CITY OF PERTH

Register of Complaints

Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates

Prepared by: Council Governance and Policy - *2 October 2023*

Contents

Register of Complaints _____ **3**

1. Complaints of minor breach Register _____ 3
2. Code of Conduct – Division 3 Complaints Register _____ 3
3. Receiving complaints _____ 3

Complaints of minor breach Register _____ **4**

Code of Conduct - Division 3 Complaints Register _____ **10**

The City of Perth acknowledges the Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where Perth City is situated and pays its respects to Elders past, present and future.

Register of Complaints

Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates

1. Complaints of minor breach Register

This register is published in accordance with Section 5.121 of the *Local Government Act 1995* which provides:

5.121. Register of certain complaints of minor breaches

(1) The complaints officer for each local government is required to maintain a register of complaints which records all complaints that result in a finding under section 5.110(2)(a) that a minor breach has occurred.

(2) The register of complaints is to include, for each recorded complaint —

(a) the name of the council member about whom the complaint is made; and

(b) the name of the person who makes the complaint; and

(c) a description of the minor breach that the standards panel finds has occurred; and

(d) details of the action taken under section 5.110(6).

(3) The CEO must publish an up-to-date version of the register of complaints on the local government's official website.

Where no item is included in the Register, a complaint as mentioned in this section has not been made or received.

2. Code of Conduct – Division 3 Complaints Register

This register is published in accordance with the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021.*

The City of Perth Code of Conduct is established to guide the behaviour of Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates.

This register includes details of complaints alleging a behavioural breach under the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates.

3. Receiving complaints

The Chief Executive Officer receives complaints relating to Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates for the purposes of s5.120 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates.

Complaints of minor breach Register Complaints made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
2016-27	Lord Mayor Scaffidi	Cr Limnios (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
The Local Government Standards Panel has found that The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi of the City of Perth breached regulation 7(1)(b) of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 at an ordinary council meeting on 17 May 2016. The Lord Mayor allowed Councillor Janet Davidson to move a motion of no confidence in the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor James Limnios, as a matter of urgent business to be considered by Council without notice to the Deputy Lord Mayor or other councillors, thereby making improper use of her office as a council member to cause detriment to the Deputy Lord Mayor. The Panel censures the Lord Mayor for this breach of regulation 7(1)(b). Notice of Public Censure in the West Australian 5 May 2017 and Perth Voice on 6 May 2017.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
2016-28	Cr Janet Davidson	Cr Limnios (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
Nil.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
2016-29	Cr Judy McEvoy	Cr Limnios (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
The Local Government Standards Panel has found that Councillor Judy McEvoy, a City of Perth Councillor, breached regulation 7(1)(b) of the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 at an ordinary council meeting on 17 May 2016 by seconding Councillor Janet Davidson's motion of no confidence in the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor James Limnios, the motion having been moved as a matter of urgent business to be considered by Council without notice to the Deputy Lord Mayor or other councillors. In seconding the motion Councillor McEvoy made improper use of her office as a council member to cause detriment to the Deputy Lord Mayor. The Panel censures Councillor McEvoy for this breach of regulation 7(1)(b). Notice of Public Censure in the West Australian 5 May 2017 and Perth Voice on 6 May 2017.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
2023-0185	Councillor Brent Fleeton	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 2 February 2023, the Panel found that Councillor Brent Fleeton a councillor for the City of Perth ("the City"), committed: a. one minor breach pursuant to the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) ("the Act") and regulation 20 of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations"); and b. one minor breach pursuant to the Act and Regulation 34D of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 ("the Administration Regulations"), when at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 22 November 2022 Cr Fleeton made the following comments: "Is the sustained damage to our reputation worth the money that we are taking in right now and are we making progress towards the underlying issues impacting this business. I do believe we are making progress towards the underlying issues that the General Manager outlined in a conversation to me. I don't think we are moving quick enough with the property portfolio review and actions coming from that. It's criminal how badly this business has been treated by former councillors and former administration officers and I encourage every councillor to have an in depth conversation with the General Manager, with the CEO's permission, on just how badly this business is right now under the surface. But it's our problem to fix now but I just think where the city is at in terms of what we are trying to do and why we are in this game, I just think these price increases right now while the money will be quarantined for use it's not worth the continued damage to our reputation as a destination so I can't support it." On 7 March 2023, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(a) of the Act that, in relation to the Minor Breach of regulation 20 and regulation 34D of the Regulations that no sanction be imposed upon Cr Fleeton.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
20240381	Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas	Mr Stephen Russell
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 10 June 2024, the Panel found that Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas, the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth ("the City"), committed a minor breach under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) ("the Act") and regulation 18 of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") when he referred to his status as Lord Mayor of the City of Perth while campaigning for pre-selection as the Liberal member for Churchlands ("the Minor Breach")." On 4 February 2025, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(a) of the Act that, in relation to the Minor Breach of regulation 18 of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") that Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas publicly apologise.		
Following his election to State Parliament at the State Election held on 8 March 2025, Former Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas was unable to comply with the Local Government Standards Panel (the Panel) Order conditions, to make the above ordered public apology. As Mr Zempilas was unable to make the apology as ordered by the Panel the Chief Executive Officer publishes the following apology as directed by the Panel: *"PUBLIC APOLOGY BY LORD MAYOR BASIL ZEMPILAS* *A complaint was made to the Local Government Standards Panel, in which it was alleged that I contravened Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021, when I did not maintain an appropriate division between my position as Lord Mayor of the City of Perth and a Liberal candidate for preselection in certain campaign material.* *The Panel found that I breached Regulation 18 as my conduct was improper and undertaken for my own personal advantage.* *I acknowledge that I should not have used my title of Lord Mayor in such a manner and I now apologise to the public and my fellow councillors."*		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
20240403	Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas	Mr Naijiao Bo
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 10 June 2024, the Panel found that Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas, the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth ("the City"), committed a minor breach under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) ("the Act") and regulation 18 of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") when he referred to his status as Lord Mayor of the City of Perth while campaigning for pre-selection as the Liberal member for Churchlands ("the Minor Breach")." On 4 February 2025, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(a) of the Act that, in relation to the **Minor Breach of regulation 18** of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") that no further sanction be imposed on Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
20250559	Councillor Bruce Reynolds (Deputy Lord Mayor)	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 5 May 2025, the Panel found that Councillor Bruce Reynolds, a councillor for the City of Perth ("the City"), committed a minor breach under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) ("the Act") and Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* ("the Regulations") when he used a photograph belonging to the City in a communication flyer ("the Minor Breach"). On the 11 August 2025, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(a) of the Act that, in relation to the **Minor Breach of regulation 17** of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 that no sanction be imposed upon Cr Reynolds.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
20250652	Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds (then Deputy Lord Mayor)	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 1 October 2025, the Panel found that Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds, the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth ("the City"), committed a minor breach under the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) ("the Act") and regulation 18 of Division 4 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") when he referred to himself as "Acting Lord Mayor" ("the Minor Breach")." On the 23 January 2026, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(b)(ii) of the Act that, in relation to the Minor Breach of regulation 18 of the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* that Cr Reynolds is ordered to make a public apology.		

Complaint made under Division 9 — Conduct, of the *Local Government Act 1995*		
Standards Panel reference	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint
20250653	Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds (then Deputy Lord Mayor)	Councillor Catherine Lezer
Details of the actions taken under s5.110(6)		
"At its meeting on 1 October 2025, the Panel found that Councillor Bruce Reynolds ("Cr Reynolds"), a councillor for the City of Perth ("the City"), committed one minor breach under the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) ("the Act") and Regulation 18 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 ("the Regulations") when he described himself as "acting Lord Mayor" in promotional material in the run up to the 2025 Local Government Election ("Minor Breach")." On the 23 January 2026, the Panel ordered pursuant to section 5.110(6)(b)(ii) of the Act that, in relation to the Minor Breach of regulation 18 of the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* that Cr Reynolds is ordered to make a public apology.		

Code of Conduct - Division 3 Complaints Register Complaints made under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management			
Date of decision	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint	Summary
20 September 2023	Cr Brent Fleeton	Cr Sandy Anghie	On 4 June 2023 Cr Sandy Anghie submitted a complaint under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management, against Cr Brent Fleeton. Relating to the content of an email sent by Cr Brent Fleeton on the 21 May 2023.
Findings and actions			
The Chief Executive Officer determined that: 1. Cr Fleeton DID commit a breach of clause 1.3(b) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates when he used language that could reasonably be considered 'offensive or derogatory' in his emailed response to an email from Cr Anghie on 21 May 2023; and 2. An action plan be prepared, in conjunction with Cr Fleeton, requiring that he undertake suitable training related to strengthening his skills in the areas of positive communications and resolving conflict; and 3. The finding, as outlined in 2.1 above, be included in the register on the City' website as required by Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management.			

Complaint made under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management			
Date of decision	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint	Summary
23 May 2024	Cr David Goncalves	Cr Brent Fleeton	On 2 April 2024 Cr Brent Fleeton submitted a complaint under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management, against Cr David Goncalves. Relating to Cr Goncalves appearing on a Channel 9 News program on 27 March 2024.
Findings and actions			

The CEO determined that in response to the alleged breach:

1. Cr Goncalves DID breach clause 2.4 (a) and (b) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates when on 27 March 2024, Councillor Goncalves appeared on the Channel 9 News program and made a statement relating to a resolution of Council (Item 20.1 - City of Perth Draft Business Plan - East Perth Primary School, considered by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2024) that could be perceived as being made in the capacity as spokesperson for the City.
    a. Cr Goncalves did not clearly preface any personal opinions or views as their own and
    b. Cr Goncalves made comments that reflected adversely on a decision of Council while publicly expressing personal views.

2. An action plan be prepared, in conjunction with Cr Goncalves, requiring that the councillor:
    a. Complete the elected member Essentials Training required by the *Local Government Act 1995* by 21 October 2024; and
    b. Complete suitable additional training, as approved by the Chief Executive Officer, related to strengthening their skills in the area of compliance with the *Local Government Act 1995* on completion of the Essentials Training.

3. That this finding (2.1 (1) and (2)) be included in the register on the City' website as required by Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management.

Complaint made under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management			
Date of decision	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint	Summary
13 February 2026	Cr Raj Doshi	Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves	On 10 December 2025, Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves submitted a complaint under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management, against Cr Raj Doshi relating to Cr Raj Doshi's behaviour at an Elected Member Engagement Session on 11 November 2025.
Findings and actions			
The CEO determined that in response to the alleged breach: 1. Cr Doshi DID breach clause 9(d) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates when on 11 November 2025, Councillor Doshi made a defamatory comment at the Elected Member Engagement Session held on 11 November 2025. 2. Cr Doshi DID breach clause 9(e) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates when on 11 November 2025, Councillor Doshi made a defamatory comment at the Elected Member Engagement Session held on 11 November 2025. 3. Cr Doshi DID breach clause 15A(3) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates when on 11 November 2025, Councillor Doshi made a defamatory comment at the Elected Member Engagement Session held on 11 November 2025. 4. No further action will be taken. 5. That this finding be included in the register on the City' website as required by Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management.			

Complaint made under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management			
Date of decision	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint	Summary
10 April 2026	Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds	Dr Kevin McIsaac	On 28 January 2026, Dr Kevin McIsaac submitted a complaint under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management, against Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds relating to the Lord Mayors decision to exclude Dr McIsaac's proposed motion from being raised at the Electors General Meeting held on the 27 January 2026.
Findings and actions			
Council's independent assessor determined that in response to the alleged breach: 1. Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds breached clause 10(d) of the City of Perth Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates 2. that the Lord Mayor undertake the following actions by 5pm on Wednesday 29 April 2026: • Lord Mayor Reynolds to provide a letter of apology to Mr Kevin McIsaac, acknowledging the impact of his conduct. • Lord Mayor Reynolds to provide a copy of the letter of apology to the City of Perth.			

Complaint made under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management			
Date of decision	Name of council member whom the complaint is about	Name of the person who made the complaint	Summary
23 June 2026	Councillor Raj Doshi	Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves	On 21 April 2026, Deputy Lord Mayor David Goncalves submitted a complaint under Council Policy 1.8 Code of Conduct Behavioural Complaints Management, against Councillor Raj Doshi relating to Cr Doshi's use of social media and behaviour relating to Deputy Lord Mayor Goncalves.
Findings and actions			

Council's independent assessor determined that Cr Doshi breached the following clauses of the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates:

1. Clause 8(1)(a) – failing to ensure that their use of social media and other forms of communication complies with the code;
2. Clause 9(a) – failing to not bully or harass another person in any way;
3. Clause 9(d) – failing to not disparage the character of another council member, committee member or candidate or a local government employee in connection with the performance of their official duties;
4. Clause 9(e) – failing to not impute dishonest or unethical motives to another council member, committee member or candidate or a local government employee in connection with the performance of their official duties; and
5. Clause 15A(3) – failing to not make any adverse reflection on Council Members, Committee Members, the CEO, employees, or decisions of Council and Committees, including when publicly expressing my personal opinions or views.

An action plan was prepared, in conjunction with Cr Doshi, requiring that the councillor, by close of business on 31 August 2026:

1. provide a letter of apology to Deputy Lord Mayor Goncalves, acknowledging the impact of her conduct.
2. provide a copy of the letter of apology provided to Deputy Lord Mayor Goncalves, to the City of Perth.
3. provide a general statement of apology at an Ordinary Council Meeting, acknowledging that her social media communication relevant to the Complaint, may have been perceived in a manner inconsistent with the expectations of the Code of Conduct.
4. provide a copy of the statement of apology to the City of Perth.