

Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Approved by Council: 16/04/2025

To establish Council's commitment to minimising exposure to fraud and corruption risks.

Background

Rous County Council (Council) is entrusted to manage its assets, people and resources in a responsible, ethical and efficient manner.

This Policy is a statement of commitment confirming that Council will implement and maintain appropriate systems, strategies and processes to minimise the opportunity for and occurrence of fraud and/or corruption.

For the purpose of this Policy, corrupt conduct has the meaning given to it by the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*:

- (a) any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the honest or impartial exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority, or
- (b) any conduct of a public official that constitutes or involves the dishonest or partial exercise of any of his or her official functions, or
- (c) any conduct of a public official or former public official that constitutes or involves a breach of public trust, or
- (d) any conduct of a public official or former public official that involves the misuse of information or material that he or she has acquired in the course of his or her official functions, whether or not for his or her benefit or for the benefit of any other person.

Corrupt conduct is, among other things, also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority and which could involve a range of matters including but not limited to fraud. It also includes conduct that impairs, or that could impair, public confidence in public administration, for example, collusive tendering.

Policy statement

Council is committed to upholding the highest standard of ethical and accountable conduct within its operations and will not tolerate fraudulent or corrupt conduct by any Council official, including Councillors, staff, contractors, volunteers and delegates.

To achieve this, Council will ensure the:

- Development and maintenance of a positive ethical culture supported by appropriate policies, procedures and strategies that prevent fraudulent and corrupt behaviour,
- Implementation of fraud and corruption prevention and mitigation processes and strategies in day to day operations as part of the overarching Enterprise Risk Management Framework governing how fraud and corruption risks will be managed,
- Regular review of fraud and corruption risk assessments to identify circumstances in which fraud and corruption could occur,
- Use of formal and consistent procedures for the investigation of allegations of corrupt and fraudulent behaviour,
- Maintenance of processes and procedures that encourage all business dealings with all persons with whom business is conducted including tenderers, suppliers, consultants and contractors are conducted in an impartial manner,

- Ongoing education and training of all Council staff, officers and elected members in relation to their obligations in combating dishonest and fraudulent behaviour including awareness of the avenues available for reporting alleged misconduct.

Contact officer

General Manager

Related documents

Policies

Public Interest Disclosures
Risk Management

Procedures

Code of Conduct
Enterprise Risk Management Framework
Gifts, Benefits and Bribes

Legislation

Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988
Local Government Act 1993
Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994

Other

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee
Australian Risk Management Standard AS ISO 31000:2018
Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW
Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) resources - various

File No.:		Next review date: [2 years]	
Version	Purpose and description	Date adopted by Council	Resolution No.
2.0	To replace the 'Fraud Control policy' and establish Council's commitment to minimising exposure to fraud and corruption risks through a new policy.	22/10/2019	82/19
3.0	Scheduled review and update	16/04/2025	20/25