GOV06 Fraud and Corruption Protection Policy

Type	Council Policy	**Version**	2
Approval Date	01/09/2026	**Resolution**	14.1
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Background

The Belyuen Community Government Council (the Council) recognises that it has a responsibility to develop, encourage and implement sound financial, legal and ethical decision-making and organisational practices.

Fraud and corruption have the potential to damage the reputation of the Council and have a detrimental effect on the resources available to promote the Council's objectives and accordingly, the Council has adopted a *zero tolerance* for fraud and corruption.

This Policy provides a highly visible, overarching framework that provides for the ongoing and effective management of fraud and corruption risks.

Legislative References

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- Regulations
- *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017* (NT)
- Fraud and Corruption Protection Plan

Policy Statement

The Council will promote and maintain a values-based organisational culture that has zero tolerance for any fraudulent or corrupt conduct, whether committed against the Council (from internal or external sources), or by or in the name of the Council.

Should fraudulent or corrupt conduct be suspected or detected, in accordance with the Council's obligations as a public body, all public officers will report reasonable suspicions of improper conduct under the mandatory reporting obligations to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption. the

The council will vigorously investigate any suspected fraudulent or corrupt conduct in an efficient and timely manner, and seek to recover, on a cost/benefit basis, the losses incurred.

The Council will establish effective, risk-proportionate operational controls and processes for preventing, detecting, and responding to fraudulent or corrupt conduct. The Council's expectations in relation to these controls and procedures will be communicated by way of the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan ("the Plan"), which will align principally with the Australian Standard Fraud and Corruption Control

(AS8001:2008), but will also consider other relevant external standards, best practice statements and the need to comply with local, national and international legislation and regulations.

The Council will uphold all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption and supports mandatory reporting as established by the Independent Commissioner

Responsibility for Implementation and Compliance Monitoring

Council

The Council is accountable for overseeing and monitoring the assessment and management of fraud and corruption risk.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides an objective and robust view to the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Plan in the management of fraud and corruption risk.

CEO

The CEO will ensure the Plan sufficiently addresses all potential fraud and corruption risks and ensures that appropriate action is being taken to mitigate those risks.

Scope

This policy applies to the Council members, staff, and all persons participating in Council business or activities, including whether as a visitor, volunteer, service provider or contractor.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following key definitions are applied, and will be collectively referred to as fraud throughout the document:

Improper conduct is defined by Section 9 of the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*. Improper conduct includes corrupt conduct, misconduct, unsatisfactory conduct; and anti-democratic conduct. It includes the performance of a dishonest (not impartial) act, breach of trust or misuse of information or material acquired.

Corruption may involve fraud, theft, misuse of position or authority or other acts that are unacceptable to an organisation and which may cause loss to the organisation, its clients, or the general community. It may also include such elements as breaches of trust and confidentiality. The behaviour need not necessarily be criminal. The Australian Standard on Fraud and Corruption Control defines corruption as dishonest activity in which a director, executive, manager, employee, or contractor of an entity acts contrary to the interests of the entity and abuses their position of trust to achieve some personal gain or advantage for themselves or for another person or entity.

Fraud is dishonestly obtaining benefit or causing a loss by deception or other means. It includes acts such as theft, making false statements or representations, evasion, manipulation of information, criminal deception and abuse of property or time. The Australian Standard on Fraud and Corruption Control defines fraud as dishonest activity causing actual or potential financial loss to any person or entity

including theft of monies or other property by employees or persons external to the entity and whether deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, or destruction of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal business purpose or the improper use of information or position.

Revision History

Policy Version	Approval Date	Resolution	Doc Ref
1	24/08/2020	8.2.8.20	NA
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3	01/09/2026	14.1	NA