



Tiwi Islands Regional Council

Title: Code of Conduct – Elected Members, Local Authorities and Council Committee Members

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POLICY

This Code of Conduct is to provide Elected Members and Local Authority members and Council Committee Members with guidelines for an acceptable standard of professional conduct.

The Local Government Act 2019 requires Councils to have a code of Conduct. Section 77 – Obligations to have a code of conduct.

- (1) A council must have a code of conduct
- (2) The code of conduct must govern the conduct of members of the council, members of local boards, and members of council committees
- (3) A council's code of conduct must be accessible on its website

The Code addresses in a concise manner the ethical responsibilities of Elected Members, and Local Authority members and encourages a high level of accountability and transparency in Local Government.

The provisions of the Northern Territory Local Government Act and regulations apply to all Elected Members and Local Authority members in the Tiwi Islands Regional Council (TIRC). These provisions are legally enforceable. The Code, whilst having no legislative force aims to be complementary to the provisions of the Tiwi Islands Regional Council and regulations.

The Code provides a guide and a basis of expectations for Elected Members and Local Authority members and encourages a commitment to ethical and professional behaviour of all Elected Members and Local Authority members. All Elected Members and Local Authority members are urged to read the Code and retain a copy as a personal reference source.

All new Elected Members and Local Authority members receive a copy of this Code and sign to declare their acceptance and understanding.



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Code of Conduct – Elected Members, Local Authorities and Council Committee Members – Core Provisions

The code of conduct set out in the draft Local Government Act (NT) 2019 governs the conduct of members of council, local authority and council committee.

1 Honesty and integrity

A member must act honestly and with integrity in performing official functions.

2 Care and diligence

A member must act with reasonable care and diligence in performing official functions.

3 Courtesy

A member must act with courtesy towards other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.

4 Conduct towards council staff

A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of, council staff.

5 Respect for cultural diversity

A member must respect cultural diversity and must not therefore discriminate against others, or the opinions of others, on the ground of their cultural background.

6 Conflict of interest

6.1 A member must avoid any conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, when undertaking official functions and responsibilities.

6.2 If a conflict of interest exists, the member must comply with any statutory obligations of disclosure.

7 Respect for confidences

7.1 A member must respect the confidentiality of information obtained in confidence in the member's official capacity.

7.2 A member must not make improper use of confidential information obtained in an official capacity to gain a private benefit or to cause harm to another.

8 Gifts

8.1 A member must not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

8.2 A member must not accept a gift from a person that is given in relation to the person's interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

9 Accountability

A member must be prepared at all times to account for the member's performance as a member and the member's use of council resources

10 Interests of municipality, region or shire to be paramount



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10.1 A member must act in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

10.2 In particular, a member must seek to ensure that the member's decisions and actions are based on an honest, reasonable and properly informed judgment about what best advances the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

11 Training

A member must undertake relevant training in good faith.

Availability of the Code

The availability of this Code should be promoted to the local community, published on the Council website and displayed in a prominent position at the offices of the Council.

Adoption of the Code

The Code of Conduct – elected members, local authorities and council committee should be signed by each party to demonstrate their commitment and understanding of the expectations for those roles.

Declaration:

I have read and agree to the Code of Conduct policy.

.....
Signature Name

Date:...../...../.....