

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is :

- to create a positive reporting environment that encourages the making of public interest disclosures and provides support and protection to those who make public interest disclosures;
- to establish Council's commitment to the promotion and proper management of public interest disclosures; and
- to ensure Council fulfils its responsibility under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 ('the Act').

Scope

This policy is applicable to all employees, elected members, contractor and volunteers.

Policy Statement

1. Council recognises the important role Councillors, employees and members of the public can play in the identification of cases of maladministration, corrupt conduct and the misuse of public resources or contraventions giving rise to dangers to public health, safety or the environment.
2. Council supports an organisational culture where all Councillors and employees feel comfortable about reporting wrongdoing.
3. The CEO shall ensure Council has reasonable procedures in place to deal with public interest disclosures in compliance with s28 of the Act.
4. Council recognises the sensitivities associated with public interest disclosures and the need to maintain public confidence in its process for managing public interest disclosures. To that end, Council is committed to:
 - 4.1 promoting the public interest by facilitating public interest disclosures of wrongdoing in the public sector;
 - 4.2 ensuring that public interest disclosures are properly made, assessed and, when appropriate, investigated and dealt with in a timely manner;
 - 4.3 affording support and protection from reprisals to any person making a public interest disclosure and appropriately dealing with employees who take reprisal action;
 - 4.4 ensuring that appropriate consideration is given to the interests of persons who are the subject of a public interest disclosure; and
 - 4.5 ensuring that the proper records of public interest disclosures are maintained and ensuring the confidentiality of all records created during the investigation and reporting of public interest disclosures, noting that Council may be legally required to disclose details of public interest disclosures.
5. The Chief Executive Officer will develop an Administrative Guideline to describe the procedures for the management of Public Interest Disclosures (PIDs).

Applicable Legislation

This policy responds to the obligations established by section 28(1) of the PID Act.

Definitions

CEO refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Council refers to the Whitsunday Regional Council

Employee refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

Related Documents

Administrative Action Complaint Policy

Code of Conduct for Employees

Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Managing a Public Interest Disclosure Program - A Guide for Public Sector Organisations (Queensland Ombudsman)

Making a Public Interest Disclosure: A guide for individuals working in the public sector (Queensland Ombudsman)

Handling a Public Interest Disclosure: A guide for public sector managers and supervisors (Queensland Ombudsman)

Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Corporate Services - Governance & Administration
CORP_34

Human Rights Compatibility Statement

This Policy has been assessed as compatible with the Human Rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

COUNCIL POLICY			
Date Adopted by Council	14 October 2020	Council Resolution	2020/10/14.07
Effective Date	30 October 2020	Next Review Date	30 October 2021
Responsible Officer(s)	Manager Governance and Administration	Revokes	LSP_OMCEO_12
Public Consultation: Yes / No			