

Councillor Conduct Register

The Queensland Government is pursuing a rolling reform agenda in the local government sector.

These reforms aim to further strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity measures that apply to the system of local government in Queensland.

Part of the reform process to date has included commencement of:

- [a uniform Councillor Code of Conduct \(i.e. mandatory for all Councillors in Queensland\) which came into effect on 3 December 2018;](#)
- [the Office of the Independent Assessor.](#)

The Independent Assessor:

- investigates and assesses complaints about councillor conduct;
- provides advice, training and information about dealing with alleged or suspected inappropriate conduct, misconduct or corrupt conduct to councillors, local government employees and the public;
- prosecutes misconduct offences via the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.

A councillor's failure to comply with the behavioural standards of the code of conduct may give rise to disciplinary action under the complaint handling provisions of the [Local Government Act 2009](#)(LGA).

There are 4 types of contraventions of the Code of Conduct:

- Unsuitable meeting conduct
- Inappropriate conduct
- Misconduct
- Corrupt conduct

Under Section 150DX of the Local Government Act 2009, Council must keep and publish a councillor conduct register.

150DX Local governments to keep and publish register

- (1) A local government must keep an up-to-date register (a ***councillor conduct register***) about the following matters for the local government—
 - (a) orders made about the unsuitable meeting conduct of councillors at its local government meetings;
 - (b) decisions about the suspected inappropriate conduct of councillors referred to the local government under [part 3, division 5](#);
 - (c) decisions about whether or not councillors engaged in misconduct made by the conduct tribunal under [part 3, division 6](#);
 - (d) complaints about the conduct of councillors dismissed by the assessor;
 - (e) decisions to take no further action in relation to the conduct of councillors investigated by the assessor.
- (2) The local government must—
 - (a) publish the register on the local government's website; and
 - (b) ensure the public may inspect the register, or purchase a copy of an entry in the register, at the local government's public office.
- (3) However, subsection (2) does not apply to information recorded in the register that is part of a public interest disclosure under the [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010](#).

Maranoa Regional Council's register is included below.

COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS ASSESSED UNDER THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATION					
Reference number	Date complaint received	Details of complaint	Summary of allegation	Reason for Decision	Outcome
C18 00181	Received by Office of Independent Assessor on 3 December 2018*	Inappropriate conduct by Cr Geoff McMullen	It was alleged that on 23 September 2018 Councillor McMullen shared a post on Facebook titled "meanwhileat council today", the contents of which could reflect negatively on the reputation of the Council and demonstrate a lack of respect for fellow councillors and members of staff – specifically Council staff.	That on 23 September 2018 Councillor McMullen shared a post on Facebook titled 'Meanwhile...at the Council today', the contents of which could reflect negatively on the reputation of the Council and demonstrate a lack of respect for members of staff.	Reprimand Details to be provided on Council's website as required by Section 181A and Council's internal website for the information of employees.

* The following clarification has been provided by the Office of the Independent Assessor

Section 317 of the Act states that if immediately before the commencement, an existing complaint has not been assessed, the complaint must be dealt with by the Assessor under Chapter 5A, as if the existing complaint was made or referred to the Assessor under Chapter 5A.

This section is subject to section 322 of the Act which states, that in deciding how to deal with conduct engaged in by a councillor before the commencement of the new provisions, the Assessor must apply the former conduct definitions to the conduct and if the conduct is referred to the local government, only make an order that is substantially the same as an order that could have been made under the former section 181.

The conduct of the councillor, was assessed pursuant to section 176(4)(a) of the Act, which was the relevant provision at the time of the alleged inappropriate conduct. Following the assessment, the Assessor reasonably suspects that the conduct subject of the complaints is, if proved, inappropriate conduct.

COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS ASSESSED UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION				
Reference number	Date complaint received	Details of complaint / Summary of allegation	Reason for decision	Outcome

C/20/00844	20 November 2020	It was alleged a Councillor had provided confidential information to a member of the public.	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b) (ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 on the basis that, following enquiries, there is insufficient information to properly investigate the conduct.	8 March 2022
C/21/00403	21 June 2021	It was alleged a Councillor had engaged in misconduct by attempting to influence a decision-maker while the Councillor had a conflict of interest in the relevant matter. It was alleged a Councillor had engaged in misconduct by attempting to influence a decision-maker while the Councillor had a conflict of interest in the relevant matter.	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the Local Government Act 2009 [the Act] on the basis that, following an investigation, it was determined the communications were not with a decision-maker for the relevant matter.	8 March 2022
C/21/00039	22 January 2021	It was alleged a Councillor had engaged in misconduct by improperly dealing with Council funded legal advice including by delaying the provision of the advice to other relevant Councillors. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i>	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b) (iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 [the Act] on the basis that, following an investigation, taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources.	7 March 2022
C/20/01115	24 November 2020	It was alleged a Councillor had failed to correctly deal with a declarable conflict of interest in relation to a Council employee matter. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i>	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b) (iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 [the Act] on the basis that, following an investigation, taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources.	7 March 2022
C/20/00844	20 November 2020	It was alleged a Councillor had provided confidential information to a member of the public.	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b) (ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 on the basis that, following enquiries, there is insufficient information to properly investigate the conduct.	8 March 2022

C/19/00375	3 April 2019	It is alleged that a Councillor was directing and influencing council staff and conducting council business from his personal business.	Following an investigation and a natural justice process, the OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) on the basis that taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources. This is on the basis that a key witness required to prove the matters has indicated that they are no longer willing to assist. This would mean that the OIA would have to conduct further enquires and/or obtain further evidence in a form required by the Councillor Conduct Tribunal. Given the age of these matters, the considerable work that has already undertaken on these matters and the public interest in diverting further resources, the OIA determined not to proceed further with these matters on the basis to do so would be an unjustifiable use of resources.	2 March 2022
C/19/00225	25 February 2019	It is alleged that a Councillor was failing to participate in council meetings, policy development, and decisionmaking for the benefit of the local government area.	Following an investigation and a natural justice process, the OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) on the basis that taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources. This is on the basis that a key witness required to prove the matters has indicated that they are no longer willing to assist. This would mean that the OIA	2 March 2022

			would have to conduct further enquires and/or obtain further evidence in a form required by the Councillor Conduct Tribunal.	
C/21/00737 C/21/00740 C/21/00742 C/21/00743	3 November 2021	It was alleged that councillors instigated or allowed harassing and bullying behaviour towards an officer by voting in support of a motion in relation to an employment matter. <i>The following councillors requested their names be recorded in the register:</i>	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. The motion was consistent with the terms of the officer's contract of employment.	Dismissed.
C/21/00744 C/21/00741		<i>Cr McMullen</i> <i>Cr Guthrie</i>		
C/19/00696	15 August 2019	It was alleged that a Councillor failed to deliver on their responsibilities under the section 12(4)(e) of the Act by not conducting a performance appraisal on the Chief Executive Officer at least annually, in a way that is decided by the local government.	Following an investigation, the OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (the Act) on the basis that taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources. This was due to the contractual agreement stipulating that the performance review was a joint requirement of all councillors.	No further action. Decision date: 1 September 2021

C/21/00473	22 July 2021	<p>It was alleged that a councillor, Cr O'Neil, failed to declare a conflict of interest in a matter before council in July 2021, in relation to the installation of security cameras in the CBD, being within a five-minute walk to the councillor's home which could benefit the councillor.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr O'Neil.</i></p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (the Act), on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. The OIA does not consider that the proposed installation of security cameras in a CBD area, which may be within a five-minute walk to the councillor's home could reasonably give rise to a conflict of interest.</p>	Dismissed.
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C/21/00449 and C/21/00450	8 July 2021	<p>It was alleged two councillors, Cr O'Neil and Cr Hancock, during a Council meeting in speaking against a motion, released information that they knew or should have reasonably known was confidential to Council.</p> <p><i>Councillor names included as requested by Cr O'Neil and Cr Hancock.</i></p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct</p> <p>In reviewing the comments of both councillors the OIA did not consider the information in those comments were confidential to Council as they did not disclose any specific details that could reasonably be considered to be confidential about the matters they were considering.</p> <p>The articulation of the concerns/risks by both councillors on the matter was consistent with the Local Government principles in section 4(1) of the Act - To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable and in section 4(2)(a),</p>	Dismissed.
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			<p>(b)&(d) of the Act – Local Government Principles</p> <p>(a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision making in the public interest</p> <p>(b) Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services and</p> <p>(e) Good governance of, and by, local government</p> <p>The CEO has been requested to consider whether the recording of the relevant decision in the minutes accords with section 254H(1)(b) of the Local Government Regulations.</p>	
C/21/00404	21 June 2021	<p>It was alleged that a councillor, Cr McMullen, with a declarable conflict of interest in a matter, attempted to influence or discuss the matter with another person or persons who is/are participating in a decision of the local government by asking whether the matter would be considered as part of the agenda.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i></p>	<p>The OIA determined to take no further action, pursuant to section 150X(a)(iii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (the Act), on the basis that taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources, given the subject councillor's limited involvement.</p>	No further action.
C/20/00834	29 May 2020	<p>It was alleged that a councillor had threatened a member of the public and suggested that member of the public break a local by-law.</p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii). Following an investigation into the matter, the OIA considered that the evidence available did not support a reasonable suspicion that the councillor had engaged in inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p>	Dismissed

C/21/00102	11 February 2021	<p>It was alleged, a councillor directed council staff to dig two graves despite extenuating circumstances around why the graves could not be dug, due to safety reasons and the machines not being able to get close to the site. That an agreement was made between council and the customers, however, the councillor told the customer that it could be done and then forced council's hand to do the job, at great expense to council.</p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>, on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>Based on the information from council, the decision appeared to have been made by the relevant council officer and not the councillor.</p> <p>The information indicated that the councillor attempted to discuss the matter with the CEO first and then sent a communication to all councillors and attempted to arrange a special meeting to discuss the matter presented by the family of the deceased.</p>	Dismissed
C/21/00125	11 February 2021	<p>It was alleged, a councillor, Cr McMullen, directed council staff to dig two graves despite extenuating circumstances around why the graves could not be dug, due to safety reasons and the machines not being able to get close to the site. That an agreement was made between council and the customers, however, the councillor told the customer that it could be done and then forced council's hand to do the job, at great expense to council.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i></p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>, on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>Based on the information from council, the decision appeared to have been made by the relevant council officer and not the councillor.</p> <p>The councillor submitted a customer service request in writing for consideration by the appropriate council staff and the OIA considered that the language of the councillor's email was not directive.</p>	Dismissed
C/21/00078	8 February 2021	<p>It was alleged, a councillor engaged in inappropriate conduct as follows, during a council ordinary meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the councillor referred to another councillor by their first name. • the councillor had an unfair advantage as they sent a text message to two council officers during a council ordinary meeting. • The councillor singled out another councillor on a decision passed by a majority of councillors and then claimed the other councillor placed them in a situation on how to vote in relation to the organisation structure. 	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(b)(iii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> (the Act), on the basis that the complaint is lacking in substance.</p> <p>The nature of the complaint was unclear. It appeared to relate in part to unsuitable meeting conduct which is outside of the OIA's jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the chairperson of the meeting to deal with such conduct during the meeting.</p> <p>The complaint was made anonymously and therefore the OIA could not obtain a better understanding of what was being alleged.</p>	Dismissed

C/20/00341	15 January 2021 (decision date)	<p>During a meeting of council on 22 April 2020, a councillor, Cr McMullen, dealt with a matter, namely a staff member's contract be terminated. At that time the councillor had a personal interest in the matter, namely that the staff member had referred a complaint about their conduct to the OIA. The councillor did not declare that personal interest; and</p> <p>That in the above action, the councillor breached section 150AW of the Act, namely taking reprisal against a protected person.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i></p>	<p>The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(iii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that it would be an unjustifiable use of resources to investigate the matter further.</p> <p>An investigation by the OIA did not locate sufficient evidence to prove reprisal. In relation to the conflict of interest, it was considered that the councillor's interest in the matter at the time of the particular meeting on 22 April 2020 was more borderline, when considering the test applied by the High Court of Australia in <i>Ebner v Official Trustee in Bankruptcy</i> [2000] HCA 63: whether a reasonable person might consider if the councillor was able to decide the matter in public interest.</p>	No further action.
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C/20/00912	17 December 2020	<p>It was alleged a councillor undertook inquiries and obtained information from council on behalf of a resident re the mechanism for turning an overpayment of rates into a donation to council; without disclosing that the resident was the councillor's mother.</p>	<p>The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b) (iii)] of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that taking further action would be an unjustifiable use of resources.</p> <p>The OIA noted that when the matter was brought before Council the councillor declared an interest in the matter and did not participate in the discussion or the vote.</p> <p>The councillor has been reminded of the local government principles and the potential scope of the influence provision in section 175I of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>. (as it then was)</p>	No further action.
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<p>C/20/00864 C/20/00865 C/20/00866 C/20/00867 C/20/00868 C/20/00878 C/20/00879 C/20/00880 C/20/00881</p>	14 December 2020	<p>It was alleged that at Council's ordinary meeting on 11 November 2020, a councillor (C/20/00866 – Cr Guthrie) was against a proposal under agenda item LC.4 'Offer of Sale of Cinema to Council'. That the councillor was involved in nothing but 'gamesmanship'. That if under-hand tactics weren't deployed some of the councillors would have voted to purchase the property as they seemed to be in favour of providing this facility for the community.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr Guthrie.</i></p>	<p>The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>The issue raised was high-level and did not clearly identify which councillor it was referring to. The complaint did not provide any specific information to support the claim.</p>	No further action.
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C/20/00864 C/20/00865 C/20/00866 C/20/00881	14 December 2020	It was alleged that a councillor (C/20/00866 – Cr Guthrie) did not have permission to place election signs at the front of the cinema. This councillor declared a conflict of interest in agenda item LC.4 'Offer of Sale of Cinema to Council' at ordinary meeting on 11 November 2020. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr Guthrie.</i>	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. There were no further details available for the OIA to further assess this conduct.	No further action.
C/20/00868 C/20/00878 C/20/00879 C/20/00880	14 December 2020	It was alleged that a councillor (C/20/00879 – Cr McMullen) who did not declare any conflicts in agenda item LC.4 'Offer of Sale of Cinema to Council' at ordinary meeting on 11 November 2020, needs to review their actions. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i>	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. There was no explanation provided with this statement, however it referred to the conduct of two other councillors.	No further action.
C/20/00868	14 December 2020	It is alleged that a councillor had a 'prescribed conflict' in agenda item LC.4 'Offer of	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the	No further action.

		Sale of Cinema to Council' at ordinary meeting on 11 November 2020.	Act] on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. It was noted that the OIA had dismissed a previous complaint from the same complainant about the councillor's interest, on the basis that OIA inquiries had established that the interest did not exist at the time of the meeting on 11 December 2020.	
C/20/00880	14 December 2020	It was alleged that Cr Taylor had posted confidential information on Facebook, relating to the offer to sell the cinema to council. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr Taylor.</i>	The OIA decided to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> [the Act] on the basis that the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct. The OIA had dismissed an anonymous complaint made about the councillor's Facebook post as the information was already publicly available as part of council's published minutes of meeting.	No further action.
C/20/00834	20 November 2020	It was alleged that Cr Taylor released information confidential to council about a council decision on social media. <i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr Taylor.</i>	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct on the part of the councillor. The information that was posted by the councillor on social media was consistent with information that was already publicly available in previously published Council Minutes.	Dismissed

C/20/00818	15 November 2020	It was alleged that a councillor failed to declare a conflict of interest in relation to a matter before Council on 11 November 2020.	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>, as does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>At the time of the Council meeting on 11 November 2020, the councillor no longer had an interest in the matter.</p>	Dismissed
C/20/00836 C/20/00837 C/20/00838 C/20/00839	15 November 2020	<p>It was alleged that five councillors (C/20/00837 – Cr Birkett) had a declarable conflict of interest in a matter which was before council on 11 November 2020.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr Birkett.</i></p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009, as does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>The relevant meeting minutes indicate that each of the councillors had declared conflicts of interests in relation to the matter and left the room. However, because of the declarations made by majority of councillors, council resolved to delegate the decision to the CEO. This is consistent with the terms of the Act.</p>	Dismissed
C/19/00796	20 September 2020	The complaint related to a facebook comment made against a media article concerning the complainant.	The OIA dismissed the complaint pursuant to section 150 X(a)(ii) on the basis that the comment was not made by a councillor and was therefore outside the jurisdiction of the OIA.	Dismissed

C/20/00659	11 September 2020	It was alleged that two councillors both owned, or had family that owned or had interests in, commercial buildings and recently voted in a Council meeting to have the commercial rates reduced by up to 65% and did not declare their personal interest.	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act) as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct within the meaning of the Act. As the making or levying of rates and charges, or the fixing of a cost recovery fee by the local government comes under the definition of an 'ordinary business matter', there was no requirement for a declaration to be made pursuant to either section 175C (material personal interest) or section 175E (conflict of interest) of the Act.	Dismissed
C/20/00610	20 August 2020	It was alleged that a Councillor failed to declare a conflict of interest, or alternatively a material personal interest, during the Budget Submissions and Financial Planning meeting on 11 August 2020 at item C4 Gas Tariff Subsidy for Local Business.	The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) as the conduct did not amount to inappropriate conduct or misconduct as the matter under consideration was an ordinary business matter and no requirement to declare a real or perceived conflict of interest or material personal interest existed.	Dismissed

C/20/00387	1 June 2020	<p>It was alleged that a Councillor, Cr Geoff McMullen, breached Council's policies including the <i>Works in Road Reserves, Construction of Roads for Access to Property and Register of Roads Policy</i> when Council considered an application made by a resident for a permit to occupy an unnamed section of Road at meetings.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i></p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct by a councillor. The complaint related to an administrative decision by Council - which is outside the jurisdiction of the OIA.</p>	Dismissed
C/20/00330	14 May 2020	<p>It was alleged that on Wednesday 6 May 2020, a secret meeting was held in the Council building to discuss the budget.</p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009. There is an expectation that Councillors can and should meet to discuss matters as long as 'decisions' are not made outside of council meetings.</p>	Dismissed
C/20/00226	25 March 2020	<p>It was alleged a councillor posted on social media advice to voters on how to vote in the Council election.</p>	<p>The OIA dismissed this matter pursuant to section 150X(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 as the conduct does not raise a reasonable suspicion of inappropriate conduct or misconduct.</p> <p>The OIA considered the Queensland Electoral Commission would be better placed to assess the conduct in their jurisdiction under the Local Government Electoral Act.</p>	Dismissed
C/19/00814	30 September 2019	<p>It was alleged that in a media interview a councillor, Cr</p>	<p>The decision was to take no further action pursuant to section 150Y(b)(i) of</p>	No further action
	11 October 2019	<p>Geoff McMullen, did not clearly and accurately explain Council's decision in relation to a budget decision, despite having the opportunity to do so.</p> <p><i>Councillor name included as requested by Cr McMullen.</i></p>	<p>the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>. An OIA investigator reviewed the audio recording of the councillor's interview and it was clear that the councillor did preface their comments with words like 'in my opinion' and did not purport to speak on behalf of Council.</p>	
C/19/00796	20 September 2019	<p>The complaint related to a facebook comment made against a media article concerning the complainant.</p>	<p>The OIA dismissed the complaint pursuant to section 150 X(a)(ii) on the basis that the comment was not made by a councillor and was therefore outside the jurisdiction of the OIA.</p>	Dismissed

C19 00437	23 April 2019	It is alleged a Councillor may have made a financial gain by claiming reimbursement for travel/air flight tickets purchased with personal funds. It is also alleged that this resulted in accumulating frequent flyer points to be used for personal use.	<p>The Office of Independent Assessor (OIA) dismissed the complaint pursuant to Section 150X (a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2009 [the Act]. A review of the Maranoa Regional Council Expenses Reimbursement Policy permits the use of personal funds for Council Business and provides for a claim for reimbursement in accordance with the policy. The policy does not prohibit the accumulation of frequent flyer points or specify how they should be used if accumulated while on Council Business.</p> <p>The OIA has recommended that Council review the Expenses Reimbursement Policy in relation to Frequent Flyer points and consider any associated policy implications for credit card use.</p>	<p>Dismissed</p> <p>Draft policy amendments will be tabled for Council's consideration at an upcoming Council meeting.</p>
C/19/00071-73	30 July 2018	It was alleged that councillors misused their authority in the award of a council contract and showed favouritism towards personal friends, former councillors and lobbyists in exchange for public support.	The OIA decided to dismiss the complaint pursuant to Section 150X(a)(ii) on the basis that the conduct does not constitute inappropriate conduct or misconduct. The information available did not raise a reasonable suspicion of a conflict of interest between the subject councillors and the successful tenderer.	Dismissed