services or public facilities are being improperly used for your benefit or the benefit of any other person or body.

8.17 You must not use council resources (including council staff), property or facilities for the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaigns of others unless the resources, property or facilities are otherwise available for use or hire by the public and any publicly advertised fee is paid for use of the resources, property or facility.

8.18 You must not use the council letterhead, council crests, council email or social media or other information that could give the appearance it is official council material:

- a) for the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaign of others, or
- b) for other non-official purposes.

8.19 You must not convert any property of the council to your own use unless properly authorised.

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## Internet access

8.20 You must not use council's computer resources or mobile or other devices to search for, access, download or communicate any material of an offensive, obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive or defamatory nature, or that could otherwise lead to criminal penalty or civil liability and/or damage the council's reputation.

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## Council record keeping

8.21 You must comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* and the council's records management policy.

8.22 All information created, sent and received in your official capacity is a council record and must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* and the council's approved records management policies and practices.

8.23 All information stored in either soft or hard copy on council supplied resources (including technology devices and email accounts) is deemed to be related to the business of the council and will be treated as council records, regardless of whether the original intention was to create the information for personal purposes.

8.24 You must not destroy, alter, or dispose of council information or records, unless authorised to do so. If you need to alter or dispose of council information or records, you must do so in consultation with the council's records manager and comply with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998*.



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## Councillor access to council buildings

- 8.25 Councillors and administrators are entitled to have access to the council chamber, committee room, mayor's office (subject to availability), councillors' rooms, and public areas of council's buildings during normal business hours and for meetings. Councillors and administrators needing access to these facilities at other times must obtain authority from the general manager.
- 8.26 Councillors and administrators must not enter staff-only areas of council buildings without the approval of the general manager (or their delegate) or as provided for in the procedures governing the interaction of councillors and council staff.
- 8.27 Councillors and administrators must ensure that when they are within a staff only area they refrain from conduct that could be perceived to improperly influence council staff decisions.

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## Internet access and use of social media

- 8.28 You must not use social media to post comments, photos, sound recordings or other information that:
- a. Compromises your capacity to perform your official duties in an unbiased manner.
  - b. Has the potential to have a negative impact to your working relationships within the council or external parties
  - c. is offensive, humiliating, threatening or intimidating to other council officials or those that deal with the council
  - d. Has the capacity to damage the council's reputation or contains content about the council that may be misleading or deceptive
  - e. Divulges confidential information
  - f. Breaches the privacy of other council officials or those that deal with council
  - g. Contains allegations of suspected breaches of this code or information about the consideration of a matter under this code, or
  - h. Could be perceived to be an official comment on behalf of the council where you have not been authorised to make such comment



## Part 9:

# Maintaining the Integrity of this Code

## Complaints made for an improper purpose

- 9.1 You must not make or threaten to make a complaint or cause a complaint to be made alleging a breach of this code for an improper purpose.
- 9.2 For the purposes of clause 9.1, a complaint is made for an improper purpose where it is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or where it otherwise lacks merit and has been made substantially for one or more of the following purposes:
- a) to bully, intimidate or harass another council official
  - b) to damage another council official's reputation
  - c) to obtain a political advantage
  - d) to influence a council official in the exercise of their official functions or to prevent or disrupt the exercise of those functions
  - e) to influence the council in the exercise of its functions or to prevent or disrupt the exercise of those functions
  - f) to avoid disciplinary action under the Procedures
  - g) to take reprisal action against a person for making a complaint alleging a breach of this code
  - h) to take reprisal action against a person for exercising a function prescribed under the Procedures
  - i) to prevent or disrupt the effective administration of this code under the Procedures.

## Detrimental action

- 9.3 You must not take detrimental action or cause detrimental action to be taken against a person substantially in reprisal for a complaint they have made alleging a breach of this code.
- 9.4 You must not take detrimental action or cause detrimental action to be taken against a person substantially in reprisal for any function they have exercised under the Procedures.
- 9.5 For the purposes of clauses 9.3 and 9.4, a detrimental action is an action causing, comprising or involving any of the following:
- a) injury, damage or loss
  - b) intimidation or harassment
  - c) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to employment
  - d) dismissal from, or prejudice in, employment
  - e) disciplinary proceedings.

## Compliance with requirements under the Procedures

- 9.6 You must not engage in conduct that is calculated to impede or disrupt the consideration of a matter under the Procedures.
- 9.7 You must comply with a reasonable and lawful request made by a person exercising a function under the Procedures. A failure to make a written or oral submission invited under the Procedures will not constitute a breach of this clause.
- 9.8 You must comply with a practice ruling made by the Office under the Procedures.

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## Disclosure of information about the consideration of a matter under the Procedures

- 9.9 All allegations of breaches of this code must be dealt with under and in accordance with the Procedures.
- 9.10 You must not allege breaches of this code other than by way of a complaint made or initiated under the Procedures.
- 9.11 You must not make allegations about, or disclose information about, suspected breaches of this code at council, committee or other meetings, whether open to the public or not, or in any other forum, whether public or not.
- 9.12 You must not disclose information about a complaint you have made alleging a breach of this code or any other matter being considered under the Procedures except for the purposes of seeking legal advice, unless the disclosure is otherwise permitted under the Procedures.
- 9.13 Nothing under this Part prevents a person from making a public interest disclosure to an appropriate public authority or investigative authority under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*.

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## Complaints alleging a breach of this Part

- 9.14 Complaints alleging a breach of this Part by a councillor, the general manager or an administrator are to be managed by the Office. This clause does not prevent the Office from referring an alleged breach of this Part back to the council for consideration in accordance with the Procedures.
- 9.15 Complaints alleging a breach of this Part by other council officials are to be managed by the general manager in accordance with the Procedures.



## Schedule 1:

Disclosures of Interest and Other  
Matters in Written Returns  
Submitted Under Clause 4.21

# Part 1: Preliminary

## Definitions

1. For the purposes of the schedules to this code, the following definitions apply:

*address* means:

- a) in relation to a person other than a corporation, the last residential or business address of the person known to the councillor or designated person disclosing the address, or
- b) in relation to a corporation, the address of the registered office of the corporation in New South Wales or, if there is no such office, the address of the principal office of the corporation in the place where it is registered, or
- c) in relation to any real property, the street address of the property.

*de facto partner* has the same meaning as defined in section 21C of the *Interpretation Act 1987*.

*disposition of property* means a conveyance, transfer, assignment, settlement, delivery, payment or other alienation of property, including the following:

- a) the allotment of shares in a company
- b) the creation of a trust in respect of property
- c) the grant or creation of a lease, mortgage, charge, easement, licence, power, partnership or interest in respect of property
- d) the release, discharge, surrender, forfeiture or abandonment, at law or in equity, of a debt, contract or chose in action, or of an interest in respect of property

- e) the exercise by a person of a general power of appointment over property in favour of another person
- f) a transaction entered into by a person who intends by the transaction to diminish, directly or indirectly, the value of the person's own property and to increase the value of the property of another person.

*gift* means a disposition of property made otherwise than by will (whether or not by instrument in writing) without consideration, or with inadequate consideration, in money or money's worth passing from the person to whom the disposition was made to the person who made the disposition, but does not include a financial or other contribution to travel.

*interest* means:

- a) in relation to property, an estate, interest, right or power, at law or in equity, in or over the property, or
- b) in relation to a corporation, a relevant interest (within the meaning of section 9 of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth) in securities issued or made available by the corporation.

*listed company* means a company that is listed within the meaning of section 9 of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

*occupation* includes trade, profession and vocation.

*professional or business association* means an incorporated or unincorporated body or organisation having as one of its objects or activities the promotion of the economic interests of its members in any occupation.



*property* includes money.

*return date* means:

- a) in the case of a return made under clause 4.21(a), the date on which a person became a councillor or designated person
- b) in the case of a return made under clause 4.21(b), 30 June of the year in which the return is made
- c) in the case of a return made under clause 4.21(c), the date on which the councillor or designated person became aware of the interest to be disclosed.

*relative* includes any of the following:

- a) a person's spouse or de facto partner
- b) a person's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
- c) a person's spouse's or de facto partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child
- d) the spouse or de facto partner of a person referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c).

*travel* includes accommodation incidental to a journey.

## Matters relating to the interests that must be included in returns

2. *Interests etc. outside New South Wales:*  
A reference in this schedule or in schedule 2 to a disclosure concerning a corporation or other thing includes any reference to a disclosure concerning a corporation registered, or other thing arising or received, outside New South Wales.
3. *References to interests in real property:*  
A reference in this schedule or in schedule 2 to real property in which a councillor or designated person has an interest includes a reference to any real property situated in Australia in which the councillor or designated person has an interest.
4. *Gifts, loans etc. from related corporations:*  
For the purposes of this schedule and schedule 2, gifts or contributions to travel given, loans made, or goods or services supplied, to a councillor or designated person by two or more corporations that are related to each other for the purposes of section 50 of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth are all given, made or supplied by a single corporation.

## Part 2: Pecuniary interests to be disclosed in returns

### Real property

5. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose:
  - a) the street address of each parcel of real property in which they had an interest on the return date, and
  - b) the street address of each parcel of real property in which they had an interest in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, and
  - c) the nature of the interest.
6. An interest in a parcel of real property need not be disclosed in a return if the person making the return had the interest only:
  - a) as executor of the will, or administrator of the estate, of a deceased person and not as a beneficiary under the will or intestacy, or
  - b) as a trustee, if the interest was acquired in the ordinary course of an occupation not related to their duties as the holder of a position required to make a return.
7. An interest in a parcel of real property need not be disclosed in a return if the person ceased to hold the interest prior to becoming a councillor or designated person.
8. For the purposes of clause 5 of this schedule, "interest" includes an option to purchase.

### Gifts

9. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose:
  - a) a description of each gift received in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, and
  - b) the name and address of the donor of each of the gifts.
10. A gift need not be included in a return if:
  - a) it did not exceed \$500, unless it was among gifts totalling more than \$500 made by the same person during a period of 12 months or less, or
  - b) it was a political donation disclosed, or required to be disclosed, under Part 3 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*, or
  - c) the donor was a relative of the donee, or
  - d) subject to paragraph (a), it was received prior to the person becoming a councillor or designated person.
11. For the purposes of clause 10 of this schedule, the amount of a gift other than money is an amount equal to the value of the property given.

### Contributions to travel

12. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose:
  - a) the name and address of each person who made any financial or other contribution to the expenses of any travel undertaken by the person in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, and

- b) the dates on which the travel was undertaken, and
  - c) the names of the states and territories, and of the overseas countries, in which the travel was undertaken.
13. A financial or other contribution to any travel need not be disclosed under this clause if it:
- a) was made from public funds (including a contribution arising from travel on free passes issued under an Act or from travel in government or council vehicles), or
  - b) was made by a relative of the traveller, or
  - c) was made in the ordinary course of an occupation of the traveller that is not related to their functions as the holder of a position requiring the making of a return, or
  - d) did not exceed \$250, unless it was among gifts totalling more than \$250 made by the same person during a 12-month period or less, or
  - e) was a political donation disclosed, or required to be disclosed, under Part 3 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*, or
  - f) was made by a political party of which the traveller was a member and the travel was undertaken for the purpose of political activity of the party in New South Wales, or to enable the traveller to represent the party within Australia, or
  - g) subject to paragraph (d) it was received prior to the person becoming a councillor or designated person.
14. For the purposes of clause 13 of this schedule, the amount of a contribution (other than a financial contribution) is an amount equal to the value of the contribution.

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## Interests and positions in corporations

15. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose:
- a) the name and address of each corporation in which they had an interest or held a position (whether remunerated or not) on the return date, and
  - b) the name and address of each corporation in which they had an interest or held a position in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, and
  - c) the nature of the interest, or the position held, in each of the corporations, and
  - d) a description of the principal objects (if any) of each of the corporations, except in the case of a listed company.
16. An interest in, or a position held in, a corporation need not be disclosed if the corporation is:
- a) formed for the purpose of providing recreation or amusement, or for promoting commerce, industry, art, science, religion or charity, or for any other community purpose, and
  - b) required to apply its profits or other income in promoting its objects, and
  - c) prohibited from paying any dividend to its members.
17. An interest in a corporation need not be disclosed if the interest is a beneficial interest in shares in a company that does not exceed 10 per cent of the voting rights in the company.
18. An interest or a position in a corporation need not be disclosed if the person ceased to hold the interest or position prior to becoming a councillor or designated person.

## Interests as a property developer or a close associate of a property developer

19. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose whether they were a property developer, or a close associate of a corporation that, or an individual who, is a property developer, on the return date.

20. For the purposes of clause 19 of this schedule:

*close associate*, in relation to a corporation or an individual, has the same meaning as it has in section 53 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*.

*property developer* has the same meaning as it has in Division 7 of Part 3 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*.

## Positions in trade unions and professional or business associations

21. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of the code must disclose:
- the name of each trade union, and of each professional or business association, in which they held any position (whether remunerated or not) on the return date, and
  - the name of each trade union, and of each professional or business association, in which they have held any position (whether remunerated or not) in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, and
  - a description of the position held in each of the unions and associations.

22. A position held in a trade union or a professional or business association need not be disclosed if the person ceased to hold the position prior to becoming a councillor or designated person.

## Dispositions of real property

23. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose particulars of each disposition of real property by the person (including the street address of the affected property) in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, under which they wholly or partly retained the use and benefit of the property or the right to re-acquire the property.
24. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose particulars of each disposition of real property to another person (including the street address of the affected property) in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, that is made under arrangements with, but is not made by, the person making the return, being a disposition under which the person making the return obtained wholly or partly the use of the property.
25. A disposition of real property need not be disclosed if it was made prior to a person becoming a councillor or designated person.

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## Sources of income

26. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose:
- a) each source of income that the person reasonably expects to receive in the period commencing on the first day after the return date and ending on the following 30 June, and
  - b) each source of income received by the person in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year.
27. A reference in clause 26 of this schedule to each source of income received, or reasonably expected to be received, by a person is a reference to:
- a) in relation to income from an occupation of the person:
    - (i) a description of the occupation, and
    - (ii) if the person is employed or the holder of an office, the name and address of their employer, or a description of the office, and
    - (iii) if the person has entered into a partnership with other persons, the name (if any) under which the partnership is conducted, or
  - b) in relation to income from a trust, the name and address of the settlor and the trustee, or
  - c) in relation to any other income, a description sufficient to identify the person from whom, or the circumstances in which, the income was, or is reasonably expected to be, received.

28. The source of any income need not be disclosed by a person in a return if the amount of the income received, or reasonably expected to be received, by the person from that source did not exceed \$500, or is not reasonably expected to exceed \$500, as the case may be.
29. The source of any income received by the person that they ceased to receive prior to becoming a councillor or designated person need not be disclosed.
30. A fee paid to a councillor or to the mayor or deputy mayor under sections 248 or 249 of the LGA need not be disclosed.

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## Debts

31. A person making a return under clause 4.21 of this code must disclose the name and address of each person to whom the person was liable to pay any debt:
  - a) on the return date, and
  - b) at any time in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year.
32. A liability to pay a debt must be disclosed by a person in a return made under clause 4.21 whether or not the amount, or any part of the amount, to be paid was due and payable on the return date or at any time in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, as the case may be.
33. A liability to pay a debt need not be disclosed by a person in a return if:
  - a) the amount to be paid did not exceed \$500 on the return date or in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, as the case may be, unless:

- (i) the debt was one of two or more debts that the person was liable to pay to one person on the return date, or at any time in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, as the case may be, and
  - (ii) the amounts to be paid exceeded, in the aggregate, \$500, or
- b) the person was liable to pay the debt to a relative, or
- c) in the case of a debt arising from a loan of money the person was liable to pay the debt to an authorised deposit-taking institution or other person whose ordinary business includes the lending of money, and the loan was made in the ordinary course of business of the lender, or
- d) in the case of a debt arising from the supply of goods or services:
  - (i) the goods or services were supplied in the period of 12 months immediately preceding the return date, or were supplied in the period since 30 June of the previous financial year, as the case may be, or
  - (ii) the goods or services were supplied in the ordinary course of any occupation of the person that is not related to their duties as the holder of a position required to make a return, or
- e) subject to paragraph (a), the debt was discharged prior to the person becoming a councillor or designated person.

## Discretionary disclosures

34. A person may voluntarily disclose in a return any interest, benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not, that is not required to be disclosed under another provision of this Schedule.

## Schedule 2:

# Form of Written Return of Interests Submitted Under Clause 4.21

## ‘Disclosures by councillors and designated persons’ return

1. The pecuniary interests and other matters to be disclosed in this return are prescribed by Schedule 1 of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (the Model Code of Conduct).
2. If this is the first return you have been required to lodge with the general manager after becoming a councillor or designated person, do not complete Parts C, D and I of the return. All other parts of the return should be completed with appropriate information based on your circumstances at the return date, that is, the date on which you became a councillor or designated person.
3. If you have previously lodged a return with the general manager and you are completing this return for the purposes of disclosing a new interest that was not disclosed in the last return you lodged with the general manager, you must complete all parts of the return with appropriate information for the period from 30 June of the previous financial year or the date on which you became a councillor or designated person, (whichever is the later date), to the return date which is the date you became aware of the new interest to be disclosed in your updated return.
4. If you have previously lodged a return with the general manager and are submitting a new return for the new financial year, you must complete all parts of the return with appropriate information for the 12-month period commencing on 30 June of the previous year to 30 June this year.
5. This form must be completed using block letters or typed.
6. If there is insufficient space for all the information you are required to disclose, you must attach an appendix which is to be properly identified and signed by you.
7. If there are no pecuniary interests or other matters of the kind required to be disclosed under a heading in this form, the word “NIL” is to be placed in an appropriate space under that heading.

## Important information

This information is being collected for the purpose of complying with clause 4.21 of the Model Code of Conduct.

You must not lodge a return that you know or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular (see clause 4.23 of the Model Code of Conduct). Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government and may result in disciplinary action by the council, the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The information collected on this form will be kept by the general manager in a register of returns. The general manager is required to table all returns at a council meeting.

Information contained in returns made and lodged under clause 4.21 is to be made publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009* and any guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner.

You have an obligation to keep the information contained in this return up to date. If you become aware of a new interest that must be disclosed in this return, or an interest that you have previously failed to disclose, you must submit an updated return within three months of becoming aware of the previously undisclosed interest.



Disclosure of pecuniary interests and other matters by *[full name of councillor or designated person]*

as at *[return date]*

in respect of the period from *[date]* to *[date]*

*[councillor's or designated person's signature]*

*[date]*

### A. Real Property

Street address of each parcel of real property in which I had an interest at the return date/at any time since 30 June      Nature of interest

### B. Sources of income

1 Sources of income I reasonably expect to receive from an occupation in the period commencing on the first day after the return date and ending on the following 30 June

Sources of income I received from an occupation at any time since 30 June

Description of occupation	Name and address of employer or description of office held (if applicable)	Name under which partnership conducted (if applicable)
---------------------------	--	--

2 Sources of income I reasonably expect to receive from a trust in the period commencing on the first day after the return date and ending on the following 30 June

Sources of income I received from a trust since 30 June

Name and address of settlor	Name and address of trustee
-----------------------------	-----------------------------

3 Sources of other income I reasonably expect to receive in the period commencing on the first day after the return date and ending on the following 30 June

Sources of other income I received at any time since 30 June

*[Include description sufficient to identify the person from whom, or the circumstances in which, that income was received]*

### C. Gifts

Description of each gift I received at any time since 30 June	Name and address of donor
---	---------------------------

**D. Contributions to travel**

Name and address of each person who made any financial or other contribution to any travel undertaken by me at any time since 30 June	Dates on which travel was undertaken	Name of States, Territories of the Commonwealth and overseas countries in which travel was undertaken
---	--------------------------------------	---

**E. Interests and positions in corporations**

Name and address of each corporation in which I had an interest or held a position at the return date/at any time since 30 June	Nature of interest (if any)	Description of position (if any)	Description of principal objects (if any) of corporation (except in case of listed company)
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**F. Were you a property developer or a close associate of a property developer on the return date? (Y/N)****G. Positions in trade unions and professional or business associations**

Name of each trade union and each professional or business association in which I held any position (whether remunerated or not) at the return date/at any time since 30 June	Description of position
---	-------------------------

**H. Debts**

Name and address of each person to whom I was liable to pay any debt at the return date/at any time since 30 June

**I. Dispositions of property**

1 Particulars of each disposition of real property by me (including the street address of the affected property) at any time since 30 June as a result of which I retained, either wholly or in part, the use and benefit of the property or the right to re-acquire the property at a later time

2 Particulars of each disposition of property to a person by any other person under arrangements made by me (including the street address of the affected property), being dispositions made at any time since 30 June, as a result of which I obtained, either wholly or in part, the use and benefit of the property

**J. Discretionary disclosures**

## Schedule 3:

# Form of Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest Submitted Under Clause 4.37



Narromine

SHIRE COUNCIL

1. This form must be completed using block letters or typed.
2. If there is insufficient space for all the information you are required to disclose, you must attach an appendix which is to be properly identified and signed by you.

## Important information

This information is being collected for the purpose of making a special disclosure of pecuniary interests under clause 4.36(c) of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (the Model Code of Conduct).

The special disclosure must relate only to a pecuniary interest that a councillor has in the councillor's principal place of residence, or an interest another person (whose interests are relevant under clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct) has in that person's principal place of residence.

Clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct states that you will have a pecuniary interest in a matter because of the pecuniary interest of your spouse or your de facto partner or your relative or because your business partner or employer has a pecuniary interest. You will also have a pecuniary interest in a matter because

you, your nominee, your business partner or your employer is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

"Relative" is defined by clause 4.4 of the Model Code of Conduct as meaning your, your spouse's or your de facto partner's parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant or adopted child and the spouse or de facto partner of any of those persons.

You must not make a special disclosure that you know or ought reasonably to know is false or misleading in a material particular. Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government and may result in disciplinary action by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

This form must be completed by you before the commencement of the council or council committee meeting at which the special disclosure is being made. The completed form must be tabled at the meeting. Everyone is entitled to inspect it. The special disclosure must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

**Special disclosure of pecuniary interests by** *[full name of councillor]*in the matter of *[insert name of environmental planning instrument]*which is to be considered at a meeting of the  
*[name of council or council committee (as the case requires)]*

to be held on the            day of            20    .

**Pecuniary interest****Address of the affected principal place of residence of the councillor or an associated person, company or body (the identified land)**

Relationship of identified land to councillor

*[Tick or cross one box.]*

- ☐ The councillor has an interest in the land (e.g. is the owner or has another interest arising out of a mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise).
- ☐ An associated person of the councillor has an interest in the land.
- ☐ An associated company or body of the councillor has an interest in the land.

**Matter giving rise to pecuniary interest<sup>1</sup>**Nature of the land that is subject to a change in zone/planning control by the proposed LEP (the subject land)<sup>2</sup>*[Tick or cross one box]*

- ☐ The identified land.
- ☐ Land that adjoins or is adjacent to or is in proximity to the identified land.

Current zone/planning control

*[Insert name of current planning instrument and identify relevant zone/planning control applying to the subject land]*

- 1 Clause 4.1 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that a pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person. A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to the matter, or if the interest is of a kind specified in clause 4.6 of the Model Code of Conduct.
- 2 A pecuniary interest may arise by way of a change of permissible use of land adjoining, adjacent to or in proximity to land in which a councillor or a person, company or body referred to in clause 4.3 of the Model Code of Conduct has a proprietary interest.

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Proposed change of zone/planning control

*[Insert name of proposed LEP and identify proposed change of zone/planning control applying to the subject land]*

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Effect of proposed change of zone/planning control on councillor or associated person

*[Insert one of the following: "Appreciable financial gain" or "Appreciable financial loss"]*

---

*[If more than one pecuniary interest is to be declared, reprint the above box and fill in for each additional interest.]*

Councillor's signature

Date

[This form is to be retained by the council's general manager and included in full in the minutes of the meeting]



Procedures for the  
Administration of

# The Model Code of Conduct

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2020



Adopted by Council

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Date First Created</b>	<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Adopted Date</b>
1.0	General Managers	Executive Manager Corporate Governance		4 years	13.02.2019 Res No: 2019/015

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## Part 1:

## Introduction

These procedures (“the Model Code Procedures”) are prescribed for the administration of the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (“the Model Code of Conduct”).

The Model Code of Conduct is made under section 440 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (“the LGA”) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (“the Regulation”). Section 440 of the LGA requires every council (including county councils) and joint organisation to adopt a code of conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct.

The Model Code Procedures are made under section 440AA of the LGA and the Regulation. Section 440AA of the LGA requires every council (including county councils) and joint organisation to adopt procedures for the administration of their code of conduct that incorporate the provisions of the Model Code Procedures.

In adopting procedures for the administration of their adopted codes of conduct, councils and joint organisations may supplement the Model Code Procedures. However, provisions that are not consistent with those prescribed under the Model Code Procedures will have no effect.

**Note:** References in these procedures to councils are also to be taken as references to county councils and joint organisations.

**Note:** In adopting the Model Code Procedures, joint organisations should adapt them to substitute the terms “board” for “council”, “chairperson” for “mayor”, “voting representative” for “councillor” and “executive officer” for “general manager”.

**Note:** In adopting the Model Code Procedures, county councils should adapt them to substitute the term “chairperson” for “mayor” and “member” for “councillor”.

**Note:** Parts 6, 7, 8 and 11 of these procedures apply only to the management of code of conduct complaints about councillors (including the mayor) or the general manager.

## Part 2:

# Definitions

In these procedures the following terms have the following meanings:

administrator	an administrator of a council appointed under the LGA other than an administrator appointed under section 66
code of conduct	a code of conduct adopted under section 440 of the LGA
code of conduct complaint	a complaint that is a code of conduct complaint for the purposes of clauses 4.1 and 4.2 of these procedures
complainant	a person who makes a code of conduct complaint
complainant councillor	a councillor who makes a code of conduct complaint
complaints coordinator	a person appointed by the general manager under these procedures as a complaints coordinator
conduct reviewer	a person appointed under these procedures to review allegations of breaches of the code of conduct by councillors or the general manager
council	includes county councils and joint organisations
council committee	a committee established by a council comprising of councillors, staff or other persons that the council has delegated functions to and the council's audit, risk and improvement committee
council committee member	a person other than a councillor or member of staff of a council who is a member of a council committee other than a wholly advisory committee, and a person other than a councillor who is a member of the council's audit, risk and improvement committee
councillor	any person elected or appointed to civic office, including the mayor, and includes members and chairpersons of county councils and voting representatives of the boards of joint organisations and chairpersons of joint organisations
council official	any councillor, member of staff of council, administrator, council committee member, delegate of council and, for the purposes of clause 4.16 of the Model Code of Conduct, council adviser
delegate of council	a person (other than a councillor or member of staff of a council) or body, and the individual members of that body, to whom a function of the council is delegated
external agency	a state government agency such as, but not limited to, the Office, the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman or the police
general manager	includes the executive officer of a joint organisation

ICAC	the Independent Commission Against Corruption
joint organisation	a joint organisation established under section 4000 of the LGA
LGA	the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
mayor	includes the chairperson of a county council or a joint organisation
members of staff of a council	includes members of staff of county councils and joint organisations
the Office	the Office of Local Government
investigator	a conduct reviewer
the Regulation	the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i>
respondent	a person whose conduct is the subject of investigation by a conduct reviewer under these procedures
wholly advisory committee	a council committee that the council has not delegated any functions to





# **Part 3:**

## **Administrative Framework**

## The establishment of a panel of conduct reviewers

- 3.1 The council must establish a panel of conduct reviewers.
- 3.2 The council may enter into an arrangement with one or more other councils to share a panel of conduct reviewers including through a joint organisation or another regional body associated with the councils.
- 3.3 The panel of conduct reviewers is to be established following a public expression of interest process.
- 3.4 An expression of interest for members of the council's panel of conduct reviewers must, at a minimum, be advertised locally and in the Sydney metropolitan area.
- 3.5 To be eligible to be a conduct reviewer, a person must, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:
  - a) an understanding of local government, and
  - b) knowledge of investigative processes including but not limited to procedural fairness requirements and the requirements of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*, and
  - c) knowledge and experience of one or more of the following:
    - i) investigations
    - ii) law
    - iii) public administration
    - iv) public sector ethics
    - v) alternative dispute resolution, and
  - d) meet the eligibility requirements for membership of a panel of conduct reviewers under clause 3.6.
- 3.6 A person is not eligible to be a conduct reviewer if they are:
  - a) a councillor, or
  - b) a nominee for election as a councillor, or
  - c) an administrator, or
  - d) an employee of a council, or
  - e) a member of the Commonwealth Parliament or any State Parliament or Territory Assembly, or
  - f) a nominee for election as a member of the Commonwealth Parliament or any State Parliament or Territory Assembly, or
  - g) a person who has a conviction for an indictable offence that is not an expired conviction.
- 3.7 A person is not precluded from being a member of the council's panel of conduct reviewers if they are a member of another council's panel of conduct reviewers.
- 3.8 An incorporated or other entity may be appointed to a council's panel of conduct reviewers where the council is satisfied that all the persons who will be undertaking the functions of a conduct reviewer on behalf of the entity meet the selection and eligibility criteria prescribed under this Part.
- 3.9 A panel of conduct reviewers established under this Part is to have a term of up to four years.
- 3.10 The council may terminate the panel of conduct reviewers at any time. Where a panel of conduct reviewers has been terminated, conduct reviewers who were members of the panel may continue to deal with any matter referred to them under these procedures prior to the termination of the panel until they have finalised their consideration of the matter.

- 3.11 When the term of the panel of conduct reviewers concludes or is terminated, the council must establish a new panel of conduct reviewers in accordance with the requirements of this Part.
- 3.12 A person who was a member of a previous panel of conduct reviewers established by the council may be a member of subsequent panels of conduct reviewers established by the council if they continue to meet the selection and eligibility criteria for membership of the panel.

---

## The appointment of an internal ombudsman to a panel of conduct reviewers

- 3.13 Despite clause 3.6(d), an employee of a council who is the nominated internal ombudsman of one or more councils may be appointed to a council's panel of conduct reviewers with the Office's consent.
- 3.14 To be appointed to a council's panel of conduct reviewers, an internal ombudsman must meet the qualification requirements for conduct reviewers prescribed under clause 3.5 as modified by the operation of clause 3.13.
- 3.15 An internal ombudsman appointed to a council's panel of conduct reviewers may also exercise the functions of the council's complaints coordinator. For the purposes of clause 6.1, an internal ombudsman who is a council's complaints coordinator and has been appointed to the council's panel of conduct reviewers, may either undertake a preliminary assessment and investigation of a matter referred to them under clauses 5.26 or 5.33 or refer the matter to another conduct reviewer in accordance with clause 6.2.
- 3.16 Clause 6.4(c) does not apply to an internal ombudsman appointed to a council's panel of conduct reviewers.

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## The appointment of complaints coordinators

- 3.17 The general manager must appoint a member of staff of the council or another person (such as, but not limited to, a member of staff of another council or a member of staff of a joint organisation or other regional body associated with the council), to act as a complaints coordinator. Where the complaints coordinator is a member of staff of the council, the complaints coordinator should be a senior and suitably qualified member of staff.
- 3.18 The general manager may appoint other members of staff of the council or other persons (such as, but not limited to, members of staff of another council or members of staff of a joint organisation or other regional body associated with the council), to act as alternates to the complaints coordinator.
- 3.19 The general manager must not undertake the role of complaints coordinator.
- 3.20 The person appointed as complaints coordinator or alternate complaints coordinator must also be a nominated disclosures coordinator appointed for the purpose of receiving and managing reports of wrongdoing under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*.
- 3.21 The role of the complaints coordinator is to:
- coordinate the management of complaints made under the council's code of conduct
  - liaise with and provide administrative support to a conduct reviewer
  - liaise with the Office, and
  - arrange the annual reporting of code of conduct complaints statistics.



## **Part 4:**

# **How May Code of Conduct Complaints be Made?**

## What is a code of conduct complaint?

- 4.1 For the purpose of these procedures, a code of conduct complaint is a complaint that shows or tends to show conduct on the part of a council official in connection with their role as a council official or the exercise of their functions as a council official that would constitute a breach of the standards of conduct prescribed under the council's code of conduct if proven.
- 4.2 The following are not "code of conduct complaints" for the purposes of these procedures:
- a) complaints about the standard or level of service provided by the council or a council official
  - b) complaints that relate solely to the merits of a decision made by the council or a council official or the exercise of a discretion by the council or a council official
  - c) complaints about the policies or procedures of the council
  - d) complaints about the conduct of a council official arising from the exercise of their functions in good faith, whether or not involving error, that would not otherwise constitute a breach of the standards of conduct prescribed under the council's code of conduct.
- 4.3 Only code of conduct complaints are to be dealt with under these procedures. Complaints that do not satisfy the definition of a code of conduct complaint are to be dealt with under the council's routine complaints management processes.

## When must a code of conduct complaint be made?

- 4.4 A code of conduct complaint must be made within 3 months of the alleged conduct occurring or within 3 months of the complainant becoming aware of the alleged conduct.
- 4.5 A complaint made after 3 months may only be accepted if the general manager or their delegate, or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, the mayor or their delegate, is satisfied that the allegations are serious and compelling grounds exist for the matter to be dealt with under the code of conduct.

---

## How may a code of conduct complaint about a council official other than the general manager be made?

- 4.6 All code of conduct complaints other than those relating to the general manager are to be made to the general manager in writing. This clause does not operate to prevent a person from making a complaint to an external agency.
- 4.7 Where a code of conduct complaint about a council official other than the general manager cannot be made in writing, the complaint must be confirmed with the complainant in writing as soon as possible after the receipt of the complaint.
- 4.8 In making a code of conduct complaint about a council official other than the general manager, the complainant may nominate whether they want the complaint to be resolved by mediation or by other alternative means.
- 4.9 The general manager or their delegate, or, where the complaint is referred to a conduct reviewer, the conduct reviewer, must consider the complainant's preferences in deciding how to deal with the complaint.
- 4.10 Notwithstanding clauses 4.6 and 4.7, where the general manager becomes aware of a possible breach of the council's code of conduct, they may initiate the process for the consideration of the matter under these procedures without a written complaint.

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## How may a code of conduct complaint about the general manager be made?

- 4.11 Code of conduct complaints about the general manager are to be made to the mayor in writing. This clause does not operate to prevent a person from making a complaint about the general manager to an external agency.
- 4.12 Where a code of conduct complaint about the general manager cannot be made in writing, the complaint must be confirmed with the complainant in writing as soon as possible after the receipt of the complaint.
- 4.13 In making a code of conduct complaint about the general manager, the complainant may nominate whether they want the complaint to be resolved by mediation or by other alternative means.
- 4.14 The mayor or their delegate, or, where the complaint is referred to a conduct reviewer, the conduct reviewer, must consider the complainant's preferences in deciding how to deal with the complaint.
- 4.15 Notwithstanding clauses 4.11 and 4.12, where the mayor becomes aware of a possible breach of the council's code of conduct by the general manager, they may initiate the process for the consideration of the matter under these procedures without a written complaint.





## **Part 5:**

# **How are Code of Conduct Complaints to be Managed?**

## **Delegation by general managers and mayors of their functions under this Part**

- 5.1 A general manager or mayor may delegate their functions under this Part to a member of staff of the council or to a person or persons external to the council other than an external agency. References in this Part to the general manager or mayor are also to be taken to be references to their delegates.

## **Consideration of complaints by general managers and mayors**

- 5.2 In exercising their functions under this Part, general managers and mayors may consider the complaint assessment criteria prescribed under clause 6.31.

## **What complaints may be declined at the outset?**

- 5.3 Without limiting any other provision in these procedures, the general manager or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, the mayor, may decline to deal with a complaint under these procedures where they are satisfied that the complaint:
- a) is not a code of conduct complaint, or
  - b) subject to clause 4.5, is not made within 3 months of the alleged conduct occurring or the complainant becoming aware of the alleged conduct, or
  - c) is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or

- d) relates to a matter the substance of which has previously been considered and addressed by the council and does not warrant further action, or
- e) is not made in a way that would allow the alleged conduct and any alleged breaches of the council's code of conduct to be readily identified.

## **How are code of conduct complaints about staff (other than the general manager) to be dealt with?**

- 5.4 The general manager is responsible for the management of code of conduct complaints about members of staff of council (other than complaints alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct) and for determining the outcome of such complaints.
- 5.5 The general manager must refer code of conduct complaints about members of staff of council alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct to the Office.
- 5.6 The general manager may decide to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a member of staff of council other than one requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.5 where they consider that no action is warranted in relation to the complaint.
- 5.7 Where the general manager decides to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a member of staff of council, the general manager must give the complainant reasons in writing for their decision and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.

- 5.8 Code of conduct complaints about members of staff of council must be managed in accordance with the relevant industrial instrument or employment contract and make provision for procedural fairness including the right of an employee to be represented by their union.
- 5.9 Sanctions for breaches of the code of conduct by staff depend on the severity, scale and importance of the breach and must be determined in accordance with any relevant industrial instruments or contracts.

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## **How are code of conduct complaints about delegates of council, council advisers and council committee members to be dealt with?**

- 5.10 The general manager is responsible for the management of code of conduct complaints about delegates of council and council committee members (other than complaints alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct) and for determining the outcome of such complaints.
- 5.11 The general manager must refer code of conduct complaints about council advisers, delegates of council and council committee members alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct to the Office.
- 5.12 The general manager may decide to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a delegate of council or a council committee member other than one requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.11 where they consider that no action is warranted in relation to the complaint.
- 5.13 Where the general manager decides to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a delegate of council or a council committee member, the general manager must give the complainant reasons in writing for their decision and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.
- 5.14 Where the general manager considers it to be practicable and appropriate to do so, the general manager may seek to resolve code of conduct complaints about delegates of council or council committee members, by alternative means such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour. The resolution of a code of conduct complaint under this clause is not to be taken as a determination that there has been a breach of the council's code of conduct.
- 5.15 Where the general manager resolves a code of conduct complaint under clause 5.14 to the general manager's satisfaction, the general manager must notify the complainant in writing of the steps taken to resolve the complaint and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.
- 5.16 Sanctions for breaches of the code of conduct by delegates of council and/or council committee members depend on the severity, scale and importance of the breach and may include one or more of the following:
- a) censure
  - b) requiring the person to apologise to any person or organisation adversely affected by the breach in such a time and form specified by the general manager
  - c) prosecution for any breach of the law

- d) removing or restricting the person's delegation
- e) removing the person from membership of the relevant council committee.

5.17 Prior to imposing a sanction against a delegate of council or a council committee member under clause 5.16, the general manager or any person making enquiries on behalf of the general manager must comply with the requirements of procedural fairness. In particular:

- a) the substance of the allegation (including the relevant provision/s of the council's code of conduct that the alleged conduct is in breach of) must be put to the person who is the subject of the allegation, and
- b) the person must be given an opportunity to respond to the allegation, and
- c) the general manager must consider the person's response in deciding whether to impose a sanction under clause 5.16.

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## **How are code of conduct complaints about administrators to be dealt with?**

5.18 The general manager must refer all code of conduct complaints about administrators to the Office for its consideration.

5.19 The general manager must notify the complainant of the referral of their complaint in writing.

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## **How are code of conduct complaints about councillors to be dealt with?**

5.20 The general manager must refer the following code of conduct complaints about councillors to the Office:

- a) complaints alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct
- b) complaints alleging a failure to comply with a requirement under the code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest arising from political donations (see section 328B of the LGA)
- c) complaints alleging a breach of the provisions relating to the maintenance of the integrity of the code of conduct contained in Part 9 of the code of conduct
- d) complaints that are the subject of a special complaints management arrangement with the Office under clause 5.49.

5.21 Where the general manager refers a complaint to the Office under clause 5.20, the general manager must notify the complainant of the referral in writing.

5.22 The general manager may decide to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a councillor, other than one requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.20, where they consider that no action is warranted in relation to the complaint.

5.23 Where the general manager decides to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about a councillor, the general manager must give the complainant reasons in writing for their decision within 21 days of receipt of the complaint and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.

5.24 Where the general manager considers it to be practicable and appropriate to do so, the general manager may seek to resolve code of conduct complaints about councillors, other than those requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.20, by alternative means such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour. The resolution of a code of conduct complaint under this clause is not to be taken as a determination that there has been a breach of the council's code of conduct.

5.25 Where the general manager resolves a code of conduct complaint under clause 5.24 to the general manager's satisfaction, the general manager must notify the complainant in writing of the steps taken to resolve the complaint within 21 days of receipt of the complaint and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.

5.26 The general manager must refer all code of conduct complaints about councillors, other than those referred to the Office under clause 5.20 or finalised under clause 5.23 or resolved under clause 5.24, to the complaints coordinator.

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## **How are code of conduct complaints about the general manager to be dealt with?**

5.27 The mayor must refer the following code of conduct complaints about the general manager to the Office:

- a) complaints alleging a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions contained in Part 4 of the code of conduct
- b) complaints alleging a breach of the provisions relating to the maintenance of the integrity of the code of conduct contained in Part 9 of the code of conduct
- c) complaints that are the subject of a special complaints management arrangement with the Office under clause 5.49.

5.28 Where the mayor refers a complaint to the Office under clause 5.27, the mayor must notify the complainant of the referral in writing.

5.29 The mayor may decide to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about the general manager, other than one requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.27, where they consider that no action is warranted in relation to the complaint.

5.30 Where the mayor decides to take no action in relation to a code of conduct complaint about the general manager, the mayor must give the complainant reasons in writing for their decision within 21 days of receipt of the complaint and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.

- 5.31 Where the mayor considers it to be practicable and appropriate to do so, the mayor may seek to resolve code of conduct complaints about the general manager, other than those requiring referral to the Office under clause 5.27, by alternative means such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour. The resolution of a code of conduct complaint under this clause is not to be taken as a determination that there has been a breach of the council's code of conduct.
- 5.32 Where the mayor resolves a code of conduct complaint under clause 5.31 to the mayor's satisfaction, the mayor must notify the complainant in writing of the steps taken to resolve the complaint within 21 days of receipt of the complaint and this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.
- 5.33 The mayor must refer all code of conduct complaints about the general manager, other than those referred to the Office under clause 5.27 or finalised under clause 5.30 or resolved under clause 5.31, to the complaints coordinator.

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## **How are complaints about both the general manager and the mayor to be dealt with?**

- 5.34 Where the general manager or mayor receives a code of conduct complaint that alleges a breach of the code of conduct by both the general manager and the mayor, the general manager or mayor must either:
- a) delegate their functions under this part with respect to the complaint to a member of staff of the council other than the general manager where the allegation is not serious, or to a person external to the council, or
  - b) refer the matter to the complaints coordinator under clause 5.26 and clause 5.33.

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## **Referral of code of conduct complaints to external agencies**

- 5.35 The general manager, mayor or a conduct reviewer may, at any time, refer a code of conduct complaint to an external agency for its consideration, where they consider such a referral is warranted.
- 5.36 The general manager, mayor or a conduct reviewer must report to the ICAC any matter that they suspect on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corrupt conduct.
- 5.37 Where the general manager, mayor or conduct reviewer refers a complaint to an external agency under clause 5.35, they must notify the complainant of the referral in writing unless they form the view, on the advice of the relevant agency, that it would not be appropriate for them to do so.

5.38 Referral of a matter to an external agency shall finalise consideration of the matter under these procedures unless the council is subsequently advised otherwise by the referral agency.

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## Disclosure of the identity of complainants

5.39 In dealing with matters under these procedures, information that identifies or tends to identify complainants is not to be disclosed unless:

- a) the complainant consents in writing to the disclosure, or
- b) it is generally known that the complainant has made the complaint as a result of the complainant having voluntarily identified themselves as the person who made the complaint, or
- c) it is essential, having regard to procedural fairness requirements, that the identifying information be disclosed, or
- d) a conduct reviewer is of the opinion that disclosure of the information is necessary to investigate the matter effectively, or
- e) it is otherwise in the public interest to do so.

5.40 Clause 5.39 does not apply to code of conduct complaints made by councillors about other councillors or the general manager.

5.41 Where a councillor makes a code of conduct complaint about another councillor or the general manager, and the complainant councillor considers that compelling grounds exist that would warrant information that identifies or tends to identify them as the complainant not to be disclosed, they may request in writing that such information not be disclosed.

5.42 A request made by a complainant councillor under clause 5.41 must be made at the time they make a code of conduct complaint and must state the grounds upon which the request is made.

5.43 The general manager or mayor, and where the matter is referred to a conduct reviewer, the conduct reviewer, must consider a request made under clause 5.41 before disclosing information that identifies or tends to identify the complainant councillor, but they are not obliged to comply with the request.

5.44 Where a complainant councillor makes a request under clause 5.41, the general manager or mayor or, where the matter is referred to a conduct reviewer, the conduct reviewer, shall notify the councillor in writing of their intention to disclose information that identifies or tends to identify them prior to disclosing the information.

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## Code of conduct complaints made as public interest disclosures

5.45 These procedures do not override the provisions of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*. Code of conduct complaints that are made as public interest disclosures under that Act are to be managed in accordance with the requirements of that Act, the council's internal reporting policy, and any guidelines issued by the NSW Ombudsman that relate to the management of public interest disclosures.

5.46 Where a councillor makes a code of conduct complaint about another councillor or the general manager as a public interest disclosure, before the matter may be dealt with under these procedures, the complainant councillor must consent in writing to the disclosure of their identity as the complainant.



5.47 Where a complainant councillor declines to consent to the disclosure of their identity as the complainant under clause 5.46, the general manager or the mayor must refer the complaint to the Office for consideration. Such a referral must be made under section 26 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*.

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## Special complaints management arrangements

5.48 The general manager may request in writing that the Office enter into a special complaints management arrangement with the council in relation to code of conduct complaints made by or about a person or persons.

5.49 Where the Office receives a request under clause 5.48, it may agree to enter into a special complaints management arrangement if it is satisfied that the number or nature of code of conduct complaints made by or about a person or persons has:

- a) imposed an undue and disproportionate cost burden on the council's administration of its code of conduct, or
- b) impeded or disrupted the effective administration by the council of its code of conduct, or
- c) impeded or disrupted the effective functioning of the council.

5.50 A special complaints management arrangement must be in writing and must specify the following:

- a) the code of conduct complaints the arrangement relates to, and
- b) the period that the arrangement will be in force.

5.51 The Office may, by notice in writing, amend or terminate a special complaints management arrangement at any time.

5.52 While a special complaints management arrangement is in force, an officer of the Office (the assessing OLG officer) must undertake the preliminary assessment of the code of conduct complaints specified in the arrangement in accordance with the requirements of Part 6 of these procedures.

5.53 Where, following a preliminary assessment, the assessing OLG officer determines that a code of conduct complaint warrants investigation by a conduct reviewer, the assessing OLG officer shall notify the complaints coordinator in writing of their determination and the reasons for their determination. The complaints coordinator must comply with the recommendation of the assessing OLG officer.

5.54 Prior to the expiry of a special complaints management arrangement, the Office may, at the request of the general manager, review the arrangement to determine whether it should be renewed or amended.

5.55 A special complaints management arrangement shall expire on the date specified in the arrangement unless renewed under clause 5.54.

# **Part 6:**

## **Preliminary Assessment of Code of Conduct Complaints About Councillors or the General Manager by Conduct Reviewers**

## **Referral of code of conduct complaints about councillors or the general manager to conduct reviewers**

- 6.1 The complaints coordinator must refer all code of conduct complaints about councillors or the general manager that have not been referred to an external agency or declined or resolved by the general manager, mayor or their delegate and that have been referred to them under clauses 5.26 or 5.33, to a conduct reviewer within 21 days of receipt of the complaint by the general manager or the mayor.
- 6.2 For the purposes of clause 6.1, the complaints coordinator will refer a complaint to a conduct reviewer selected from:
  - a) a panel of conduct reviewers established by the council, or
  - b) a panel of conduct reviewers established by an organisation approved by the Office.
- 6.3 In selecting a suitable conduct reviewer, the complaints coordinator may have regard to the qualifications and experience of members of the panel of conduct reviewers. Where the conduct reviewer is an incorporated or other entity, the complaints coordinator must also ensure that the person assigned to receive the referral on behalf of the entity meets the selection and eligibility criteria for conduct reviewers prescribed under Part 3 of these procedures.
- 6.4 A conduct reviewer must not accept the referral of a code of conduct complaint where:
  - a) they have a conflict of interest in relation to the matter referred to them, or
  - b) a reasonable apprehension of bias arises in relation to their consideration of the matter, or
  - c) they or their employer has entered into one or more contracts with the council (other than contracts relating to the exercise of their functions as a conduct reviewer) in the 2 years preceding the referral, and they or their employer have received or expect to receive payments under the contract or contracts of a value that, when aggregated, exceeds \$100,000, or
  - d) at the time of the referral, they or their employer are the council's legal service provider or are a member of a panel of legal service providers appointed by the council.
- 6.5 For the purposes of clause 6.4(a), a conduct reviewer will have a conflict of interest in a matter where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that they could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out their public duty (see clause 5.2 of the Model Code of Conduct).
- 6.6 For the purposes of clause 6.4(b), a reasonable apprehension of bias arises where a fair-minded observer might reasonably apprehend that the conduct reviewer might not bring an impartial and unprejudiced mind to the matter referred to the conduct reviewer.

- 6.7 Where the complaints coordinator refers a matter to a conduct reviewer, they will provide the conduct reviewer with a copy of the code of conduct complaint and any other information relevant to the matter held by the council, including any information about previous proven breaches and any information that would indicate that the alleged conduct forms part of an ongoing pattern of behaviour.
- 6.8 The complaints coordinator must notify the complainant in writing that the matter has been referred to a conduct reviewer, and advise which conduct reviewer the matter has been referred to.
- 6.9 Conduct reviewers must comply with these procedures in their consideration of matters that have been referred to them and exercise their functions in a diligent and timely manner.
- 6.10 The complaints coordinator may at any time terminate the referral of a matter to a conduct reviewer and refer the matter to another conduct reviewer where the complaints coordinator is satisfied that the conduct reviewer has failed to:
- a) comply with these procedures in their consideration of the matter, or
  - b) comply with a lawful and reasonable request by the complaints coordinator, or
  - c) exercise their functions in a timely or satisfactory manner.
- 6.11 Where the complaints coordinator terminates a referral to a conduct reviewer under clause 6.10, they must notify the complainant and any other affected person in writing of their decision and the reasons for it and advise them which conduct reviewer the matter has been referred to instead.

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## **Preliminary assessment of code of conduct complaints about councillors or the general manager by a conduct reviewer**

- 6.12 The conduct reviewer is to undertake a preliminary assessment of a complaint referred to them by the complaints coordinator for the purposes of determining how the complaint is to be managed.
- 6.13 The conduct reviewer may determine to do one or more of the following in relation to a complaint referred to them by the complaints coordinator:
- a) to take no action
  - b) to resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour
  - c) to refer the matter back to the general manager or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, the mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour
  - d) to refer the matter to an external agency
  - e) to investigate the matter.
- 6.14 In determining how to deal with a matter under clause 6.13, the conduct reviewer must have regard to the complaint assessment criteria prescribed under clause 6.31.

- 6.15 The conduct reviewer may make such enquiries the conduct reviewer considers to be reasonably necessary to determine what options to exercise under clause 6.13.
- 6.16 The conduct reviewer may request the complaints coordinator to provide such additional information the conduct reviewer considers to be reasonably necessary to determine what options to exercise in relation to the matter under clause 6.13. The complaints coordinator will, as far as is reasonably practicable, supply any information requested by the conduct reviewer.
- 6.17 The conduct reviewer must refer to the Office any complaints referred to them that should have been referred to the Office under clauses 5.20 and 5.27.
- 6.18 The conduct reviewer must determine to take no action on a complaint that is not a code of conduct complaint for the purposes of these procedures.
- 6.19 The resolution of a code of conduct complaint under clause 6.13, paragraphs (b) or (c) is not to be taken as a determination that there has been a breach of the council's code of conduct.
- 6.20 Where the conduct reviewer completes their preliminary assessment of a complaint by determining to exercise an option under clause 6.13, paragraphs (a), (b) or (c), they must provide the complainant with written notice of their determination and provide reasons for it, and this will finalise consideration of the matter under these procedures.
- 6.21 Where the conduct reviewer refers a complaint to an external agency, they must notify the complainant of the referral in writing unless they form the view, on the advice of the relevant agency, that it would not be appropriate for them to do so.
- 6.22 The conduct reviewer may only determine to investigate a matter where they are satisfied as to the following:
  - a) that the complaint is a code of conduct complaint for the purposes of these procedures, and
  - b) that the alleged conduct is sufficiently serious to warrant the formal censure of a councillor under section 440G of the LGA or disciplinary action against the general manager under their contract of employment if it were to be proven, and
  - c) that the matter is one that could not or should not be resolved by alternative means.
- 6.23 In determining whether a matter is sufficiently serious to warrant formal censure of a councillor under section 440G of the LGA or disciplinary action against the general manager under their contract of employment, the conduct reviewer is to consider the following:
  - a) the harm or cost that the alleged conduct has caused to any affected individuals and/or the council
  - b) the likely impact of the alleged conduct on the reputation of the council and public confidence in it
  - c) whether the alleged conduct was deliberate or undertaken with reckless intent or negligence
  - d) any previous proven breaches by the person whose alleged conduct is the subject of the complaint and/or whether the alleged conduct forms part of an ongoing pattern of behaviour.
- 6.24 The conduct reviewer must complete their preliminary assessment of the complaint within 28 days of referral of the matter to them by the complaints coordinator and notify the complaints coordinator in writing of the outcome of their assessment.
- 6.25 The conduct reviewer is not obliged to give prior notice to or to consult with any person before making a determination in relation to their preliminary assessment of a complaint, except as may be specifically required under these procedures.

## Referral back to the general manager or mayor for resolution

- 6.26 Where the conduct reviewer determines to refer a matter back to the general manager or to the mayor to be resolved by alternative and appropriate means, they must write to the general manager or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, to the mayor, recommending the means by which the complaint may be resolved.
- 6.27 The conduct reviewer must consult with the general manager or mayor prior to referring a matter back to them under clause 6.13(c).
- 6.28 The general manager or mayor may decline to accept the conduct reviewer's recommendation. In such cases, the conduct reviewer may determine to deal with the complaint by other means under clause 6.13.
- 6.29 Where the conduct reviewer refers a matter back to the general manager or mayor under clause 6.13(c), the general manager or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, the mayor, is responsible for implementing or overseeing the implementation of the conduct reviewer's recommendation.
- 6.30 Where the conduct reviewer refers a matter back to the general manager or mayor under clause 6.13(c), the general manager, or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, the mayor, must advise the complainant in writing of the steps taken to implement the conduct reviewer's recommendation once these steps have been completed.

## Complaints assessment criteria

- 6.31 In undertaking the preliminary assessment of a complaint, the conduct reviewer must have regard to the following considerations:
- a) whether the complaint is a code of conduct complaint for the purpose of these procedures
  - b) whether the complaint has been made in a timely manner in accordance with clause 4.4, and if not, whether the allegations are sufficiently serious for compelling grounds to exist for the matter to be dealt with under the council's code of conduct
  - c) whether the complaint is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith
  - d) whether the complaint discloses prima facie evidence of conduct that, if proven, would constitute a breach of the code of conduct
  - e) whether the complaint raises issues that would be more appropriately dealt with by an external agency
  - f) whether there is or was an alternative and satisfactory means of redress available in relation to the conduct complained of
  - g) whether the complaint is one that can be resolved by alternative and appropriate strategies such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour

- h) whether the issue/s giving rise to the complaint have previously been addressed or resolved
- i) any previous proven breaches of the council's code of conduct
- j) whether the conduct complained of forms part of an ongoing pattern of behaviour
- k) whether there were mitigating circumstances giving rise to the conduct complained of
- l) the seriousness of the alleged conduct (having regard to the criteria specified in clause 6.23)
- m) the significance of the conduct or the impact of the conduct for the council
- n) how much time has passed since the alleged conduct occurred
- o) such other considerations that the conduct reviewer considers may be relevant to the assessment of the complaint.

## **Part 7:**

# **Investigations of Code of Conduct Complaints About Councillors or the General Manager**



## What matters may a conduct reviewer investigate?

- 7.1 A conduct reviewer (hereafter referred to as an “investigator”) may investigate a code of conduct complaint that has been referred to them by the complaints coordinator and any matters related to or arising from that complaint.
- 7.2 Where an investigator identifies further separate possible breaches of the code of conduct that are not related to or do not arise from the code of conduct complaint that has been referred to them, they are to report the matters separately in writing to the general manager, or, in the case of alleged conduct on the part of the general manager, to the mayor.
- 7.3 The general manager or the mayor or their delegate is to deal with a matter reported to them by an investigator under clause 7.2 as if it were a new code of conduct complaint in accordance with these procedures.

## How are investigations to be commenced?

- 7.4 The investigator must at the outset of their investigation provide a written notice of investigation to the respondent. The notice of investigation must:
  - a) disclose the substance of the allegations against the respondent, and
  - b) advise of the relevant provisions of the code of conduct that apply to the alleged conduct, and
  - c) advise of the process to be followed in investigating the matter, and
- d) advise the respondent of the requirement to maintain confidentiality, and
- e) invite the respondent to make a written submission in relation to the matter within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the investigator in the notice, and
- f) provide the respondent the opportunity to address the investigator on the matter within such reasonable time specified in the notice.
- 7.5 The respondent may, within 7 days of receipt of the notice of investigation, request in writing that the investigator provide them with such further information they consider necessary to assist them to identify the substance of the allegation against them. An investigator will only be obliged to provide such information that the investigator considers reasonably necessary for the respondent to identify the substance of the allegation against them.
- 7.6 An investigator may at any time prior to issuing a draft report, issue an amended notice of investigation to the respondent in relation to the matter referred to them.
- 7.7 Where an investigator issues an amended notice of investigation, they must provide the respondent with a further opportunity to make a written submission in response to the amended notice of investigation within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the investigator in the amended notice.
- 7.8 The investigator must also, at the outset of their investigation, provide written notice of the investigation to the complainant, the complaints coordinator and the general manager, or in the case of a complaint about the general manager, to the complainant, the complaints coordinator and the mayor. The notice must:

- a) advise them of the matter the investigator is investigating, and
- b) in the case of the notice to the complainant, advise them of the requirement to maintain confidentiality, and
- c) invite the complainant to make a written submission in relation to the matter within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the investigator in the notice.

- 7.13 Where the respondent accepts the opportunity to address the investigator in person, they may have a support person or legal adviser in attendance. The support person or legal adviser will act in an advisory or support role to the respondent only. They must not speak on behalf of the respondent or otherwise interfere with or disrupt proceedings.
- 7.14 The investigator must consider all written and oral submissions made to them in relation to the matter.

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## Written and oral submissions

- 7.9 Where the respondent or the complainant fails to make a written submission in relation to the matter within the period specified by the investigator in their notice of investigation or amended notice of investigation, the investigator may proceed to prepare their draft report without receiving such submissions.
- 7.10 The investigator may accept written submissions received outside the period specified in the notice of investigation or amended notice of investigation.
- 7.11 Prior to preparing a draft report, the investigator must give the respondent an opportunity to address the investigator on the matter being investigated. The respondent may do so in person or by telephone or other electronic means.
- 7.12 Where the respondent fails to accept the opportunity to address the investigator within the period specified by the investigator in the notice of investigation, the investigator may proceed to prepare a draft report without hearing from the respondent.

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## How are investigations to be conducted?

- 7.15 Investigations are to be undertaken without undue delay.
- 7.16 Investigations are to be undertaken in the absence of the public and in confidence.
- 7.17 Investigators must make any such enquiries that may be reasonably necessary to establish the facts of the matter.
- 7.18 Investigators may seek such advice or expert guidance that may be reasonably necessary to assist them with their investigation or the conduct of their investigation.
- 7.19 An investigator may request that the complaints coordinator provide such further information that the investigator considers may be reasonably necessary for them to establish the facts of the matter. The complaints coordinator will, as far as is reasonably practicable, provide the information requested by the investigator.

## Referral or resolution of a matter after the commencement of an investigation

7.20 At any time after an investigator has issued a notice of investigation and before they have issued their final report, an investigator may determine to:

- a) resolve the matter by alternative and appropriate strategies such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour, or
- b) refer the matter to the general manager, or, in the case of a complaint about the general manager, to the mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies such as, but not limited to, explanation, counselling, training, mediation, informal discussion, negotiation, a voluntary apology or an undertaking not to repeat the offending behaviour, or
- c) refer the matter to an external agency.

7.21 Where an investigator determines to exercise any of the options under clause 7.20 after the commencement of an investigation, they must do so in accordance with the requirements of Part 6 of these procedures relating to the exercise of these options at the preliminary assessment stage.

7.22 The resolution of a code of conduct complaint under clause 7.20, paragraphs (a) or (b) is not to be taken as a determination that there has been a breach of the council's code of conduct.

7.23 Where an investigator determines to exercise any of the options under clause 7.20 after the commencement of an investigation, they may by written notice to the respondent, the complainant, the complaints coordinator and the general manager, or in the case of a complaint about the general manager, to the respondent, the complainant, the complaints coordinator and the mayor, discontinue their investigation of the matter.

7.24 Where the investigator discontinues their investigation of a matter under clause 7.23, this shall finalise the consideration of the matter under these procedures.

7.25 An investigator is not obliged to give prior notice to or to consult with any person before making a determination to exercise any of the options under clause 7.20 or to discontinue their investigation except as may be specifically required under these procedures.

## Draft investigation reports

7.26 When an investigator has completed their enquiries and considered any written or oral submissions made to them in relation to a matter, they must prepare a draft of their proposed report.

7.27 The investigator must provide their draft report to the respondent and invite them to make a written submission in relation to it within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the investigator.

7.28 Where the investigator proposes to make adverse comment about any other person (an affected person) in their report, they must also provide the affected person with relevant extracts of their draft report containing such comment and invite the affected person to make a written submission in relation to it within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the investigator.

7.29 The investigator must consider written submissions received in relation to the draft report prior to finalising their report in relation to the matter.

7.30 The investigator may, after consideration of all written submissions received in relation to their draft report, make further enquiries into the matter. If, as a result of making further enquiries, the investigator makes any material change to their proposed report that makes new adverse comment about the respondent or an affected person, they must provide the respondent or affected person as the case may be with a further opportunity to make a written submission in relation to the new adverse comment.

7.31 Where the respondent or an affected person fails to make a written submission in relation to the draft report within the period specified by the investigator, the investigator may proceed to prepare and issue their final report without receiving such submissions.

7.32 The investigator may accept written submissions in relation to the draft report received outside the period specified by the investigator at any time prior to issuing their final report.

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## Final investigation reports

7.33 Where an investigator issues a notice of investigation, they must prepare a final report in relation to the matter unless the investigation is discontinued under clause 7.23.

7.34 An investigator must not prepare a final report in relation to the matter at any time before they have finalised their consideration of the matter in accordance with the requirements of these procedures.

7.35 The investigator's final report must:

- a) make findings of fact in relation to the matter investigated, and,
- b) make a determination that the conduct investigated either,
  - i) constitutes a breach of the code of conduct, or
  - ii) does not constitute a breach of the code of conduct, and
- c) provide reasons for the determination.

7.36 At a minimum, the investigator's final report must contain the following information:

- a) a description of the allegations against the respondent
- b) the relevant provisions of the code of conduct that apply to the alleged conduct investigated
- c) a statement of reasons as to why the matter warranted investigation (having regard to the criteria specified in clause 6.23)
- d) a statement of reasons as to why the matter was one that could not or should not be resolved by alternative means
- e) a description of any attempts made to resolve the matter by use of alternative means
- f) the steps taken to investigate the matter
- g) the facts of the matter
- h) the investigator's findings in relation to the facts of the matter and the reasons for those findings
- i) the investigator's determination and the reasons for that determination
- j) any recommendations.

- 7.37 Where the investigator determines that the conduct investigated constitutes a breach of the code of conduct, the investigator may recommend:
- a) in the case of a breach by the general manager, that disciplinary action be taken under the general manager's contract of employment for the breach, or
  - b) in the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the LGA, or
  - c) in the case of a breach by a councillor, that the council resolves as follows:
    - i) that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the LGA, and
    - ii) that the matter be referred to the Office for further action under the misconduct provisions of the LGA.
- 7.38 Where the investigator proposes to make a recommendation under clause 7.37(c), the investigator must first consult with the Office on their proposed findings, determination and recommendation prior to finalising their report, and must take any comments by the Office into consideration when finalising their report.
- 7.39 Where the investigator has determined that there has been a breach of the code of conduct, the investigator may, in addition to making a recommendation under clause 7.37, recommend that the council revise any of its policies, practices or procedures.
- 7.40 Where the investigator determines that the conduct investigated does not constitute a breach of the code of conduct, the investigator may recommend:
- a) that the council revise any of its policies, practices or procedures
  - b) that a person or persons undertake any training or other education.
- 7.41 The investigator must provide a copy of their report to the complaints coordinator and the respondent.
- 7.42 At the time the investigator provides a copy of their report to the complaints coordinator and the respondent, the investigator must provide the complainant with a written statement containing the following information:
- a) the investigator's findings in relation to the facts of the matter and the reasons for those findings
  - b) the investigator's determination and the reasons for that determination
  - c) any recommendations, and
  - d) such other additional information that the investigator considers may be relevant.
- 7.43 Where the investigator has determined that there has not been a breach of the code of conduct, the complaints coordinator must provide a copy of the investigator's report to the general manager or, where the report relates to the general manager's conduct, to the mayor, and this will finalise consideration of the matter under these procedures.
- 7.44 Where the investigator has determined that there has been a breach of the code of conduct and makes a recommendation under clause 7.37, the complaints coordinator must, where practicable, arrange for the investigator's report to be reported to the next ordinary council meeting for the council's consideration, unless the meeting is to be held within the 4 weeks prior to an ordinary local government election, in which case the report must be reported to the first ordinary council meeting following the election.

7.45 Where it is apparent to the complaints coordinator that the council will not be able to form a quorum to consider the investigator's report, the complaints coordinator must refer the investigator's report to the Office for its consideration instead of reporting it to the council under clause 7.44.

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## Consideration of the final investigation report by council

7.46 The role of the council in relation to a final investigation report is to impose a sanction if the investigator has determined that there has been a breach of the code of conduct and has made a recommendation in their final report under clause 7.37.

7.47 The council is to close its meeting to the public to consider the final investigation report in cases where it is permitted to do so under section 10A of the LGA.

7.48 Where the complainant is a councillor, they must absent themselves from the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting on the matter. The complainant councillor may absent themselves without making any disclosure of interest in relation to the matter unless otherwise required to do so under the code of conduct.

7.49 Prior to imposing a sanction, the council must provide the respondent with an opportunity to make a submission to the council. A submission may be made orally or in writing. The respondent is to confine their submission to addressing the investigator's recommendation.

7.50 Once the respondent has made their submission they must absent themselves from the meeting and, where they are a councillor, take no part in any discussion or voting on the matter.

7.51 The council must not invite submissions from other persons for the purpose of seeking to rehear evidence previously considered by the investigator.

7.52 Prior to imposing a sanction, the council may by resolution:

- a) request that the investigator make additional enquiries and/or provide additional information to it in a supplementary report, or
- b) seek an opinion from the Office in relation to the report.

7.53 The council may, by resolution, defer further consideration of the matter pending the receipt of a supplementary report from the investigator or an opinion from the Office.

7.54 The investigator may make additional enquiries for the purpose of preparing a supplementary report.

7.55 Where the investigator prepares a supplementary report, they must provide copies to the complaints coordinator who shall provide a copy each to the council and the respondent.

7.56 The investigator is not obliged to notify or consult with any person prior to submitting the supplementary report to the complaints coordinator.

7.57 The council is only required to provide the respondent a further opportunity to make an oral or written submission on a supplementary report if the supplementary report contains new information that is adverse to them.

- 7.58 A council may by resolution impose one of the following sanctions on a respondent:
- a) in the case of a breach by the general manager, that disciplinary action be taken under the general manager's contract of employment for the breach, or
  - b) in the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the LGA, or
  - c) in the case of a breach by a councillor:
    - i) that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the LGA, and
    - ii) that the matter be referred to the Office for further action under the misconduct provisions of the LGA.
- 7.59 Where the council censures a councillor under section 440G of the LGA, the council must specify in the censure resolution the grounds on which it is satisfied that the councillor should be censured by disclosing in the resolution, the investigator's findings and determination and/or such other grounds that the council considers may be relevant or appropriate.
- 7.60 The council is not obliged to adopt the investigator's recommendation. Where the council proposes not to adopt the investigator's recommendation, the council must resolve not to adopt the recommendation and state in its resolution the reasons for its decision.
- 7.61 Where the council resolves not to adopt the investigator's recommendation, the complaints coordinator must notify the Office of the council's decision and the reasons for it.

## Part 8:

# Oversight and Rights of Review



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## The Office's powers of review

- 8.1 The Office may, at any time, whether or not in response to a request, review the consideration of a matter under a council's code of conduct where it is concerned that a person has failed to comply with a requirement prescribed under these procedures or has misinterpreted or misapplied the standards of conduct prescribed under the code of conduct in their consideration of a matter.
- 8.2 The Office may direct any person, including the council, to defer taking further action in relation to a matter under consideration under the council's code of conduct pending the completion of its review. Any person the subject of a direction must comply with the direction.
- 8.3 Where the Office undertakes a review of a matter under clause 8.1, it will notify the complaints coordinator and any other affected persons, of the outcome of the review.

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## Complaints about conduct reviewers

- 8.4 The general manager or their delegate must refer code of conduct complaints about conduct reviewers to the Office for its consideration.
- 8.5 The general manager must notify the complainant of the referral of their complaint about the conduct reviewer in writing.
- 8.6 The general manager must implement any recommendation made by the Office as a result of its consideration of a complaint about a conduct reviewer.

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## Practice rulings

- 8.7 Where a respondent and an investigator are in dispute over a requirement under these procedures, either person may make a request in writing to the Office to make a ruling on a question of procedure (a practice ruling).
- 8.8 Where the Office receives a request in writing for a practice ruling, the Office may provide notice in writing of its ruling and the reasons for it to the person who requested it and to the investigator, where that person is different.
- 8.9 Where the Office makes a practice ruling, all parties must comply with it.
- 8.10 The Office may decline to make a practice ruling. Where the Office declines to make a practice ruling, it will provide notice in writing of its decision and the reasons for it to the person who requested it and to the investigator, where that person is different.

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## Review of decisions to impose sanctions

- 8.11 A person who is the subject of a sanction imposed under Part 7 of these procedures other than one imposed under clause 7.58, paragraph (c), may, within 28 days of the sanction being imposed, seek a review of the investigator's determination and recommendation by the Office.
- 8.12 A review under clause 8.11 may be sought on the following grounds:
  - a) that the investigator has failed to comply with a requirement under these procedures, or
  - b) that the investigator has misinterpreted or misapplied the standards of conduct prescribed under the code of conduct, or
  - c) that in imposing its sanction, the council has failed to comply with a requirement under these procedures.

- 8.13 A request for a review made under clause 8.11 must be made in writing and must specify the grounds upon which the person believes the investigator or the council has erred.
- 8.14 The Office may decline to conduct a review, in cases where the grounds upon which the review is sought are not sufficiently specified.
- 8.15 The Office may undertake a review of a matter without receiving a request under clause 8.11.
- 8.16 The Office will undertake a review of the matter on the papers. However, the Office may request that the complaints coordinator provide such further information that the Office considers reasonably necessary for it to review the matter. The complaints coordinator must, as far as is reasonably practicable, provide the information requested by the Office.
- 8.17 Where a person requests a review under clause 8.11, the Office may direct the council to defer any action to implement a sanction. The council must comply with a direction to defer action by the Office.
- 8.18 The Office must notify the person who requested the review and the complaints coordinator of the outcome of the Office's review in writing and the reasons for its decision. In doing so, the Office may comment on any other matters the Office considers to be relevant.
- 8.19 Where the Office considers that the investigator or the council has erred, the Office may recommend that a decision to impose a sanction under these procedures be reviewed. Where the Office recommends that the decision to impose a sanction be reviewed:
- a) the complaints coordinator must, where practicable, arrange for the Office's determination to be tabled at the next ordinary council meeting unless the meeting is to be held within the 4 weeks prior to an ordinary local government election, in which case it must be tabled at the first ordinary council meeting following the election, and
  - b) the council must:
    - i) review its decision to impose the sanction, and
    - ii) consider the Office's recommendation in doing so, and
    - iii) resolve to either rescind or reaffirm its previous resolution in relation to the matter.
- 8.20 Where, having reviewed its previous decision in relation to a matter under clause 8.19(b), the council resolves to reaffirm its previous decision, the council must state in its resolution its reasons for doing so.



## Part 9:

# Procedural Irregularities

- 9.1 A failure to comply with these procedures does not, on its own, constitute a breach of the code of conduct, except as may be otherwise specifically provided under the code of conduct.
- 9.2 A failure to comply with these procedures will not render a decision made in relation to a matter invalid where:
- a) the non-compliance is isolated and/or minor in nature, or
  - b) reasonable steps are taken to correct the non-compliance, or
  - c) reasonable steps are taken to address the consequences of the non-compliance.

# Part 10:

## Practice Directions

- 10.1 The Office may at any time issue a practice direction in relation to the application of these procedures.
- 10.2 The Office will issue practice directions in writing, by circular to all councils.
- 10.3 All persons performing a function prescribed under these procedures must consider the Office's practice directions when performing the function.

## **Part 11:**

# **Reporting Statistics on Code of Conduct Complaints About Councillors and the General Manager**



- 11.1 The complaints coordinator must arrange for the following statistics to be reported to the council within 3 months of the end of September of each year:
- a) the total number of code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager under the code of conduct in the year to September (the reporting period)
  - b) the number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer during the reporting period
  - c) the number of code of conduct complaints finalised by a conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage during the reporting period and the outcome of those complaints
  - d) the number of code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer during the reporting period
  - e) without identifying particular matters, the outcome of investigations completed under these procedures during the reporting period
  - f) the number of matters reviewed by the Office during the reporting period and, without identifying particular matters, the outcome of the reviews, and
  - g) the total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager during the reporting period, including staff costs.
- 11.2 The council is to provide the Office with a report containing the statistics referred to in clause 11.1 within 3 months of the end of September of each year.

# Part 12:

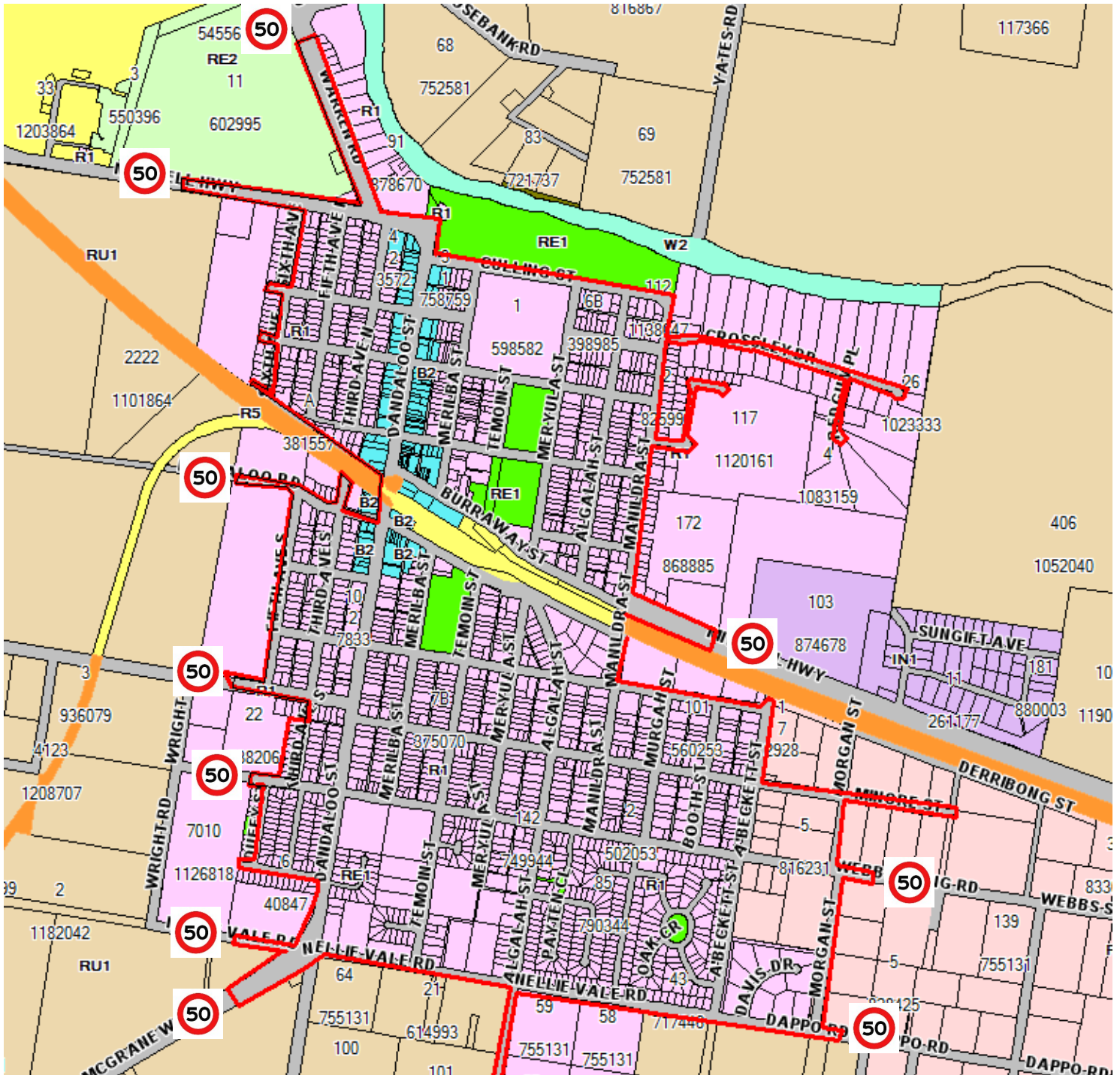
# Confidentiality

- 12.1 Information about code of conduct complaints and the management and investigation of code of conduct complaints is to be treated as confidential and is not to be publicly disclosed except as may be otherwise specifically required or permitted under these procedures.
- 12.2 Where a complainant publicly discloses information on one or more occasions about a code of conduct complaint they have made or purported to make, the general manager or their delegate may, with the consent of the Office, determine that the complainant is to receive no further information about their complaint and any future code of conduct complaint they make or purport to make.
- 12.3 Prior to seeking the Office's consent under clause 12.2, the general manager or their delegate must give the complainant written notice of their intention to seek the Office's consent, invite them to make a written submission within a period of not less than 14 days specified by the general manager or their delegate, and consider any submission made by them.
- 12.4 In giving its consent under clause 12.2, the Office must consider any submission made by the complainant to the general manager or their delegate.
- 12.5 The general manager or their delegate must give written notice of a determination made under clause 12.2 to:
- a) the complainant
  - b) the complaints coordinator
  - c) the Office, and
  - d) any other person the general manager or their delegate considers should be notified of the determination.
- 12.6 Any requirement under these procedures that a complainant is to be provided with information about a code of conduct complaint that they have made or purported to make, will not apply to a complainant the subject of a determination made by the general manager or their delegate under clause 12.2.
- 12.7 Clause 12.6 does not override any entitlement a person may have to access to council information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* or to receive information under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* in relation to a complaint they have made.





# Narromine Township Alcohol Free Zone



# Trangie Township Alcohol Free Zone

