

Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021

SL 2021/14

Made by the Governor in Executive Council.

1. Citation

These regulations are the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021*.

2. Commencement

These regulations come into operation as follows —

- (a) regulations 1 and 2 — on the day on which these regulations are published in the *Gazette*;
- (b) the rest of the regulations — on the day on which the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* section 22 comes into operation.

3. Regulations amended

These regulations amend the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

4. Regulation 18A amended

- (1) In regulation 18A(1) delete “is to advertise the position in a newspaper circulating generally through the State” and insert:

must give Statewide public notice of the position

- (2) In regulation 18A(2):

- (a) delete “An advertisement referred to in subregulation (1) is to” and insert:

The Statewide public notice must

- (b) after paragraph (d) insert:

- (da) a website address where the job description form for the position can be accessed; and

5. Regulations 18C and 18D deleted

Delete regulations 18C and 18D.

6. Regulations 18FA to 18FC inserted

After regulation 18F insert:

18FA. Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination (Act s. 5.39A(1))

Schedule 2 sets out model standards for local governments in relation to the following —

- (a) the recruitment of CEOs;
- (b) the review of the performance of CEOs;
- (c) the termination of the employment of CEOs.

18FB. Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO recruitment (Act s. 5.39B(7))

- (1) In this regulation —

adopted standards means —

- (a) the standards adopted by a local government under section 5.39B; or
- (b) if the local government has not adopted standards under that section, the standards taken under section 5.39B(5) to be the local government's adopted standards.

- (2) This regulation applies if —

- (a) a local government employs a person in the position of CEO of the local government; and
- (b) the local government's adopted standards in relation to the recruitment of CEOs apply to the employment.

- (3) As soon as practicable after the person is employed in the position of CEO, the local government must, by resolution*, certify that the person was employed in accordance with the local government's adopted standards in relation to the recruitment of CEOs.

* Absolute majority required.

- (4) The local government must give a copy of the resolution to the Departmental CEO within 14 days after the resolution is passed by the local government.

18FC. Certification of compliance with adopted standards for CEO termination (Act s. 5.39B(7))

- (1) In this regulation —

adopted standards has the meaning given in regulation 18FB(1).

- (2) This regulation applies if a local government terminates the employment of the CEO of the local government.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the CEO's employment is terminated, the local government must, by resolution*, certify that the CEO's employment was terminated in accordance with the local government's adopted standards in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.

* Absolute majority required.

- (4) The local government must give a copy of the resolution to the Departmental CEO within 14 days after the resolution is passed by the local government.

7. Schedule 2 inserted

After Schedule 1 insert:

Schedule 2 — Model standards for CEO recruitment, performance and termination

[r. 18FA]

Division 1 — Preliminary provisions

1. Citation

These are the [*insert name of local government*] *Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination*.

2. Terms used

- (1) In these standards —

Act means the *Local Government Act 1995*;

additional performance criteria means performance criteria agreed by the local government and the CEO under clause 16(1)(b);

applicant means a person who submits an application to the local government for the position of CEO;

contract of employment means the written contract, as referred to in section 5.39 of the Act, that governs the employment of the CEO;

contractual performance criteria means the performance criteria specified in the CEO's contract of employment as referred to in section 5.39(3)(b) of the Act;

job description form means the job description form for the position of CEO approved by the local government under clause 5(2);

local government means the [*insert name of local government*];

selection criteria means the selection criteria for the position of CEO determined by the local government under clause 5(1) and set out in the job description form;

selection panel means the selection panel established by the local government under clause 8 for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.

- (2) Other terms used in these standards that are also used in the Act have the same meaning as they have in the Act, unless the contrary intention appears.

Division 2 — Standards for recruitment of CEOs

3. Overview of Division

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the recruitment of CEOs.

4. Application of Division

- (1) Except as provided in subclause (2), this Division applies to any recruitment and selection process carried out by the local government for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.
- (2) This Division does not apply —
 - (a) if it is proposed that the position of CEO be filled by a person in a class prescribed for the purposes of section 5.36(5A) of the Act; or
 - (b) in relation to a renewal of the CEO's contract of employment, except in the circumstances referred to in clause 13(2).

5. Determination of selection criteria and approval of job description form

- (1) The local government must determine the selection criteria for the position of CEO, based on the local government's consideration of the knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills necessary to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of the position of CEO of the local government.
- (2) The local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve a job description form for the position of CEO which sets out —
 - (a) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and
 - (b) the selection criteria for the position determined in accordance with subclause (1).

6. Advertising requirements

- (1) If the position of CEO is vacant, the local government must ensure it complies with section 5.36(4) of the Act and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A.

- (2) If clause 13 applies, the local government must advertise the position of CEO in the manner referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A as if the position was vacant.

7. Job description form to be made available by local government

If a person requests the local government to provide to the person a copy of the job description form, the local government must —

- (a) inform the person of the website address referred to in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* regulation 18A(2)(da); or
- (b) if the person advises the local government that the person is unable to access that website address —
 - (i) email a copy of the job description form to an email address provided by the person; or
 - (ii) mail a copy of the job description form to a postal address provided by the person.

8. Establishment of selection panel for employment of CEO

- (1) In this clause —

independent person means a person other than any of the following —

- (a) a council member;
- (b) an employee of the local government;
- (c) a human resources consultant engaged by the local government.

- (2) The local government must establish a selection panel to conduct the recruitment and selection process for the employment of a person in the position of CEO.

- (3) The selection panel must comprise —

- (a) council members (the number of which must be determined by the local government); and
- (b) at least 1 independent person.

9. Recommendation by selection panel

- (1) Each applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills must be assessed against the selection criteria by or on behalf of the selection panel.
- (2) Following the assessment referred to in subclause (1), the selection panel must provide to the local government —
 - (a) a summary of the selection panel's assessment of each applicant; and
 - (b) unless subclause (3) applies, the selection panel's recommendation as to which applicant or applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO.

- (3) If the selection panel considers that none of the applicants are suitable to be employed in the position of CEO, the selection panel must recommend to the local government —
 - (a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position be carried out in accordance with these standards; and
 - (b) the changes (if any) that the selection panel considers should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria.
- (4) The selection panel must act under subclauses (1), (2) and (3) —
 - (a) in an impartial and transparent manner; and
 - (b) in accordance with the principles set out in section 5.40 of the Act.
- (5) The selection panel must not recommend an applicant to the local government under subclause (2)(b) unless the selection panel has —
 - (a) assessed the applicant as having demonstrated that the applicant's knowledge, experience, qualifications and skills meet the selection criteria; and
 - (b) verified any academic, or other tertiary level, qualifications the applicant claims to hold; and
 - (c) whether by contacting referees provided by the applicant or making any other inquiries the selection panel considers appropriate, verified the applicant's character, work history, skills, performance and any other claims made by the applicant.
- (6) The local government must have regard to, but is not bound to accept, a recommendation made by the selection panel under this clause.

10. Application of cl. 5 where new process carried out

- (1) This clause applies if the local government accepts a recommendation by the selection panel under clause 9(3)(a) that a new recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO be carried out in accordance with these standards.
- (2) Unless the local government considers that changes should be made to the duties and responsibilities of the position or the selection criteria —
 - (a) clause 5 does not apply to the new recruitment and selection process; and
 - (b) the job description form previously approved by the local government under clause 5(2) is the job description form for the purposes of the new recruitment and selection process.

11. Offer of employment in position of CEO

Before making an applicant an offer of employment in the position of CEO, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve —

- (a) the making of the offer of employment to the applicant; and
- (b) the proposed terms of the contract of employment to be entered into by the local government and the applicant.

12. Variations to proposed terms of contract of employment

- (1) This clause applies if an applicant who is made an offer of employment in the position of CEO under clause 11 negotiates with the local government a contract of employment (the *negotiated contract*) containing terms different to the proposed terms approved by the local government under clause 11(b).
- (2) Before entering into the negotiated contract with the applicant, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, approve the terms of the negotiated contract.

13. Recruitment to be undertaken on expiry of certain CEO contracts

- (1) In this clause —
commencement day means the day on which the *Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2021* regulation 6 comes into operation.
- (2) This clause applies if —
 - (a) upon the expiry of the contract of employment of the person (the *incumbent CEO*) who holds the position of CEO —
 - (i) the incumbent CEO will have held the position for a period of 10 or more consecutive years, whether that period commenced before, on or after commencement day; and
 - (ii) a period of 10 or more consecutive years has elapsed since a recruitment and selection process for the position was carried out, whether that process was carried out before, on or after commencement day;
 - and
 - (b) the incumbent CEO has notified the local government that they wish to have their contract of employment renewed upon its expiry.
- (3) Before the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment, the local government must carry out a recruitment and selection process in accordance with these standards to select a person to be employed in the position

of CEO after the expiry of the incumbent CEO's contract of employment.

- (4) This clause does not prevent the incumbent CEO's contract of employment from being renewed upon its expiry if the incumbent CEO is selected in the recruitment and selection process referred to in subclause (3) to be employed in the position of CEO.

14. Confidentiality of information

The local government must ensure that information provided to, or obtained by, the local government in the course of a recruitment and selection process for the position of CEO is not disclosed, or made use of, except for the purpose of, or in connection with, that recruitment and selection process.

Division 3 — Standards for review of performance of CEOs

15. Overview of Division

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the review of the performance of CEOs.

16. Performance review process to be agreed between local government and CEO

- (1) The local government and the CEO must agree on —
 - (a) the process by which the CEO's performance will be reviewed; and
 - (b) any performance criteria to be met by the CEO that are in addition to the contractual performance criteria.
- (2) Without limiting subclause (1), the process agreed under subclause (1)(a) must be consistent with clauses 17, 18 and 19.
- (3) The matters referred to in subclause (1) must be set out in a written document.

17. Carrying out a performance review

- (1) A review of the performance of the CEO by the local government must be carried out in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The local government must —
 - (a) collect evidence regarding the CEO's performance in respect of the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria in a thorough and comprehensive manner; and
 - (b) review the CEO's performance against the contractual performance criteria and any additional performance criteria, based on that evidence.

18. Endorsement of performance review by local government

Following a review of the performance of the CEO, the local government must, by resolution of an absolute majority of the council, endorse the review.

19. CEO to be notified of results of performance review

After the local government has endorsed a review of the performance of the CEO under clause 18, the local government must inform the CEO in writing of —

- (a) the results of the review; and
- (b) if the review identifies any issues about the performance of the CEO — how the local government proposes to address and manage those issues.

Division 4 — Standards for termination of employment of CEOs

20. Overview of Division

This Division sets out standards to be observed by the local government in relation to the termination of the employment of CEOs.

21. General principles applying to any termination

- (1) The local government must make decisions relating to the termination of the employment of a CEO in an impartial and transparent manner.
- (2) The local government must accord a CEO procedural fairness in relation to the process for the termination of the CEO's employment, including —
 - (a) informing the CEO of the CEO's rights, entitlements and responsibilities in relation to the termination process; and
 - (b) notifying the CEO of any allegations against the CEO; and
 - (c) giving the CEO a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations; and
 - (d) genuinely considering any response given by the CEO in response to the allegations.

22. Additional principles applying to termination for performance-related reasons

- (1) This clause applies if the local government proposes to terminate the employment of a CEO for reasons related to the CEO's performance.
- (2) The local government must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the local government has —
 - (a) in the course of carrying out the review of the CEO's performance referred to in subclause (3) or

any other review of the CEO's performance,
identified any issues (the *performance issues*)
related to the performance of the CEO; and

- (b) informed the CEO of the performance issues; and
 - (c) given the CEO a reasonable opportunity to address, and implement a plan to remedy, the performance issues; and
 - (d) determined that the CEO has not remedied the performance issues to the satisfaction of the local government.
- (3) The local government must not terminate the CEO's employment unless the local government has, within the preceding 12-month period, reviewed the performance of the CEO under section 5.38(1) of the Act.

23. Decision to terminate

Any decision by the local government to terminate the employment of a CEO must be made by resolution of an absolute majority of the council.

24. Notice of termination of employment

- (1) If the local government terminates the employment of a CEO, the local government must give the CEO notice in writing of the termination.
- (2) The notice must set out the local government's reasons for terminating the employment of the CEO.

N. HAGLEY, Clerk of the Executive Council.

Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

SL 2021/16

Made by the Governor in Executive Council.

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Citation

These regulations are the *Local Government Regulations Amendment (Employee Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021*.

2. Commencement

These regulations come into operation as follows —

- (a) Part 1 — on the day on which these regulations are published in the *Gazette*;
- (b) the rest of the regulations — on the day on which the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* section 25 comes into operation.

Part 2 — *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* amended

3. Regulations amended

This Part amends the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

4. Part 4A inserted

After regulation 19A insert:

Part 4A — Codes of conduct for local government employees (Act s. 5.51A(4))

Division 1 — Terms used

19AA. Terms used

In this Part —

activity involving a local government discretion means
an activity —

- (a) that cannot be undertaken without an authorisation from the local government; or
- (b) by way of a commercial dealing with the local government;

associated person means a person who —

- (a) is undertaking or seeking to undertake an activity involving a local government discretion; or
- (b) it is reasonable to believe, is intending to undertake an activity involving a local government discretion;

code of conduct means a code of conduct under section 5.51A;

gift —

- (a) has the meaning given in section 5.57; but
- (b) does not include —
 - (i) a gift from a relative as defined in section 5.74(1); or
 - (ii) a gift that must be disclosed under the *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997* regulation 30B; or
 - (iii) a gift from a statutory authority, government instrumentality or non-profit association for professional training; or
 - (iv) a gift from WALGA, the Australian Local Government Association Limited (ABN 31 008 613 876), the Local Government Professionals Australia WA (ABN 91 208 607 072) or the LG Professionals Australia (ABN 85 004 221 818);

interest —

- (a) means an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest; and
- (b) includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association;

local government employee means a person —

- (a) employed by a local government under section 5.36(1); or
- (b) engaged by a local government under a contract for services;

prohibited gift, in relation to a local government employee, means —

- (a) a gift worth the threshold amount or more; or
- (b) a gift that is 1 of 2 or more gifts given to the local government employee by the same person within a period of 1 year that are in total worth the threshold amount or more;

threshold amount, for a prohibited gift, means \$300 or a lesser amount determined under regulation 19AF.

Division 2 — Content of codes of conduct

19AB. Prohibited gifts

- (1) In this regulation —
local government employee does not include the CEO.
- (2) A code of conduct must contain a requirement that a local government employee not accept a prohibited gift from an associated person.

19AC. Recording, storing, disclosure and use of information relating to gifts

- (1) In this regulation —
local government employee does not include the CEO.
- (2) A code of conduct must contain requirements relating to the recording, storing, disclosure and use of information relating to gifts that, under a code of conduct, may be accepted by local government employees from associated persons.

19AD. Conflicts of interest

- (1) A code of conduct must contain a requirement that a local government employee who has an interest in any matter to be discussed at a council or committee meeting attended by the local government employee disclose the nature of the interest —
 - (a) in a written notice given to the CEO before the meeting; or
 - (b) at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.
- (2) A code of conduct must contain a requirement that a local government employee who has given, or will give, advice in respect of any matter to be discussed at a council or committee meeting not attended by the local government employee disclose the nature of any interest the local government employee has in the matter —
 - (a) in a written notice given to the CEO before the meeting; or
 - (b) at the time the advice is given.

- (3) A code of conduct must exclude from a requirement under subregulation (1) or (2) an interest referred to in section 5.60.
- (4) A code of conduct must excuse a local government employee from a requirement under subregulation (1) or (2) if the local government employee fails to disclose the nature of an interest because they did not know and could not reasonably be expected to know —
 - (a) that they had an interest in the matter; or
 - (b) that the matter in which they had an interest would be discussed at the meeting and they disclosed the nature of the interest as soon as possible after the discussion began.
- (5) A code of conduct must require that if, to comply with a requirement under subregulation (1) or (2), a local government employee discloses an interest in a written notice given to the CEO before a meeting, then —
 - (a) before the meeting the CEO must cause the notice to be given to the person who is to preside at the meeting; and
 - (b) at the meeting the person presiding must bring the notice and its contents to the attention of the persons present immediately before any matter to which the disclosure relates is discussed.
- (6) Subregulation (7) applies if —
 - (a) to comply with a requirement under subregulation (1), the nature of an interest in a matter is disclosed at a meeting; or
 - (b) a disclosure is made as described in subregulation (4)(b) at a meeting; or
 - (c) to comply with a requirement under subregulation (5)(b), notice of the interest is brought to the attention of the persons present at a meeting.
- (7) The nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

19AE. Other matters codes of conduct must deal with

- (1) In this regulation —
resources of the local government includes —
 - (a) local government property; and
 - (b) services provided, or paid for, by the local government.
- (2) A code of conduct must contain requirements relating to —

- (a) the behaviour expected of a local government employee in relation to each of the following —
 - (i) the performance of the local government employee's duties;
 - (ii) dealings with other local government employees and the broader community;
 - (iii) the use and disclosure of information acquired by the local government employee in the performance of their duties;
 - (iv) the use of the resources of the local government;
 - (v) the use of the local government's finances;
- and
- (b) how the records of the local government are to be kept; and
- (c) the reporting by local government employees of suspected breaches of codes of conduct and suspected unethical, fraudulent, dishonest, illegal or corrupt behaviour; and
- (d) the way in which suspected breaches of the code of conduct and suspected unethical, fraudulent, dishonest, illegal or corrupt behaviour of a local government employee are to be managed.

Division 3 — Other matter in relation to codes of conduct

19AF. Determination of threshold amount

- (1) The CEO may determine an amount (which may be nil) for the purposes of the definition of *threshold amount* in regulation 19AA.
- (2) A determination under subregulation (1) must be published on the local government's official website.

5. Regulation 20B amended

In regulation 20B after paragraph (c) insert:

- (ca) LG Professionals Australia
(ABN 85 004 221 818);

6. Part 9 deleted

Delete Part 9.

**Part 3 — *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*
amended**

7. Regulations amended

This Part amends the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*.

8. Regulation 13 amended

In regulation 13 in the Table under the heading “***Local Government Act 1995***” after the item for s. 5.46 insert:

s. 5.51A

N. HAGLEY, Clerk of the Executive Council.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MODEL
CODE OF CONDUCT)
REGULATIONS 2021**

Western Australia

Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

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Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

SL 2021/15

Made by the Governor in Executive Council.

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Citation

These regulations are the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021*.

2. Commencement

These regulations come into operation as follows —

- (a) Part 1 — on the day on which these regulations are published in the *Gazette*;
- (b) the rest of the regulations — on the day on which the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* sections 48 to 51 come into operation.

Part 2 — Model code of conduct

3. Model code of conduct (Act s. 5.103(1))

The model code of conduct for council members, committee members and candidates is set out in Schedule 1.

Part 3 — Repeal and consequential amendments

Division 1 — Repeal

**4. *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*
 repealed**

The *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007* are repealed.

Division 2 — Other regulations amended

**5. *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*
 amended**

- (1) This regulation amends the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.
- (2) After regulation 34C insert:

Part 9A — Minor breaches by council members

34D. **Contravention of local law as to conduct
 (Act s. 5.105(1)(b))**

- (1) In this regulation —
local law as to conduct means a local law relating to the conduct of people at council or committee meetings.
- (2) The contravention of a local law as to conduct is a minor breach for the purposes of section 5.105(1)(b) of the Act.

Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

Part 3 Repeal and consequential amendments

Division 2 Other regulations amended

r. 6

6. Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 amended

- (1) This regulation amends the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*.
- (2) In regulation 13 in the Table:
 - (a) under the heading “**Local Government Act 1995**” delete “s. 5.103” and insert:

s. 5.104

- (b) delete:

Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007		
r. 11		

7. Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998 amended

- (1) This regulation amends the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*.
- (2) In Schedule 1 Form 7 delete “*Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*.” and insert:

code of conduct adopted by the ³ under section 5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Schedule 1 — Model code of conduct

[r. 3]

Division 1 — Preliminary provisions

1. Citation

This is the *[insert name of local government] Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates*.

2. Terms used

- (1) In this code —

Act means the *Local Government Act 1995*;

candidate means a candidate for election as a council member;

complaint means a complaint made under clause 11(1);

publish includes to publish on a social media platform.

- (2) Other terms used in this code that are also used in the Act have the same meaning as they have in the Act, unless the contrary intention appears.

Division 2 — General principles

3. Overview of Division

This Division sets out general principles to guide the behaviour of council members, committee members and candidates.

4. Personal integrity

- (1) A council member, committee member or candidate should —
- (a) act with reasonable care and diligence; and
 - (b) act with honesty and integrity; and
 - (c) act lawfully; and
 - (d) identify and appropriately manage any conflict of interest; and
 - (e) avoid damage to the reputation of the local government.

Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021

Schedule 1 Model code of conduct

Division 2 General principles

cl. 5

- (2) A council member or committee member should —
- (a) act in accordance with the trust placed in council members and committee members; and
 - (b) participate in decision-making in an honest, fair, impartial and timely manner; and
 - (c) actively seek out and engage in training and development opportunities to improve the performance of their role; and
 - (d) attend and participate in briefings, workshops and training sessions provided or arranged by the local government in relation to the performance of their role.

5. Relationship with others

- (1) A council member, committee member or candidate should —
- (a) treat others with respect, courtesy and fairness; and
 - (b) respect and value diversity in the community.
- (2) A council member or committee member should maintain and contribute to a harmonious, safe and productive work environment.

6. Accountability

A council member or committee member should —

- (a) base decisions on relevant and factually correct information; and
- (b) make decisions on merit, in the public interest and in accordance with statutory obligations and principles of good governance and procedural fairness; and
- (c) read all agenda papers given to them in relation to council or committee meetings; and
- (d) be open and accountable to, and represent, the community in the district.

Division 3 — Behaviour

7. Overview of Division

This Division sets out —

- (a) requirements relating to the behaviour of council members, committee members and candidates; and
- (b) the mechanism for dealing with alleged breaches of those requirements.

8. Personal integrity

- (1) A council member, committee member or candidate —
 - (a) must ensure that their use of social media and other forms of communication complies with this code; and
 - (b) must only publish material that is factually correct.
- (2) A council member or committee member —
 - (a) must not be impaired by alcohol or drugs in the performance of their official duties; and
 - (b) must comply with all policies, procedures and resolutions of the local government.

9. Relationship with others

A council member, committee member or candidate —

- (a) must not bully or harass another person in any way; and
- (b) must deal with the media in a positive and appropriate manner and in accordance with any relevant policy of the local government; and
- (c) must not use offensive or derogatory language when referring to another person; and
- (d) must not disparage the character of another council member, committee member or candidate or a local government employee in connection with the performance of their official duties; and
- (e) must not impute dishonest or unethical motives to another council member, committee member or candidate or a local government employee in connection with the performance of their official duties.

10. Council or committee meetings

When attending a council or committee meeting, a council member, committee member or candidate —

- (a) must not act in an abusive or threatening manner towards another person; and
- (b) must not make a statement that the member or candidate knows, or could reasonably be expected to know, is false or misleading; and
- (c) must not repeatedly disrupt the meeting; and
- (d) must comply with any requirements of a local law of the local government relating to the procedures and conduct of council or committee meetings; and
- (e) must comply with any direction given by the person presiding at the meeting; and
- (f) must immediately cease to engage in any conduct that has been ruled out of order by the person presiding at the meeting.

11. Complaint about alleged breach

- (1) A person may make a complaint, in accordance with subclause (2), alleging a breach of a requirement set out in this Division.
- (2) A complaint must be made —
 - (a) in writing in the form approved by the local government; and
 - (b) to a person authorised under subclause (3); and
 - (c) within 1 month after the occurrence of the alleged breach.
- (3) The local government must, in writing, authorise 1 or more persons to receive complaints and withdrawals of complaints.

12. Dealing with complaint

- (1) After considering a complaint, the local government must, unless it dismisses the complaint under clause 13 or the complaint is withdrawn under clause 14(1), make a finding as to whether the alleged breach the subject of the complaint has occurred.

- (2) Before making a finding in relation to the complaint, the local government must give the person to whom the complaint relates a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- (3) A finding that the alleged breach has occurred must be based on evidence from which it may be concluded that it is more likely that the breach occurred than that it did not occur.
- (4) If the local government makes a finding that the alleged breach has occurred, the local government may —
 - (a) take no further action; or
 - (b) prepare and implement a plan to address the behaviour of the person to whom the complaint relates.
- (5) When preparing a plan under subclause (4)(b), the local government must consult with the person to whom the complaint relates.
- (6) A plan under subclause (4)(b) may include a requirement for the person to whom the complaint relates to do 1 or more of the following —
 - (a) engage in mediation;
 - (b) undertake counselling;
 - (c) undertake training;
 - (d) take other action the local government considers appropriate.
- (7) If the local government makes a finding in relation to the complaint, the local government must give the complainant, and the person to whom the complaint relates, written notice of —
 - (a) its finding and the reasons for its finding; and
 - (b) if its finding is that the alleged breach has occurred — its decision under subclause (4).

13. Dismissal of complaint

- (1) The local government must dismiss a complaint if it is satisfied that —
 - (a) the behaviour to which the complaint relates occurred at a council or committee meeting; and

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(b) either —

- (i) the behaviour was dealt with by the person presiding at the meeting; or
- (ii) the person responsible for the behaviour has taken remedial action in accordance with a local law of the local government that deals with meeting procedures.

- (2) If the local government dismisses a complaint, the local government must give the complainant, and the person to whom the complaint relates, written notice of its decision and the reasons for its decision.

14. Withdrawal of complaint

- (1) A complainant may withdraw their complaint at any time before the local government makes a finding in relation to the complaint.
- (2) The withdrawal of a complaint must be —
- (a) in writing; and
 - (b) given to a person authorised under clause 11(3).

15. Other provisions about complaints

- (1) A complaint about an alleged breach by a candidate cannot be dealt with by the local government unless the candidate has been elected as a council member.
- (2) The procedure for dealing with complaints may be determined by the local government to the extent that it is not provided for in this Division.

Division 4 — Rules of conduct

Notes for this Division:

- 1. Under section 5.105(1) of the Act a council member commits a minor breach if the council member contravenes a rule of conduct. This extends to the contravention of a rule of conduct that occurred when the council member was a candidate.
- 2. A minor breach is dealt with by a standards panel under section 5.110 of the Act.

16. Overview of Division

- (1) This Division sets out rules of conduct for council members and candidates.
- (2) A reference in this Division to a council member includes a council member when acting as a committee member.

17. Misuse of local government resources

- (1) In this clause —
electoral purpose means the purpose of persuading electors to vote in a particular way at an election, referendum or other poll held under the Act, the *Electoral Act 1907* or the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*;
resources of a local government includes —
 - (a) local government property; and
 - (b) services provided, or paid for, by a local government.
- (2) A council member must not, directly or indirectly, use the resources of a local government for an electoral purpose or other purpose unless authorised under the Act, or by the local government or the CEO, to use the resources for that purpose.

18. Securing personal advantage or disadvantaging others

- (1) A council member must not make improper use of their office —
 - (a) to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for the council member or any other person; or
 - (b) to cause detriment to the local government or any other person.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to conduct that contravenes section 5.93 of the Act or *The Criminal Code* section 83.

19. Prohibition against involvement in administration

- (1) A council member must not undertake a task that contributes to the administration of the local government unless authorised by the local government or the CEO to undertake that task.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to anything that a council member does as part of the deliberations at a council or committee meeting.

20. Relationship with local government employees

- (1) In this clause —
local government employee means a person —
- (a) employed by a local government under section 5.36(1) of the Act; or
 - (b) engaged by a local government under a contract for services.
- (2) A council member or candidate must not —
- (a) direct or attempt to direct a local government employee to do or not to do anything in their capacity as a local government employee; or
 - (b) attempt to influence, by means of a threat or the promise of a reward, the conduct of a local government employee in their capacity as a local government employee; or
 - (c) act in an abusive or threatening manner towards a local government employee.
- (3) Subclause (2)(a) does not apply to anything that a council member does as part of the deliberations at a council or committee meeting.
- (4) If a council member or candidate, in their capacity as a council member or candidate, is attending a council or committee meeting or other organised event (for example, a briefing or workshop), the council member or candidate must not orally, in writing or by any other means —
- (a) make a statement that a local government employee is incompetent or dishonest; or
 - (b) use an offensive or objectionable expression when referring to a local government employee.
- (5) Subclause (4)(a) does not apply to conduct that is unlawful under *The Criminal Code* Chapter XXXV.

21. Disclosure of information

- (1) In this clause —
closed meeting means a council or committee meeting, or a part of a council or committee meeting, that is closed to members of the public under section 5.23(2) of the Act;

confidential document means a document marked by the CEO, or by a person authorised by the CEO, to clearly show that the information in the document is not to be disclosed;

document includes a part of a document;

non-confidential document means a document that is not a confidential document.

- (2) A council member must not disclose information that the council member —
 - (a) derived from a confidential document; or
 - (b) acquired at a closed meeting other than information derived from a non-confidential document.
- (3) Subclause (2) does not prevent a council member from disclosing information —
 - (a) at a closed meeting; or
 - (b) to the extent specified by the council and subject to such other conditions as the council determines; or
 - (c) that is already in the public domain; or
 - (d) to an officer of the Department; or
 - (e) to the Minister; or
 - (f) to a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice; or
 - (g) if the disclosure is required or permitted by law.

22. Disclosure of interests

- (1) In this clause —

interest —

 - (a) means an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest; and
 - (b) includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association.

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- (2) A council member who has an interest in any matter to be discussed at a council or committee meeting attended by the council member must disclose the nature of the interest —
 - (a) in a written notice given to the CEO before the meeting; or
 - (b) at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.
- (3) Subclause (2) does not apply to an interest referred to in section 5.60 of the Act.
- (4) Subclause (2) does not apply if a council member fails to disclose an interest because the council member did not know —
 - (a) that they had an interest in the matter; or
 - (b) that the matter in which they had an interest would be discussed at the meeting and the council member disclosed the interest as soon as possible after the discussion began.
- (5) If, under subclause (2)(a), a council member discloses an interest in a written notice given to the CEO before a meeting, then —
 - (a) before the meeting the CEO must cause the notice to be given to the person who is to preside at the meeting; and
 - (b) at the meeting the person presiding must bring the notice and its contents to the attention of the persons present immediately before any matter to which the disclosure relates is discussed.
- (6) Subclause (7) applies in relation to an interest if —
 - (a) under subclause (2)(b) or (4)(b) the interest is disclosed at a meeting; or
 - (b) under subclause (5)(b) notice of the interest is brought to the attention of the persons present at a meeting.
- (7) The nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

23. Compliance with plan requirement

If a plan under clause 12(4)(b) in relation to a council member includes a requirement referred to in clause 12(6), the council member must comply with the requirement.

N. HAGLEY, Clerk of the Executive Council.

Defined terms

[This is a list of terms defined and the provisions where they are defined.

The list is not part of the law.]

Defined term	Provision(s)
Act.....	Sch. 1 cl. 2(1)
candidate	Sch. 1 cl. 2(1)
closed meeting	Sch. 1 cl. 21(1)
complaint	Sch. 1 cl. 2(1)
confidential document.....	Sch. 1 cl. 21(1)
document.....	Sch. 1 cl. 21(1)
electoral purpose	Sch. 1 cl. 17(1)
interest.....	Sch. 1 cl. 22(1)
local government employee	Sch. 1 cl. 20(1)
non-confidential document	Sch. 1 cl. 21(1)
publish.....	Sch. 1 cl. 2(1)
resources of a local government.....	Sch. 1 cl. 17(1)