

COUNCILLOR CONDUCT REGISTER

In accordance with section S150DX - S150DZ of the Local Government Act 2009, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council complies with maintaining and publishing an updated Council Conduct register.



The register must record matters relating to:

- (a) orders made about unsuitable meeting conduct
- (b) decisions about suspected inappropriate conduct referred to council
- (c) decisions of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal about whether or not councillors have engaged in misconduct or inappropriate conduct
- (d) complaints dismissed by the Independent Assessor
- (e) decisions of the Independent Assessor to take no further action

No	Councillor Name	Date of Complaint	Summary of Complaint	Date of Decision	Summary of Decision	Reason for Decision	Decision Maker
2023-01		02 March 2023	It was alleged that a Councillor was getting contracts from Council inappropriately.	22 March 2023	Dismissed – no further action	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. Council is using an open and transparent process which address conflicts of interest by a councillor. There was no evidence that the councillor had breached a conduct provision in relation to the awarding of contracts. Decisions are delegated and assessment of tenders for high value contracts is undertaken by an independent consultant according to a standard decision matrix.	Office of the Independent Assessor
2022-01		11 February 2022	It was alleged that a Councillor had influenced procurement processes in favour of a business to which they had an interest.	22 February 2022	Dismissed – no further action	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) as a conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. To address potential conflicts of interest relating to Council allocating civil works to contractors, Council have engaged an external consultant to go out to market and to independently establish a panel of preferred	Office of the Independent Assessor

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						suppliers who can undertake civil works for the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council. The OIA was advised that this panel is then drawn on by Council when there is a need for a relevant contractor.	
2021-01		23 June 2021	It was alleged a councillor had not properly dealt with complaints from a member of the public about decisions of a council staff member in accordance with Council policy.	21 July 2021	Dismissed - no further action	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) as I am satisfied that further dealing with the complaint would be unjustifiable use of resources. The substance of the complaint (disagreement with an administrative decision of a staff member) is more appropriately dealt with by the Queensland Ombudsman's Office	Office of the Independent Assessor
2020-03		25 September 2020	It was alleged that the Council had failed to update their register of interests per the requirements of Section 171B of the Local Government Act 2009, to disclose income they had received from the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council for the provision of civil works, and assets owned by their business.	22 April 2022	Dismissed	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) as further dealing with the complaint or information would be an unjustifiable use of resources. During the investigation the OIA identified a number of systemic issues at Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council related to register of interests records. In these circumstances, it was considered that the more practical and appropriate action in the first instance was for targeted training and mentoring to be provided by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Department) to all councillors of LRASC. Following the delivery of training and feedback from the Department, the OIA reviewed Councillor's updated register of interests. The updated register of interests demonstrated that the Councillor had	Office of the Independent Assessor

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						sufficiently amended the registers to correctly record their relevant interests.	
2020-02		31 January 2020	It was alleged that a Councillor had failed to update their register of interests per the requirements of Section 171B of the Local Government Act 2009, to disclose their interest in several organisations.	22 April 2022	Dismissed	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) as further dealing with the complaint or information would be an unjustifiable use of resources. During the investigation the OIA identified a number of systemic issues at Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council related to register of interest records. In these circumstances, it was considered that the more practical and appropriate action in the first instance was for targeted training and mentoring to be provided by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Department) to all councillors of LRASC. Following the delivery of training and feedback from the Department, the OIA reviewed Councillor's updated register of interests. The updated register of interests demonstrated that the Councillor had sufficiently amended the register to correctly record their relevant interests.	Office of the Independent Assessor
2020-01		31 January 2020	It was alleged that a Councillor's register of interests did not contain particulars of an entity owned by Council that they had appointed a director of.	28 August 2020	Dismissed - no further action	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 on the basis that taking further action would be unjustifiable use of resources as the register had been updated but not listed on Council's website.	Office of the Independent Assessor