

5.2 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Responsible Officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillor Code of Conduct, as attached to this Report, be adopted by Council.

INTRODUCTION

The Council is requested to review and adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct.

BACKGROUND

The Councillor Code of Conduct is required to be reviewed and adopted within 4 months of the general election.

The Code must also be adopted by at least two-thirds of the total number of Councillors elected.

The Code of Conduct must include:

- Standards of Conduct prescribed by the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* expected to be observed by Councillors; and
- May include any other matters which Council considers appropriate, other than the Standards of Conduct.

The proposed Code of Conduct details the types of misconduct under the Act:

- Serious misconduct
- Gross misconduct

The Code also provides information on a process that a Councillor may undertake if they feel that they've been subjected to 'serious misconduct'.

- The Code of Conduct details the Standards of Conduct set out by the Regulations.
- Failure to comply with the standards will constitute 'misconduct'.

The Code of Conduct makes reference to (amongst other things):

- The Act's overarching principles and Crs' support of those principles.
- Respecting the functions of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Use of Council resources effectively and economically.
- Acceptance of gifts and hospitality.
- Conduct at Council meetings.
- Transparency in decision-making.

DISCUSSION

The Code of Conduct has been prepared with the assistance of Council's Solicitors, to ensure that the requirements contained in the *Local Government Act 2020* have been met.

It has also been circulated to all Councillors for their consideration and feedback.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications in relation to this matter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this matter.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Council adopts the Councillor Code of Conduct, as attached to this report.