



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT
Policy Number	P-2021-02
Business Unit/s	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Date of Adoption	19 JANUARY 2021
Resolution Number	
Review Date	19 JANUARY 2024
Date Repealed	

1.0 PURPOSE:

This policy outlines and endorses the State Government framework for the standard of conduct and behaviour expected of all Mayors and Councillors whilst acting in their capacity as an elected member.

Gladstone Regional Council supports the consistent adoption of a Councillor Code of Conduct and accordingly in adopting the policy.

The requirements of this policy are in addition to the roles, responsibilities and obligations of Councillors, as set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*.

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Councillors.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION¹:

Crime & Corruption Act 2001
Integrity Act 2009
Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Public Sector Ethics Act 1994

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Queensland Government – Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland

Councillor Acceptable Request Guidelines Policy

¹ This is an indicative and not an exhaustive list of Acts which apply to Councillors as individuals acting in their role as a Councillor.

Council Meeting Procedures Policy
Councillor Complaint Investigation Policy
Councillor Expenses Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities Policy

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

To assist in interpretation of this policy the following definitions apply:

Acts	means all legislation including State legislation and Commonwealth legislation.
Chief Executive Officer	means the chief executive officer of Council
Council	means Gladstone Regional Council
Councillor	means a councillor of Council as defined under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> and includes the Mayor of Council.
Council Officer	means a local government employee as defined under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT:

This policy seeks to demonstrate Council's commitment to the local government principles contained in the *Local Government Act 2009* (the LGA):

- transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest;
- sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services;
- democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement;
- good governance of, and by, local government; and
- ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

Section 150D of the LGA requires the Minister of Local Government to make a code of conduct that sets out the standards of behaviour for councillors in performing their functions as councillors under the LGA. The code of conduct, known as *the 'Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland'* is published on the department's website in accordance with s150E of the LGA.

Council confirms its commitment to adhere to the standards of behaviour outlined in the *'Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland'*.

In addition, the following additional policies contain acceptable standards for Councillor interactions with employees and particular constituents:

- Council Meeting Procedures Policy;
- Council's Acceptable Request Guidelines Policy; and
- Councillor Interaction Guidelines with Applicants (including Lobbyists, Developers & Submitters) for Council Approval Policy.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS:

Nil.

8.0 REVIEW TRIGGER:

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation or governing documents are amended or replaced; or
2. Other circumstances as determined by resolution of Council or the CEO; or
3. Three years from date of adoption.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS			
Document History	Date	Council Resolution No.	Notes (including the prior Policy No, precise of change/s, etc)
Originally Approved	19 April 2011	G/11/523	
Amendment 1	19 July 2016	G/16/2850	Finance & Governance Committee 12/07/2016 - FCGC/16/0036
Amendment 2	6 January 2017		Updated Table 1 Administratively
Amendment 3	23 January 2018		Updated Table 1 Administratively to add Policy adopted (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocol – Events Policy)
Amendment 4	4 December 2018	G/18/3592	Updated to reference State Government mandated Code of Conduct for Councillors and remove other material to separate policies.
Amendment 5	19 January 2021		Updated to remove 'Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland' and ancillary amendments.

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LEISA DOWLING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER