

Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Effective Date	15 May 2013
Policy Type	Community
Policy Owner	Customer Support & Governance Manager
Link to Corporate Plan	Sustainable Organisation
Review Date	August 2028
Related Legislation	<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 Human Rights Act 2019 Ombudsman Act 2001 Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 Local Government Act 2009 Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 Crime and Corruption Act 2001</i>
Related Documents	<i>Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Management Plan and Procedure Public Interest Disclosure Standards Complaints Management Policy Administrative Action Complaints Management Process Investigations Policy</i>

Policy Version	Approval Date	Adopted/Approved
1	15 May 2013	Ordinary Meeting of Council
2	18 December 2013	Ordinary Meeting of Council
3	17 June 2015	Ordinary Meeting of Council
4	18 September 2019	Ordinary Meeting of Council
5	5 December 2024	Ordinary Meeting of Council

This policy may not be current as Council regularly reviews and updates its policies. The latest controlled version can be found in the policies section of Council's intranet or Website. **A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled.**



Public Interest Disclosure Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to confirm Council's commitment to its obligations as prescribed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* and to outline a framework for the making and subsequent management of a public interest disclosure.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Councillors, Council Employees, and members of the public who make a public interest disclosure in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* and should be read in conjunction with Council's *Public Interest Disclosure Management Plan and Procedure*.

3. POLICY

Western Downs Regional Council is committed to:

- (1) fostering an ethical and transparent culture;
- (2) promoting the public interest; and
- (3) encouraging and valuing the disclosure of suspected wrongdoing in the public sector, so that it may be properly assessed and when appropriate, properly investigated and addressed.

Council will provide support to persons who make disclosures about matters in the public interest and ensure appropriate consideration is given to the interests of persons who are the subject of a public interest disclosure.

Council is committed to investigating all public interest disclosures in a confidential manner, protecting individuals from reprisals, and taking action as appropriate.

Council's organisational commitment to the management and reporting of public interest disclosures will be demonstrated by:

- (1) encouraging and supporting public interest disclosures as part of an ethical culture;
- (2) delivering public interest disclosures awareness/training for Councillors and employees;
- (3) the appointment of an officer/unit to be responsible for public interest disclosure management;
- (4) a commitment to ensuring public interest disclosure outcomes inform improvements; and
- (5) providing a mechanism for regular review of Council's Public Interest Disclosure Management Plan and Procedure.