

Fraud and Corruption

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 100

1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

To give clear notice to persons within and outside the Council that fraud against Gannawarra Shire Council will not be tolerated and will be dealt with to the maximum extent of the law. It is the objective of Council to provide a broad framework for establishment of an effective fraud prevention program across Gannawarra Shire Council.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Fraud against the Gannawarra Shire Council is defined as “Inducing a course of action by deceit or other dishonest conduct, involving acts or omissions or the making of false statements, orally or in writing, with the object of obtaining money or other benefit from, or evading a liability to, the Shire”.

This definition includes theft; obtaining property, financial advantage or other benefit by deception; causing a loss or avoiding or creating a liability by deception; making or using false documents; providing false information or failing to provide information where obliged to do so; bribery, corruption or abuse of office; unlawful use of Council computers, vehicles, telephones or other property or services. The benefits referred to can be tangible or intangible, for example hacking into Council’s computer system, false identity etc.

The Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the responsibility for fraud and corruption control and for implementing a structured, ongoing fraud control plan within the organisation. Staff, Councillors and the general public are encouraged, and will be supported, in the identification of any corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment (refer to Council’s Public Interest Disclosure Policy No. 107).

Corruption and fraud prevention is a responsibility of all Councillors and Council staff who are required by *Codes of Conduct* to maintain high legal, ethical and moral behaviour standards. The highest of standards will be maintained across Council, through the cooperation, diligence and vigilance of all Council staff

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.

Council staff have to be trusted and permitted to operate autonomously if the Council is to operate effectively. Council believes in the integrity and honesty of its staff. There will however, be instances where advantage will be taken of the trust that is conferred.

Council aims to minimise instances of fraud by the careful recruitment of staff, promoting a culture of integrity and loss prevention within the organisation and accountability through a documented fraud review process.

Instances of fraud and corruption are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.

3. POLICY REVIEW

Council will review this policy as required but always within two years 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

Members of the public may inspect all Council policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna Offices, or online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au.

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

Records – Altus ECM Folder: 3.000518

Originally adopted:	25/07/2007	Minute Book Reference: 5955
Reviewed:	23/07/2008	Minute Book Reference: 6693
Reviewed:	17/11/2010	Minute Book Reference: 8382
Reviewed:	18/03/2015	Minute Book Reference: 11477
Reviewed:	15/03/2017	Minute book Reference:12502
Reviewed:	18/05/2022	
To be reviewed:	2026	