

COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL



Corruption Prevention Policy

FILE: P5-74

Responsible Officer - General Manager

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OBJECTIVES

This policy is a component of a broader suite of documents aimed at ensuring that Cobar Shire Council operates within a framework which minimises the risks associated with fraud, corruption and unethical or illegal behaviour by all stakeholders. These documents include the Codes of Conduct for Councillors and Staff, Fraud Control Policy and the Public Interest Disclosure Internal Reporting Policy. Overarching these is the various applicable Acts, particularly the Local Government Act 1993 and associated Regulations.

BACKGROUND

Corruption involves conduct that is dishonest, partial, a breach of public trust or the misuse of official information or material. To be corrupt the conduct must also involve a criminal or disciplinary offence, provide reasonable grounds for dismissal or be a substantial breach of the Code of Conduct. Cobar Shire Council does not condone or tolerate unethical practice or fraud or corruption.

Corrupt conduct by a public official commonly involves the dishonest or preferential use of power or position. In New South Wales such events often are investigated by the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) or the Office of the Ombudsman under their legislated powers.

Council has in place a Risk Management framework and an Internal Audit Committee to assist in minimising negative outcomes in support of the policies.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to;

- Council employees
- Councillors
- Committees of Council
- Consultant and Contractors

POLICY STATEMENT

Cobar Shire Council will not tolerate corrupt conduct by any of the stakeholders to which this policy applies.

Cobar Shire Council is committed to

- Minimising the opportunities for corrupt conduct by employees, councillors, council committees and consultants and contractors which it retains.
- Detecting, investigating and disciplining/prosecuting corrupt conduct. Council will change organisational features that are likely to allow corruption to occur or go unnoticed/
- Reporting corrupt conduct to ICAC and where appropriate to NSW police or other external bodies.
- Embedding the identification and management of corruption risks in its risk management program and culture.

