

Introduction

Wagga Wagga City Council (Council) is committed to high ethical standards and this Statement of Business Ethics sets out the standards required of Council officials (Councillors, staff and delegates), and other business associates.

It is essential that all Council officials, contractors and their staff and other business associates work together to maintain Council's reputation.

The standards contained in this statement are based on those in Council's Code of Conduct.

In dealing with our Council, you are responsible for maintaining our high ethical standards in all contract work. Council expects all parties to perform their duties with integrity, honesty and fairness.

Council's corporate values

Council's corporate values are the guiding principles on which Council bases its beliefs and behaviour. They underpin all that Council does as an organisation.

These values are:

- Respect
- Innovation
- Teamwork
- Trust

What you can expect from Council

Staff, which includes employees, contractors, consultants and volunteers, are bound by our code of conduct. They are accountable for their actions and are expected to;

- Respect and follow Council's policies and procedures, and abide by the law
- Be accountable and act in the public interest
- Promote fair and open competition while seeking best value for money
- Avoid personal conflicts of interest with public duty

- Respond promptly to reasonable requests for advice and information
- Not solicit or accept any benefit from a provider for the discharge of official duties
- Protect confidential information
- Assess applications objectively, considering all relevant and material factors
- Use public resources effectively and efficiently
- Deal fairly, honestly and ethically with all individuals and organisations

What Council asks of you

All private sector providers of goods and services observe the following principles when doing business with Council:

- Act ethically, fairly and honestly in all dealings with Council
- Act with regard to equity and respect principles towards all staff and community members regardless of gender or ethnicity
- Comply with conditions set out in documents supplied by Council
- Abstain from collusive practices and not act secretly or fraudulently
- Provide accurate and reliable advice and information when required
- Declare actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as possible
- Take all reasonable measures to prevent the disclosure of confidential Council information
- Refrain from lobbying or canvassing Councillors or members of staff during the tender process
- Refrain from offering Council staff or Councillors any financial or other inducement which may give any impression of unfair advantage
- Refrain from discussing Council business or dealings in the media, except with Council's consent
- Assist the Council to prevent unethical and fraudulent practise in our business relationships
- Deliver value for money

Conflicts of interest

If a conflict of interest in your work with Council exists or arises, you must disclose it. A conflict of interest arises if your own interests, or those of other people close to you, are in disagreement with your obligations to Council.

A conflict would exist where there is a personal interest, or a relative, company, employer or other person known to you has an interest that could lead you to be influenced in the way you carry out your duties for Council.

Reporting corruption, maladministration and wastage

When contracted to Council you are considered to be a public official for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Act and subject to the ICAC's jurisdiction.

When doing work for Council you have a responsibility to report any suspected instances of corruption, maladministration or serious and substantial waste to Council.

Alternatively, you can report any suspected instances of corruption to the ICAC or maladministration to the Ombudsman.

Confidential and personal information

You must take care to maintain the security of any confidential or personal information you become aware of in your work with Council.

You must abide by the privacy legislation governing the collection, holding, use, correction, disclosure or transfer of personal information obtained through your dealings with Council.

No one should access, use or remove from Council premises any information or personal information, unless they need it for their work purposes and have authorisation to use or disclose the information.

Any breach of the security, or misuse, of Council's confidential or personal information must be reported to the Chief Operating Officer (Privacy Contact Officer).

Council resources

Council resources including materials, equipment, vehicles, documents, records, data and information, may only be used to do work for Council with approval.

Public comment

You must not make any public comment or statement that would lead anyone to believe that you are expressing the views or policies of Council.

This includes comments or statements made at public and community meetings, via the media, or when it is reasonably foreseeable that the comments, or statements, will become known to the public at large.

Alcohol and Drugs

No one should come to work for the council, or return to work, under the influence of alcohol or other drugs that could impair their ability to carry out their job or cause danger to the safety of themselves or others.

Offers of Secondary Employment to Council Staff

If you offer a Council staff member a second job, whilst they are still employed with the Council, the staff member will need to seek approval from the General Manager.

Approval will not be given if the second job could conflict with their official duties with the Council.

Gifts or Benefits

Gifts or benefits which are designed to gain an advantage for yourself or your organisation or which the public could reasonably see as likely to cause that Council official to depart from his or her proper course of duty, must not be offered to any Council official.

Token gifts may be given if the gift is not likely to be seen as compromising. Council officials should not accept any gift in relation to their work, which could influence, or be seen to influence, their impartiality in relation to the work or services that are being provided to Council. Cash must never, in any circumstances, be offered to a Council official.

If a gift or benefit is offered to a Council official to influence the way they do their work, the official must report it immediately under Council's policies and procedures.

Breaches of the Code

Failure to comply with this Statement of Business Ethics may cause penalty clauses in a contract with Council to be invoked and/or civil or criminal proceedings to be brought, or other action considered appropriate by Council.

Wagga Wagga City Council's Commitment

Wagga Wagga City Council is committed to the standards in this Statement of Business Ethics. They reflect the high standards expected by our community and you are expected to maintain these standards and principles when undertaking work for, or on behalf of our Council.

If you have any questions, or are unsure about any matter relating to this Statement of Business Ethics and Principles of Business Excellence, you can contact Council's Chief Operating Officer.

Contact us

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Statement of Business Ethics

