

Public Interest Disclosure

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 107

1. PURPOSE

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

2. POLICY

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.

Gannawarra Shire Council is committed to the Public Interest Disclosures Act.

The main objective of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 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.”

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.

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 107 – Public Interest Disclosure Procedure and 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

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