

13 September 2019

Message from the Registrar

In 2017 the Independent Commission Against Corruption ('ICAC') recommended that Local Aboriginal Land Councils strengthen their governance through developing their own rules and codes of conduct.¹

Codes of Conduct set out the rules, standards and expectations of behaviour for Board members, staff and members.

Pursuant to section 177(4) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the Registrar can develop a Code of Conduct that *may* be adopted by Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Please find attached some DRAFT Codes of Conduct for Board members, staff and members of Local Aboriginal Land Councils developed by the Registrar for your consideration and feedback.

The Registrar's DRAFT Codes of Conduct include more guidance for Boards members, staff and members on:

- Values, legal duties and standards;
- Managing conflicts of interests and pecuniary interests;
- Behaviour at meetings;
- Public comment, including social media; and
- Accountability for breaches of the code, including a dismissal provision.

It is hoped these Codes of Conduct will provide a useful starting point and structure to assist Local Aboriginal Land Councils to develop their own codes. The process of developing your own Code of Conduct is an important process in strengthening good governance in your Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Local Aboriginal Land Councils are encouraged to consider how these model codes can be adapted to make sure they have particular relevance to them and their communities, and to the sorts of organisation they want to be.

We would appreciate if you could please provide any feedback or comments on the draft Codes of Conduct by 18 October 2019. You can email your feedback to adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 8633 1266 to organise time to discuss the Codes.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Courtman
Registrar
Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

¹ *Governance and Regulation in the NSW Aboriginal Land Council Network*, Independent Commission Against Corruption, May 2017,