

# Protected Disclosure

## COUNCIL POLICY NO. 107

### 1. POLICY

The objective of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the administration of the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (which replaced the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001*).

### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

The Gannawarra Shire Council does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, officers or Councillors, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

The Gannawarra Shire Council is committed to the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*.

The main objective of the Protected Disclosures Act 2012 is to:

*“..encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies and establish a system for matters to be investigated. The Act provides protection from detrimental action to any person affected by a protected disclosure whether it is a person who makes a disclosure, a witness, or a person who is the subject of an investigation.”*

The Gannawarra Shire Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

The Gannawarra Shire Council will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. It will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

In addition to this, the Chief Executive Officer, will automatically notify the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Victoria, of any matter that he or she suspects, on reasonable grounds, involves corrupt conduct.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with Gannawarra Shire Council Policy No. 117 - Complaint Handling.

### 3. POLICY REVIEW

Council will review this policy at least every two years and within twelve months after a general election of the Council.

At the time of review, this policy was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

### 4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Enquiries in relation to this policy should be directed to The Chief Executive Officer on (03) 5450 9333

Further information can be obtained from the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Victoria – [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

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