



**HUON VALLEY  
COUNCIL**

# **Code of Conduct for Members of the Audit Panel**

**GOV-CORP 017**

<b>Authority and Other Information</b>	
<b>Date of approval</b>	<b>24 October, 2018</b>
<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Source of approval</b>	<b>Council by Resolution No. 15.038*/18*</b>
<b>Date of commencement</b>	<b>24 October, 2018</b>
<b>Source of authority</b>	<b>Sections 85, 85A and 85B of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></b>
<b>Legislative Reference</b>	<b>Division 4, Part 8 <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></b>
<b>Delegations</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Reference</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Date of review</b>	<b>At least once every 4 years</b>
<b>Previous policies withdrawn or amended</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Department responsible for policy</b>	<b>Legal and Governance Services</b>
<b>Department responsible for implementation</b>	<b>Legal and Governance Services</b>
<b>Publication of policy</b>	<b>A copy of the Code, be placed on Council's website and copies made available for inspection at and free of charge from the Customer Service Centre.</b>

## **1. Purpose and Background:**

### **1.1 Background**

As an independent source of scrutiny in the interests of the community, the Audit Panel provides checks and balances on key Council activities and a means of highlighting issues that require strategic attention.

Councillors who are members of the Audit Panel are in a unique position and have an obligation to maintain an Audit Panel perspective in the interests of the community when they discharge their duties as Panel members, ie they must display independence of mind, separate from their role as a councillor.

### **1.2 Purpose**

This purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set out the standards of behaviour expected of the Huon Valley Council's Audit Panel Members.

The standards support the characteristics of good governance outlined in the *Good Governance Guide for Local Government in Tasmania*.

## **2. Definitions:**

In this Policy:

“Audit Panel” means the Audit Panel established by the Council pursuant to section 85 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

“Member” means a member of the Audit Panel as appointed by the Council from time to time and includes both independent and Councillor members.

## **3. Policy Statement:**

In performing their role on the Audit Panel, and in acting in the best interests of the community, all members of the Audit Panel are to commit to the following standards:

### **3.1 Effective Management of conflicts of interest**

Members will avoid conflicts of interest that arise between their personal interests and their public duty as a Member, as far as reasonably possible. This includes pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest (actual, potential or perceived). Where avoidance is not possible, Members will appropriately manage conflicts of interest. Members are responsible for acting in good faith and exercising reasonable judgment to manage conflicts of interest, including the offer or receipt of gifts and benefits.

A Councillor Member may at times deal with conflicts of interest as a consequence of their dual roles as an audit panel member and a Councillor. This may present as a conflict between the interests of the community (as seen from the Audit Panel perspective).

All Members will regularly provide advice of their actual, potential and perceived conflicts to the panel.

### **3.2 Proper use of Council Information**

Members will maintain the confidentiality of any information, documents and communication that the Council or panel has designated as being in confidence. Members will only access Council information needed for them to perform their role as a Member and not for personal interests or reasons.

### **3.3 Proper use of Position**

Members will perform their role in the best interests of the Council and the community. Members will operate within the intended scope of the Audit Panel (as outlined in the Audit Panel Charter) and will adhere to relevant Council policies and procedures.

### **3.4 Appropriate Interactions**

Members will act ethically and treat all persons with fairness and respect.

Members will conduct themselves in a way that positively represents the Audit Panel, and is in the best interests of the Council and the community.

Members will interact appropriately with fellow members, Councillors, Council Officers and the community, and give full respect and consideration of to all relevant information known to them.

Members should not interact directly with Council Officers without the prior approval of the Audit Panel and the General Manager.

Further information on the ethical standards covered in this code of conduct, and the terminology used, can be found in the *Good Governance Guide for Local Government in Tasmania*: ([www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local\\_government](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government)).

## **4. Application:**

This Code applies to Members of the Audit Panel.

## **5. Procedures:**

There are no procedures associated with this Code.