

Public Interest Disclosure procedure

Statement of Commitment

The *Public Interest disclosure Act 2018* (PID Act) establishes a process to encourage and facilitate the disclosure of public interest information to certain persons or authorities – this information is known as a public interest disclosure.

A public interest disclosure is a disclosure (information and/or report) which is made by a person who discloses to a relevant authority (in local government, that is a council), information which indicates wrongdoing in relation to two types of public interest information:

- Environmental and health information
- Public Administration information

The PID Act encourages and facilitates disclosures by ensuring that proper procedures and protections are in place for making and dealing with such disclosures.

I am committed to the protection of informants who make public interest disclosures, and to the genuine and efficient consideration and action in relation to such disclosures. Wakefield Regional Council employees and Elected Members share that commitment.

As CEO, and designated Principal Officer for the purposes of the PID Act, I expect this legislation will encourage and facilitate:

- further transparency and accountability in Council's administrative and management practices; and
- the disclosure, in the public interest, of information about substantial risks to public health or safety, or to the environment, or about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration.

This procedure has been prepared in accordance with the PID Act and aims to support the legislation by ensuring steps are in place for making disclosures, dealing with disclosures and providing appropriate protections for those who make disclosures.

A simple outline of steps required to manage a public interest disclosure can be found towards the end of this document. Contact details of the Responsible Officers for the PID Act can be found below and any questions about this procedure should be directed, in the first instance, to one of those officers.

Andrew MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Officers – contact details

In accordance with the PID Act, as of 1 July 2019 the following people are Responsible Officers for Wakefield Regional Council:

- Governance Officer Clare Elsworthy
- Corporate Services Manager Kelly Westell

The officers may be contacted by: phone (8862 0800), email (disclosures@wrc.sa.gov.au) or post marked: Strictly Confidential, Responsible Officer (PID Act), PO Box 167, Balaklava 5461. Further details can be found on Council's website: wrc.sa.gov.au.

1. Introduction

1.1. Wakefield Regional Council is committed to:

- upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices;
- the protection of informants who make public interest disclosures; and
- the genuine and efficient consideration and action in relation to information provided in a public interest disclosure

and, therefore, encourages the making of appropriate disclosures that reveal public interest information in accordance with this procedure.

1.2. The Council is also committed to:

- referring, as necessary, appropriate disclosures to another relevant authority;
- where the disclosure relates to corruption, or serious or systemic misconduct or maladministration in public administration, reporting the disclosure directly to the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act;
- otherwise facilitating the investigation of appropriate disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved; and
- rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable in all circumstances.

1.3. This document explains the applicable procedures and processes that Council has in place for making and dealing with appropriate disclosures of public interest information, to ensure that Council:

- fulfils its responsibilities under the PID Act and the ICAC Act;
- appropriately encourages and facilitates disclosures of public interest information, including environmental and health information regarding a location within the Council area;
- provides a process by which disclosures may be made so that they are properly investigated;
- provides appropriate protection for those making disclosures in line with the Act; and
- recognises the need to appropriately support informants, responsible officers and, as appropriate, public officers affected by any appropriate disclosure.

1.4. The Council will review and update this procedure annually.

2. Scope

2.1. This procedure applies to appropriate disclosures of public interest information, that are made in accordance with the PID Act, by public officers including Council Members, officers and employees of the Council, and by members of the public.

2.2. This procedure is intended to complement the reporting framework under the ICAC Act, and designed to complement the existing communication channels within Council and to operate in conjunction with other existing policies, including the:

- Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy;
- Codes of Conduct for Council Employees and Council Members; and
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy.

3. Definitions - *all definitions relating to this procedure can be found in Appendix A.*

5. Responsibilities

5.1. The Principal Officer is responsible for:

- 5.1.1. ensuring that one or more appropriately qualified officers or employees of the Council are designated as responsible officers of the Council for the purposes of the PID Act and undertake any training required by the PID Regulations; and
- 5.1.2. ensuring that the name and contact details of each responsible officer of the Council are made available to officers and employees of the council; and
- 5.1.3. the preparation and maintenance of this procedure in accordance with the requirements of the PID Act and relevant directions and guidelines.

5.2. A person designated as a Responsible Officer for the Council must:

- 5.2.1. receive appropriate disclosures relating to the Council and ensure compliance with the PID Act, and this procedure, in relation to any such disclosures;
 - 5.2.2. make appropriate recommendations to the Principal Officer in relation to dealing with disclosures, including any suggested changes to this procedure; and
 - 5.2.3. provide advice to officers and employees of the Council in relation to the administration of the PID Act; and
 - 5.2.4. complete any relevant training courses approved by the Commissioner;
- and may:
- carry out any other functions relating to the PID Act.

5.3. A Council member, employee or officer of the Council is responsible for:

- 5.3.1. ensuring they comply with this procedure when dealing with any disclosure; and
- 5.3.2. immediately referring any disclosure of environmental and health information made to them by a member of the public, or any disclosure of public interest information made to them by a public officer, to the Responsible Officer.

5.4. Upon receipt of a disclosure, the Responsible Officer will deal with the disclosure in accordance with this procedure, and within the authority granted by the PID Act.

5.5. If an informant believes his/her disclosure is not being dealt with appropriately, or in line with this procedure, they should contact the Responsible Officer in the first instance.

5.6. The Responsible Officers – refer to Appendix D – may be contacted by: phone (8862 0800), email (disclosures@wrc.sa.gov.au) or post: Confidential, Responsible Officer (PID Act), PO Box 167, Balaklava 5461

6. Confidentiality

6.1. The identity of an informant will be maintained as confidential.

6.2. A recipient of an appropriate disclosure may divulge the identity of an informant only if:

- 6.2.1. the recipient believes on reasonable grounds it is necessary to divulge the identity to prevent or minimise an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person, **and** the identity of the informant is then divulged to a person or authority that the recipient believes on reasonable grounds is the most appropriate authority or person to take relevant action;

- 6.2.2. the recipient has been issued with a notice from the OPI advising that the identity of the informant is required by the OPI, in which case it must be disclosed to the OPI;
 - 6.2.3. doing so is necessary for the matter to be properly investigated (but only to the extent necessary to ensure proper investigation); or
 - 6.2.4. the informant consents to his/her identity being disclosed
- 6.3. An informant may wish to remain anonymous, but in that event must ensure the allegation is sufficiently supported by details and evidence to enable the matter to be properly investigated.

7. Disclosure process

- 7.1. Relevantly for the purposes of this procedure, the PID Act provides for protection for informants where public interest disclosures are made:
- 7.1.1. by a member of the public or a public officer about environmental or health information which the informant reasonably believes is true or may be true (and is significant enough to warrant disclosure) regarding a location within the Council area; and/or
 - 7.1.2. by a public officer with a reasonable suspicion about public administration information regarding either a location within a Council area or a public officer who is a member, officer or employee of the Council.
- 7.2. Disclosures should, where possible, be directed in the first instance to the Responsible Officer.
- 7.3. However, nothing in this procedure prevents a person from making a disclosure to another Relevant Authority, including a Relevant Authority external to the Council. This is a choice to be made by the informant at his/her discretion.
- 7.4. Relevant considerations for an informant in determining where to direct a disclosure are:

Disclosure ...	Should usually be made to ...
Relating to an elected member or a member of council staff, including the CEO (or person acting in that position)	Responsible Officer
Relating to a person appointed as a Responsible Officer	Another person appointed as a Responsible Officer or, failing this, to a Relevant Authority external to the Council (such as the OPI)
Relating to public administration information about a public officer who is a member, officer or employee of Council	Responsible Officer, or to the person responsible (either in fact, or as designated by the PID Act) for the management/supervision of that public officer
Relating to maladministration or misconduct in public administration	May be reported to OPI in accordance with the ICAC Act
If there is a reasonable suspicion of corruption, or of maladministration or misconduct that is serious or systemic	Must be reported to the OPI in accordance with the Directions and Guidelines
If a disclosure contains allegations of fraud or corruption	Should report the matter in accordance with Council's Fraud and Corruption Policy, which provides that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the disclosure relates to corruption in public administration it will be reported to the OPI; and • if the disclosure relates to fraud, it may be reported to the Responsible Officer or to SAPOL.

7.5. A disclosure may be made in person, by telephone or in writing (by post, email or via Council's website). Where a disclosure is made by telephone, the recipient must take notes of the conversation and, if possible, ask the informant to verify and sign the notes.

7.6. Part 14 details steps to be taken to ensure that a disclosure is received securely.

8. Receipt of a disclosure

8.1. A flowchart outlining the disclosure process is at **Appendix C** to this procedure.

8.2. If a Council member, employee or officer receives a disclosure of public interest information regarding a location within the Council area, the recipient of that disclosure will:

8.2.1. ask the informant whether they consent to the details of their identity being provided to the Responsible Officer, and in doing so advise the informant that a failure to provide that consent may mean that the disclosure cannot be properly investigated; and

8.2.2. refer the disclosure to the Responsible Officer and, in doing so, comply with the wishes of the informant with respect to whether details of their identity may be divulged.

8.3. Upon the receipt of a disclosure (whether directly, or by referral from a Council Member, employee or officer), the Responsible Officer will:

8.3.1. immediately undertake a preliminary assessment in accordance with Part 8 of this procedure; and

8.3.2. as soon as practicable thereafter, in accordance with Part 9 of this procedure:

8.3.2.1. notify the OPI of the disclosure; and

8.3.2.2. confirm receipt of the disclosure with the informant; and

8.3.3. subject to the outcome of the preliminary assessment, then take appropriate action, including, where required:

8.3.3.1. appointing an Independent Assessor to further investigate the disclosure in accordance with Part 10 of this procedure; and

8.3.3.2. notifying the informant of the outcome of any action, including any investigation in accordance with Part 11 of this procedure; and

8.3.3.3. notifying the OPI of the outcome of any action taken in accordance with Part 11 of this procedure; and/or

8.3.3.4. reporting the outcome of any action taken to the Minister in accordance with Part 11 of this procedure; and

8.3.3.5. preparing and issuing a final report to the Principal Officer in accordance with Part 12 of this procedure.

9. Preliminary Assessment of disclosure

9.1. Where the identity of the informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will acknowledge receipt of the disclosure within two business days and, in doing so, will provide a copy of this procedure to the informant.

- 9.2. Upon receipt of a disclosure, the Responsible Officer will undertake a preliminary assessment to determine:
 - 9.2.1. if the content of the disclosure suggests there is an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person or the public generally;
 - 9.2.2. if the disclosures relate to corruption in public administration, or serious or systemic misconduct or maladministration in public administration; or
 - 9.2.3. if the information justifies further action, including a decision as to whether the disclosure:
 - 9.2.3.1. is frivolous, vexatious or trivial (in which case, no further action will be taken in relation to the disclosure);
 - 9.2.3.2. involves a matter which has already been investigated or acted upon by a Relevant Authority and there is no reason to re-examine the matter or there is other good reason why no action should be taken in respect of the matter (in which case, no further action will be taken in relation to the disclosure);
 - 9.2.3.3. requires referral to another Relevant Authority external to the Council; or
 - 9.2.3.4. warrants referral to an Independent Assessor for a formal investigation and report to Council.
- 9.3. Where the disclosure relates to public administration information about a public officer who is a member, officer or employee of the Council – and is made to the person responsible for the management or supervision of that public officer – the manager/supervisor will conduct the preliminary assessment instead of the Responsible Officer, and will then report the outcome of his/her determination following the preliminary assessment to the Responsible Officer to action.
- 9.4. The Responsible Officer must report the outcome of his/her determination following the preliminary assessment to the CEO (unless the disclosure relates to the CEO). Any report prepared in accordance with this Part will not disclose particulars that will, or are likely to, lead to identification of the informant, unless the circumstances in clause 5.2 of this procedure apply.
- 9.5. Where the Responsible Officer (or supervisor) determines the content of the disclosure suggests there is an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person or to the public generally, the Responsible Officer (or supervisor) must immediately communicate such information to the most appropriate agency (for example, South Australia Police, SafeWork SA, SA Ambulance, Environment Protection Authority). In doing so, the Responsible Officer or supervisor must also have regard to clause 5.2.1 of this procedure.
- 9.6. Where the Responsible Officer (or supervisor) forms a reasonable suspicion that the matter/s that are the subject of the disclosure involve corruption in public administration, or serious or systemic misconduct or maladministration in public administration, the Responsible Officer (or supervisor) must comply with his/her reporting obligations under the ICAC Act.
- 9.7. Where the Responsible Officer determines the disclosure warrants referral to an external body or another Relevant Authority, the Responsible Officer will undertake the referral, including ensuring that such information as is necessary to enable action to be taken is communicated to the most appropriate person or relevant authority to take that action. Where the preliminary assessment is being undertaken by the supervisor, the supervisor will include this recommendation in his/her report to the Responsible Officer for actioning.

- 9.8. Where the Responsible Officer determines the disclosure warrants further investigation, the Responsible Officer will, having regard to available resources, appoint the Independent Assessor and refer the disclosure to the Independent Assessor for investigation. Where the preliminary assessment is being undertaken by the supervisor, the supervisor will include this recommendation in his/her report to the Responsible Officer for actioning.
- 9.9. Where the Responsible Officer determines the disclosure requires any other action to ensure the matter the subject of the disclosure is properly addressed, the Responsible Officer will include in his/her determination details of that other recommended action. Where the preliminary assessment is being undertaken by the supervisor, the supervisor will include this recommendation in his/her report to the Responsible Officer for actioning.

10. Notification of preliminary assessment

- 10.1. If the identity of the informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the informant of the outcome of his/her determination in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable after the preliminary assessment has been made, and in any event **within 30 days of receipt** of the disclosure. In doing so, the Responsible Officer must advise the informant of:
 - 10.1.1. any action that has been, or will be, taken in relation to the disclosure; or
 - 10.1.2. if no action is being taken in relation to the disclosure, the reason/s why.
- 10.2. If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the informant in accordance with clause 9.1 above, the informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent disclosure of that information to a journalist or Member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.
- 10.3. If the informant is dissatisfied with the Responsible Officer's determination, it is open to him/her to report the disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to Council.
- 10.4. As soon as reasonably practicable following the preliminary assessment and notification to the informant, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au to notify OPI of the disclosure (**Initial Notification**), and in doing so must ensure the details required by Guideline 1.4 of the PID Guidelines are included in the Initial Notification.
- 10.5. The Responsible Officer will retain the unique reference number issued by the OPI upon making the Initial Notification, and will ensure that reference number is provided to any other person or authority to whom the disclosure is referred.

11. Investigation procedure

- 11.1. Where the Responsible Officer determines, following a preliminary assessment, that a disclosure warrants referral to an Independent Assessor for a formal investigation and report to Council, the Responsible Officer will appoint an Independent Assessor in accordance with this Part to investigate the disclosure.
- 11.2. The Independent Assessor will be appointed on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the disclosure. The Council may prepare a list of pre-approved persons who may be appointed as an Independent Assessor in any given circumstances, in which case the Responsible Officer must have regard to this list in appointing the Independent Assessor.

- 11.3. The objectives of the investigation process are:
- 11.3.1. in appropriate circumstances, to investigate the substance of the disclosure and to determine whether there is evidence in support of the matters raised or, alternatively, to refute the report made;
 - 11.3.2. to collate information relating to the allegation as quickly as possible. This may involve taking steps to protect or preserve documents, materials and equipment;
 - 11.3.3. to consider the information collected and to draw conclusions objectively and impartially;
 - 11.3.4. to observe procedural fairness in the treatment of any person who is subject of the disclosure; and
 - 11.3.5. to make recommendations arising from the conclusions drawn concerning remedial or other appropriate action.
- 11.4. The Independent Assessor will observe the principles of natural justice throughout the investigation process. The investigation will be conducted in an efficient manner and will involve a thorough and balanced assessment of the available evidence and any other factors deemed relevant to making a fair and reasonable judgement about the matter.
- 11.5. Upon receipt of a disclosure referral under this Part, the Independent Assessor will bring the fact of the disclosure to the attention of the person who is the subject of it in writing within 5 days, and provide them with an opportunity to respond to the disclosure within a reasonable timeframe (either in writing or in person). The full details of any allegations contained in the disclosure need not be brought to the person's attention if the Independent Assessor considers that doing so will compromise the investigation.
- 11.6. During any interview with the Independent Assessor, the person who is the subject of a disclosure may be accompanied by any person providing support to him/her (including a lawyer) as he/she considers fit. Any costs incurred in relation to obtaining the assistance of a support person are the personal expenses of the person subject of the disclosure. The support person is bound by a duty of confidentiality in relation to any matter discussed during such interview.
- 11.7. The investigation will be undertaken in confidence. So long as the identity of the informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Independent Assessor will keep the identity of the informant confidential unless circumstances in clause 5.2 apply.
- 11.8. The Independent Assessor will keep the Responsible Officer informed of the expected timeframes for completion of the investigation and the provision of his/her investigation report.
- 11.9. Upon finalising an investigation the Independent Assessor must prepare an investigation report to the Responsible Officer that will contain the following details:
- 11.9.1. the allegation(s);
 - 11.9.2. an account of all relevant information received including any rejected evidence, and the reasons why the rejection occurred;
 - 11.9.3. the conclusions reached and the basis for them; and
 - 11.9.4. any recommendations arising from the conclusions, including any remedial action which should be taken by the Council.

The report is to be accompanied by:

- 11.9.5. the transcript or other record of any verbal evidence, including tape recordings; and
- 11.9.6. all documents, statements or other exhibits received by the Independent Assessor and accepted as evidence during the course of the investigation.

- 11.10. Any report prepared in accordance with this Part will not disclose particulars that will or are likely to lead to the identification of the informant, unless clause 5.2 applies.
- 11.11. The Responsible Officer must take whatever action he/she considers appropriate in the circumstances having regard to the matters identified in the Independent Assessor's report.

12. Notification of Further Action

- 12.1. So long as the identity of the informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the informant of the outcome of his/her determination in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Further Action has been taken and, in any event, **within either:**
- 12.1.1. **90 days of receipt** of the disclosure; or
 - 12.1.2. such longer period as may be specified by written notice given by the Responsible Officer within that 90 day period.
- 12.2. In doing so the Responsible Officer must advise the informant of:
- 12.2.1. any action that has been, or will be, taken in relation to the disclosure; or
 - 12.2.2. if no action is being taken in relation to the disclosure, the reason/s why.
- 12.3. If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the informant in accordance with clauses 11.1 and 11.2 above, the informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent disclosure of that information to a journalist or member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.
- 12.4. If the informant is dissatisfied with the Responsible Officer's determination or the action taken it is open to him/her to report the disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to the Council.
- 12.5. As soon as reasonably practicable following the preliminary assessment and notification to the informant, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au to notify OPI of the action taken in relation to the disclosure (**Further Notification**) and, in doing so, must ensure that the details required by Guideline 2 of the Public Interest disclosure Guidelines are included in the Further Notification.
- 12.6. If the disclosure came to the Council by way of a referral from a Minister, the Responsible Officer must ensure that the Minister is also notified of the action taken and outcomes in relation to the disclosure. The Minister should be notified in accordance with this clause following the preliminary assessment if the Responsible Officer determines that no action is to be taken.

13. Final Report and Recommendation

- 13.1. Upon finalising any action required in relation to a disclosure, the Responsible Officer must prepare a report that will contain the following details:
- 13.1.1. the subject of the disclosure;
 - 13.1.2. an account of the steps taken by the Responsible Officer including, where appropriate, enclosing a copy of any Independent Assessor's report;
 - 13.1.3. conclusions reached as a result of the steps taken in response to the disclosure and the basis for them; and
 - 13.1.4. any recommendations arising from the conclusions, including any remedial action which should be taken by the Council.

- 13.2. Any report prepared in accordance with this Part will not disclose particulars that will or are likely to lead to the identification of the informant, unless the circumstances in clause 5.2 of this procedure apply.
- 13.3. The Responsible Officer's Report must be provided to the CEO to action as he/she considers appropriate.
- 13.4. The CEO may, in his/her discretion, inform the elected body, on a confidential basis, of the fact that an investigation of a disclosure took place and the outcome of the investigation. Factors the CEO will take into account in determining whether to inform the elected body and the level of detail provided in doing so are to include:
- 13.4.1. if known, the identity of the Informant, and whether the Informant has consented to his/her identity being divulged;
 - 13.4.2. if applicable, the identity of any person the subject of the Disclosure;
 - 13.4.3. the impact (if any) of the investigation upon the Council's achievement of its objectives under its Strategic Plan and/or policies; and
 - 13.4.4. the impact on Council's operations and/or budget of action to finalise the matter.
- 13.5. In the event the disclosure and/or any subsequent investigation process is confined to issues that impact only upon Council staff and human resource processes, the CEO will not inform the elected body of the fact of the disclosure and/or investigation (since these matters fall outside the roles and responsibilities of elected members under the *Local Government Act 1999*).

14. Secure Handling and Storage of Information

- 14.1. The Responsible Officer must ensure accurate records of an appropriate disclosure are securely and confidentially maintained including notes of discussions, phone calls, interviews etc. All information relating to an appropriate disclosure is to be maintained as confidential and as such, the Responsible Officer will be solely responsible for the secure storage of this information, which will be stored separately from the Council's records.
- 14.2. In performing his/her duties, the Responsible Officer will maintain a confidential file of information (including documents, disks, tapes, film etc that contain information) that relates to a disclosure and/or is a product of the associated investigation/reporting process. All such information will be recorded in a register which is to remain confidential and be securely stored in a locked draw with only the Responsible Officers to have keys.
- 14.3. In the event that a person's appointment as a Responsible Officer is terminated, the person must provide this information to the newly-appointed Responsible Officer and having done so will continue to be bound by a duty of confidentiality in respect of an informant's identity and the information received as a result of the disclosure.
- 14.4. Although the Responsible Officer is ultimately responsible to ensure public interest information will be securely received and stored, the security and confidentiality obligations outlined in this part also apply to any Independent Assessor appointed pursuant to this procedure in relation to any Investigation.

15. Protection for the informant

- 15.1. Although the PID Act does not provide any protection to people who knowingly make disclosures that are false or misleading in a material particular, an informant who makes an appropriate disclosure will ordinarily be protected by:
- 15.1.1. immunity from criminal or civil liability;
 - 15.1.2. a prohibition on disclosure of his/her identity, other than in limited specific circumstances;
 - 15.1.3. a prohibition against victimisation; and
 - 15.1.4. a prohibition against hindering, obstructing or preventing an informant from making an appropriate disclosure
- 15.2. A person who personally commits an act of victimisation against an informant is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted.
- 15.3. The Council will take action as appropriate in the circumstances of the relevant disclosure/s to protect informants from victimisation, and/or from being hindered or obstructed in making a disclosure. Such action may include acting in accordance with the following risk minimisation steps:
- 15.3.1. As set out in the public interest disclosure procedure and/or referring the matter to the SA Police;
 - 15.3.2. Disciplinary action by the Council or the CEO (as appropriate) for any failure to act otherwise than in accordance with this procedure (including with respect to divulging the identity of an informant) in relation to a disclosure.

16. Availability of the procedure

- 16.1. This procedure will be available free of charge for inspection at the Council's offices during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website. Copies will also be provided to the public upon request.

Appendix A - Definitions

For the purposes of this procedure the following definitions apply.

<i>Commissioner</i>	The person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.
<i>Corruption in public administration</i>	<p>An offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to public officers) of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, which includes the following offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) bribery or corruption of public officers;(ii) threats or reprisals against public officers;(iii) abuse of public office;(iv) demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office;(v) offences relating to appointment to public office; or <p>An offence against the Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995 or the Public Corporations Act 1993, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or</p> <p>An offence against the Lobbyists Act 2015, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or</p> <p>Any other offence (including an offence against Part 5 (Offences of dishonesty) of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935) committed by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer or by a former public officer and related to his or her former capacity as a public officer, or by a person before becoming a public officer and related to his or her capacity as a public officer, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or</p> <p>Any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence;(ii) inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence;(iii) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence;(iv) conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence
<i>Detriment</i>	Injury, harm (including psychological harm), damage (including damage to reputation) or loss; intimidation or harassment; discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; and/or threats of reprisal (which may be express or implied, and/or conditional or unconditional).
<i>Directions and guidelines</i>	Is a reference to the Directions and Guidelines issued pursuant to section 20 of the ICAC Act and/or section 14 of the PID Act.
<i>Disclosure</i>	<p>Means an appropriate disclosure of public interest information made by an informant to a Relevant Authority.</p> <p>A person makes an appropriate disclosure of environmental and health information if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the person:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or

- (ii) is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be true and is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so that its truth may be investigated; and
- (b) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority.

A person makes an appropriate disclosure of public administration information if:

- (a) the person:
 - (i) is a public officer;
 - (ii) reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration; and
- (b) the disclosure is made to a relevant authority (Appendix B).

<i>Employee</i>	All Council employees, including trainees, work experience students, volunteers, and contractors whether they are working full-time, part-time or casual.
<i>Environmental and health information</i>	Information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public.
<i>Fraud</i>	Intentional dishonest act or omission done with the purpose of deceiving.
<i>ICAC Act</i>	<i>Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012.</i>
<i>Independent Assessor</i>	The person designated by the Responsible Officer as being responsible for investigating a disclosure made to Council in accordance with the Public Interest disclosure procedure.
<i>Informant</i>	A person who makes an appropriate disclosure of public interest information to a Relevant Authority.
<i>Maladministration in public administration</i>	<p>Is defined in section 5(4) of the ICAC Act and means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. conduct of a public officer, or a practice, policy or procedure of a public authority, that results in an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial mismanagement of public resources; or ii. conduct of a public officer involving substantial mismanagement in or in relation to the performance of official functions; and <p>Includes conduct resulting from impropriety, incompetence or negligence; and</p> <p>Is to be assessed having regard to relevant statutory provisions and administrative instructions and directions.</p>
<i>Misconduct in public administration</i>	<p>Is defined in section 5(3) of the <i>ICAC Act</i> and means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. contravention of a code of conduct by a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer; or ii. other misconduct of a public officer while acting in his or her capacity as a public officer.
<i>ICAC Act</i>	<i>Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012.</i>

<i>Independent Assessor</i>	The person designated by the Responsible Officer as being responsible for investigating a disclosure made to Council in accordance with the Public Interest disclosure procedure.
<i>Office for Public Integrity (OPI)</i>	Is the office established under the ICAC Act that has the function to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public; ii. receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from the Ombudsman, the Council and public officers; iii. refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers in circumstances approved by the Commissioner or make recommendations as to whether and by whom complaints and reports should be investigated; iv. give directions or guidance to public authorities in circumstances approved by the Commissioner; v. perform other functions assigned to the Office by the Commissioner.
<i>Public administration</i>	Defined at section 4 of the ICAC Act and, without limiting the acts that may comprise public administration, an administrative act within the meaning of the <i>Ombudsman Act 1972</i> will be taken to be carried out in the course of public administration.
<i>Public administration information</i>	Information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.
<i>Public interest information</i>	Environmental or health information, or public administration information.
<i>PID Act</i>	<i>Public Interest disclosure Act 2018.</i>
<i>Principal Officer</i>	For the purposes of the PID Act means the CEO of Council.
<i>Public Officer</i>	Has the meaning given by section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Council Member; and • an Employee or Officer of the Council
<i>Relevant Authority</i>	The person or entity that receives an appropriate disclosure of public interest information in accordance with the PID Act, as set out in Appendix B.
<i>Responsible Officer</i>	Is a person who has completed any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the PID Regulations 2019 and has been designated as Responsible Officer under section 12 of the PID Act.
<i>Victimisation</i>	Occurs when a person causes detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate disclosure of public interest information.

Appendix B - Relevant Authorities

Where the information relates to...	The relevant authority is...
<p>a public officer*</p> <p><i>*as defined and set out in Schedule 1 of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 - relevantly, this includes members, officers and employees of local government bodies</i></p>	<p>Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person who is designated by the Guidelines as being taken to be responsible for management or supervision of the public officer; or • the person who is in fact responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer; or • the relevant responsible officer (as designated by the Council in accordance with section 12 of the PID Act)
<p>a public sector agency or public sector employee</p>	<p>Either: the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; or the responsible officer for the relevant public sector agency</p>
<p>an agency to which the <i>Ombudsman Act 1972</i> applies</p>	<p>the Ombudsman</p>
<p>a location within the area of council</p>	<p>a member, officer or employee of that Council</p>
<p>a risk to the environment</p>	<p>the Environment Protection Authority</p>
<p>an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial</p>	<p>the Auditor-General</p>
<p>the commission, or suspected commission, of any offence</p>	<p>a member of the police force</p>
<p>a judicial officer</p>	<p>the Judicial Conduct Commissioner</p>
<p>a member of Parliament</p>	<p>the Presiding Officer of the House of Parliament to which the member belongs</p>
<p>a person or a matter of a prescribed class</p>	<p>an authority declared by the regulations to be a relevant authority in relation to such information</p>
<p>public interest information - being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental and health information (information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public); or • public administration information (information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration) 	<p>The OPI; a Minister of the Crown; or any other prescribed person or person of a prescribed class</p>

Appendix C - Notification process Flowchart

Receipt of disclosure

- Disclosure by a public officer about public administration information - can be made to the person responsible for the supervision of the public officer that the information relates to, or the Responsible Officer.
- Disclosure by member of the public about environmental/health information to do with a location in the council area - can be made to any member, officer or employee of that council, to then be passed on to the Responsible Officer.
- Acknowledge receipt within two days - see Part 8 of the procedure.

Preliminary Assessment

- Undertaken by the Responsible Officer, or (for public administration disclosures only) by the public officer's supervisor, to determine:
 - if an imminent risk of serious harm exists;
 - whether there is a need to refer to OPI;
 - whether other action is required and, if so, what

Preliminary Assessment Action

- For example, report risk of imminent harm to SA Police or another appropriate agency, make report to OPI etc. See Part 8 of procedure.

Notify informant of preliminary assessment

- Must be done within 30 days of the disclosure being made - see Part 9 of procedure
- include details of the action that has been, or will be taken
- alternatively, if no action will be taken, advise why

Notify OPI about disclosure

- As soon as practicable
- use the online notification form
- must include details specified in Guideline One - see Part 9

Take action

- May include investigating, referring to another relevant authority - see Part 10 of the procedure.

Notify informant - outcome of action

- Must be done within either 90 days of disclosure being made, or such longer period as specified by written notice given within that 90 day period - see Part 11 of the procedure
- included details of the outcome of the action taken

Notify OPI - outcome of action

- Use the online notification form
- must include details specified in Guideline 2 - Part 11.6 of the procedure

If applicable, notify Minister

- Only applicable if the initial disclosure came from/via a Minister - see Part 11 of the procedure