

Date adopted August 2013
Date reviewed - current as at May 2023
To be reviewed May 2026
Responsible Officer Information Coordinator

Fully compliant with Victorian
Charter of Human Rights and
Responsibilities Act 2006



POLICY TITLE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

POLICY NUMBER POL/GOV018

1. PURPOSE

This policy aims to ensure a consistent approach to the administration of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees of Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council), contractors, members of special committees and volunteers.

3. POLICY

Council will not tolerate improper conduct by employees, authorised officers, Councillors, contractors, members of special committees or volunteers, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and will support the making of disclosures that reveal improper conduct as defined in the accompanying procedure.

Council will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures, or cooperate or intend to cooperate with an investigation from any detrimental action in reprisal for making a disclosure. Council will afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

Whilst disclosures of alleged improper conduct by Council's Chief Executive Officer may be made to Council, Council encourages the making of such disclosures directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

Council encourages a 'speak-up' culture in relation to reporting of corrupt or improper conduct.

4. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

- PRO/GOV018 Public Interest Disclosure Procedure
- POL/STAFF100 Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- POL/CORP226 Fraud Control Policy

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011

6. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version Number	Issue Date	Description of Change
1.0	August 2013	Initial Release
1.1	July 2016	Review
1.2	August 2019	Review
2.0	March 2020	Review
2.1	May 2023	Review

Signed: Scott Barber

CEO

Date: 09/05/2023