

STRATEGIC POLICY



Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy

BATHURST
REGIONAL COUNCIL



Policy Statement	<p>The community expects public officials to deliver services with integrity and in the best interests of the public.</p> <p>Fraudulent and corrupt conduct by a public official can result in significant resource costs to Council, puts at risk the reputation of all staff, Councillors and delegates and undermines trust with our community.</p> <p>Accordingly, Council has a zero-tolerance position on any fraudulent or corrupt behaviour and will act swiftly and decisively through relevant policies, legal or legislative mechanisms to deal with those who engage in, attempt to obscure or in any way participate in or encourage this behaviour.</p> <p>Council is committed to establishing a framework to prevent fraud and corruption, proactively monitor, maintain and build awareness of its fraud and corruption prevention controls and strategies.</p>
Policy Scope	<p>This policy applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All council staff and Councillors• All contractors and their staff working for, or providing services on behalf, of Council• Other people who perform council official functions, including volunteers and committee and panel members.
Related Procedures	Fraud and Corruption Prevention Framework
Related Policies	Code of Conduct
	Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Policy
Legislative Compliance	Local Government Act 1993 NSW
	NSW Audit Office Fraud Control Policy (November 2022)
	Council's Code of Conduct
	Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022
Policy Owner	Corporate Governance
Policy Adoption Date	September 2025
Policy Review Due	September 2027
CM File Number	11.00006

Authorised by the General Manager:

	
David Sherley	Date

1. PRINCIPLES / OBJECTIVES

- To ensure effective and appropriate fraud and corruption controls are in place to uphold the integrity and ethical standards expected by our community.

- b. To protect Council's funds and assets, and maintain the integrity, security and reputation of Bathurst Regional Council and its employees.

2. POLICY DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Contractor	Individuals or entities who perform a task or provide a service to or on behalf of Council, whether or not they are bound by a written contract to do so.
Corruption (or corrupt conduct)	Dishonest activity in which a person associated with an organisation (e.g. director, executive, manager, employee or contractor) acts contrary to the interests of the organisation and abuses their position of trust in order to achieve personal advantage or advantage for another person or organisation. This can also involve corrupt conduct by the organisation, or a person purporting to act on behalf of and in the interests of the organisation, to secure some form of improper advantage for the organisation either directly or indirectly.
Council official	Includes councillors, members of staff of a council, administrators, council committee members, delegates of council and council adviser
External Fraud	Fraudulent activity where no perpetrator is employed by or has a close association with Bathurst Regional Council.
Fraud	Dishonest activity causing actual or potential gain or loss to any person or organisation, including theft of moneys or other property by persons internal and/or external to the organisation and/or where deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, destruction or use of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal business purpose or the improper use of information or position for personal financial benefit.
Public Official	As defined under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 NSW and includes an employee (including contractors, temporary and casual staff) of Bathurst Regional Council, any individual that undertakes an official public function on behalf of Bathurst Regional Council, and Council committee members.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Bathurst Regional Council is committed to a culture of good governance and ethical behaviour. As such, it will not tolerate fraudulent or corrupt behaviour and is committed to building a sound ethical culture supported by appropriate policies, procedures and strategies that prevent fraudulent and corrupt behaviour through:

- Ongoing education and training of all Council officials in relation to their obligations in combating dishonest and fraudulent behaviour.
- Regular review of fraud and corruption risk assessments to identify circumstances where fraud and corruption could occur.
- Implementation of procedures that have regard to, and mitigate, the risks identified in day to day activity.

- Promote an organisational environment that encourages professionalism, integrity and ethical conduct.
- Use of formal procedures upon detection, investigation and disciplining and/or prosecuting fraudulent or corrupt conduct.
- The reporting of any fraud or corrupt conduct to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and other authorities where appropriate.

Council's commitment to preventing fraudulent or corrupt activity, and avoiding or managing conflicts of interests, will be supported by implementing appropriate auditing systems to deter and identify corrupt activities.

4. REVIEW CYCLE

This Policy will be reviewed every 2 years and as a result of legislative changes.

Summary or review and amendments

	Ver.	Date	Summary of changes	Approved date
1		May 2025	New Policy	September 2025