



Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Document No. 23/PL055

Sponsor:	Executive Manager – Corporate Services	
Reviewing Body:	Corporate Committee	
Approving Body:	Board	
Model Policy/Body	No	Not Applicable

Approved:	May 2023		

Cycle / Review Date	3 Years	May 2026
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1. Policy Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This policy aims to encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the Authority), its employees and Board members.

2. Policy Statement

WGCMA recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal improper conduct. It does not tolerate improper conduct by the organisation, its employees or Board members, nor the taking of detrimental action in reprisal against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

A person (i.e., not an organisation or company) may make a disclosure under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (the Act). The person may come from within the Authority, or any member of the public.

A disclosure can be made about public officers and public bodies, including the Authority, its employees and Board members. Disclosures may also be made about 'detrimental action' taken (or suspected to be taken) in reprisal or in connection with a disclosure made about improper conduct. Certain protections are provided to a person who makes a public interest disclosure.

WGCMA is a public body subject to the Act, but is not authorised to receive a public interest disclosure. Any disclosure about WGCMA, including its employees or Board members, must be made directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

3. Legislation or Other Relevant Documents

On 10 February 2013, the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* came into operation, replacing the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001*. The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* was updated on 1 January 2020 and is now called the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*.

- [Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012](#)
- [Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011](#)
- [Reporting corruption | IBAC](#)
- [Code of Conduct for the Victorian Public Sector](#)

4. Definitions

Act means the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*.

IBAC means the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission.

Public Interest Disclosure means any complaint, concern, matter, allegation or disclosure (however described) made by a natural person that shows or tends to show improper conduct or detrimental action and which is made in accordance with Part 2 of the Act.

Public Interest Disclosure Procedures means the procedures established by WGCMA to facilitate and encourage the making of disclosures under the Act, and how the Authority will manage the welfare of persons connected with public interest disclosures, as required under the Act. The procedures contain important definitions and information regarding the reporting of improper conduct and detrimental action.

5. Delegations

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

6. Procedures

Public Interest Disclosure Procedure

WGCMA Gifts and Benefits Policy

WGCMA Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Conflict of Interest Procedure