



## MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 2024

# New Code of Conduct Order for Tasmanian Councils

Council has been advised by the Tasmanian Government that the new Code of Conduct Order 2024 formally commenced on 10 September 2024.

The new Code is available on Council's website at

<https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/council/members/councillor-code-of-conduct/>

It replaces the existing Code issued under the Model Code of Conduct Order 2016 and will automatically apply to all councillors without the need for formal adoption by individual councils.

Improvements to the Local Government Code of Conduct Framework include:

- Providing for a single statewide Code, which will apply automatically to all councillors.
- Requiring councils to adopt a dispute resolution policy within 12 months of its commencement.
- Introducing a 'public interest' test for investigating complaints.
- Having a more rigorous initial assessment process undertaken by a Panel member who is a lawyer (who will not be on any subsequent investigating Panel).
- Having the Code of Conduct Panel Executive Officer undertake monitoring of compliance with sanctions.

General Regulations have been amended to support the new Code by establishing prescribed minimum standards, and set annual reporting requirements, for dispute resolution policies.

Supporting resources for councils, including updated information sheets on the Code of Conduct process will be available at:

[https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local\\_government/local\\_government\\_code\\_of\\_conduct/making\\_a\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_complaint](https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/local_government_code_of_conduct/making_a_code_of_conduct_complaint)

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