

## Council Policy – Fraud and Corruption

<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
<b>Responsible Business Unit/s</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Affected Business Unit/s</b>	All

### Objective

Council recognises that fraudulent and corrupt conduct has the potential to cause significant financial and non-financial harm to the Shire of Ashburton (Shire).

The Shire is committed to implementing strategies to prevent, detect, and respond to allegations of fraud and corruption within the organisation.

### Scope

The prevention and detection of fraud and corruption is a collective responsibility of all persons engaged, or closely associated, with the Shire in any capacity.

This policy applies to all elected members, committee members, candidates, working group members, employees, agency staff, volunteers, third parties - such as a consultants, contractors, and suppliers and the community.

### Policy Statement

Acts of fraud and corruption can damage the Shire's capacity to serve the community through loss of financial capacity, assets, community trust and reputational damage.

The Council will not tolerate fraud or any corrupt conduct by elected members and/or employees.

The Council will appropriately resource the Shire to implement fraud and corruption prevention, detection, and response strategies.

### Compliance

Elected members, committee members and candidates are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates.

Employees are expected to comply with the Employee Code of Conduct, not engage in any fraudulent, corrupt, or illegal behaviour, and report any information about actual or potential fraudulent, corrupt or illegal activities.

The Shire expects goods and service providers and contractors to adhere to the Shire's Statement of Business Ethics within any dealings with the Shire.

## Reporting

The Shire will:

- offer multiple ways to report suspected acts of fraud and corruption.
- will handle investigations into fraud and corruption confidentially and consistently, in line with Council Policy – Complaints Management and/or the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* (PID Act), as applicable.
- reasonably seek to recover losses suffered through acts of fraud and corruption.

## Corruption and Crime Commission

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as the principal officer of a notifying authority (Shire) is required by the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* to notify the Corruption and Crime Commission of any matter that they suspect, on reasonable grounds, concerns serious misconduct by a public officer or the Public Sector Commission, in the event of minor misconduct.

## Public Interest Disclosure

Any person may make an appropriate disclosure of public interest information to a proper authority, including local government. The legislation which governs such disclosures is the PID Act.

The Shire will protect any person who reports suspected or alleged acts of fraud and corruption, from retaliation, consistent with the requirements of the PID Act.

## Fraud and Corruption Control Plan

The CEO will develop and implement a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan to deliver the policy objective, in compliance with the requirements of the Australian Standard AS 8001:2021 Fraud and corruption control.

The Fraud and Corruption Control Plan will be reviewed internally on a biennial basis.

## Relevant policies/documents

Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates  
Employee Code of Conduct  
Fraud and Corruption Control Plan  
Statement of Business Ethics  
Council Policy – Risk Management  
Council Policy – Complaints Management  
Directive – Grievance and Resolution

## Relevant legislation/local laws

*Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*

*Local Government Act 1995*

*Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021*

*Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*

Australian Standard AS 8001:2021 Fraud and corruption control

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### Office use only

<b>Relevant delegations</b>	Nil			
<b>Council adoption</b>	<b>Date</b>	18 March 2025	<b>Resolution #</b>	028/2025
<b>Reviewed/modified</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Resolution #</b>	
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<b>Next review due</b>	<b>Date</b>	2027		

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