



New South Wales

Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Bill 2004

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* so as:

- (a) to amend arrangements regarding the discipline of councillors, council staff and council delegates, including matters connected with the following:
 - (i) codes of conduct,
 - (ii) formal censure of councillors,
 - (iii) suspension of councillors or their remuneration,
 - (iv) surcharges, and
- (b) to make a number of other amendments about the following matters:
 - (i) the independence of council staff from direction in certain circumstances,
 - (ii) preliminary enquiries preceding a decision to institute an investigation,

- (iii) changing the name of the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal (the *Pecuniary Interest Tribunal*) to the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal (the *Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal*),
 - (iv) savings and transitional matters consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act, and
- (c) to make a number of consequential amendments.

The Bill also amends the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* with regard to the jurisdiction of the Independent Commission Against Corruption to deal with conduct that could constitute or involve a substantial breach of a code of conduct applying to a council.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* set out in Schedules 1–3.

Clause 4 is a formal provision giving effect to the consequential amendment to the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* set out in Schedule 4.

Schedule 1 Amendments relating to discipline

The Schedule makes the amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* referred to in paragraph (a) of the Overview.

Schedule 1 [1] substitutes section 248A. The proposed section provides for an express prohibition on payment of remuneration to a councillor who is suspended from civic office or whose right to receive remuneration is suspended.

Schedule 1 [2] amends section 435 to remove the requirement that the negligence for which a councillor or a member of council staff can be surcharged has to be “culpable” negligence.

Schedule 1 [3] substitutes section 440. The proposed section empowers the regulations to prescribe a model code of conduct (which may be done by reference to a code identified in the regulations), and indicates what may be included in it. A council is required to adopt the model code, and the adopted code may include supplementary provisions. The adopted code has no effect to the extent that it is inconsistent with the model code as in force for the time

being. Councillors, council staff and council delegates are bound by the council's adopted code and by the model code to the extent that the council has not adopted a code of conduct, the adopted code is inconsistent with the model code or the model code contains provisions not included in the adopted code.

Schedule 1 [4] inserts a new Division 3 of Part 1 of Chapter 14 containing sections 440F–440Q, as follows:

- Proposed section 440F defines *misbehaviour* of a councillor as a contravention of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the regulations under that Act, a failure to comply with a relevant code of conduct, or an act of disorder at a council or committee meeting, but not including a contravention of disclosure requirements (which are dealt with differently under existing provisions).
- Proposed section 440G provides for the passing of a resolution by a council formally censuring a councillor for misbehaviour.
- Proposed sections 440H–440Q provide a system for the suspension of a councillor from civic office for misbehaviour. Provision is made for suspension to be ordered by the Director-General for a period of up to one month or for the referral of a matter to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal for it to consider and impose suspension on a councillor for a period of up to 6 months.
- Proposed section 440H provides that the process of suspension can be initiated by the council concerned, by a request by the Director-General for a report or by a report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman.
- Proposed section 440I specifies the grounds on which a councillor can be suspended.
- Proposed section 440J provides for departmental investigations and reports after the process of suspension has been initiated.
- Proposed section 440K authorises the Director-General to suspend a councillor for a period of up to one month after consideration of a departmental report or following a report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman.
- Proposed section 440L deals with the commencement of a period of suspension.
- Proposed section 440M enables a councillor to appeal to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal against suspension ordered by the Director-General.
- Proposed section 440N enables the Director-General to refer matters to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal for possible imposition of suspension of a councillor.

- Proposed section 440O allows the Director-General in appropriate cases to take no further action regarding suspension, or to refer a case back to the council concerned with appropriate recommendations.
- Proposed section 440P provides for the council concerned to bear the expenses of the suspension process if initiated by the council.
- Proposed section 440Q requires the Director-General to give reasons for suspending a councillor or taking other action.

Schedule 1 [5] amends the heading to Division 2 of Part 3 of Chapter 14 in consequence of the amendment made by Schedule 1 [6].

Schedule 1 [6] inserts a new Division 3 into Part 3 of Chapter 14 containing sections 470A and 470B, as follows:

- Proposed section 470A empowers the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to decide whether to conduct proceedings into a misbehaviour matter referred to it by the Director-General.
- Proposed section 470B provides that the Tribunal may determine any such proceedings without a hearing in certain cases.

Schedule 1 [7]–[11] make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1 [12] amends section 482 to enable the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to impose suspension of a councillor's right to remuneration for up to 6 months for pecuniary interest matters, as an alternative to suspension from civic office.

Schedule 1 [13] inserts a new section 482A, which empowers the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal, when dealing with a misbehaviour matter, to counsel or reprimand the councillor, or suspend the councillor from civic office for up to 6 months, or suspend the councillor's right to remuneration for up to 6 months.

Schedule 1 [14] makes a consequential amendment.

Schedule 1 [15] provides that an appeal does not lie to the Supreme Court from a decision of the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal determining an appeal to the Tribunal concerning a suspension imposed by the Director-General.

Schedule 1 [16] inserts a new Part 5 into Chapter 14 containing sections 490A and 490B, as follows:

- Proposed section 490A defines *act of disorder* for the purposes of Chapter 14 and Schedule 6A as anything done by a councillor at a council or committee meeting that is prescribed as an act of disorder by the regulations.

- Proposed section 490B makes it clear that nothing in Chapter 14 affects any regulations made under other provisions regarding the conduct of a council or committee meeting.

Schedule 1 [17] amends section 674 to provide that the power of the Land and Environment Court to make orders to remedy or restrain breaches of the *Local Government Act 1993* does not extend to matters relating to the formal censure or suspension of councillors.

Schedule 1 [18] inserts a new Schedule 6A, which lists matters that may be dealt with in a code of conduct.

Schedule 2 Other amendments

The Schedule makes the amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* referred to in paragraph (b) of the Overview.

Schedule 2 [1] substitutes section 352. The proposed section provides that council staff are not subject to direction by a councillor (as well as a council) as to the content of any advice or recommendation, but this does not prevent the mayor (as well as the council) from directing the general manager to provide advice or a recommendation.

Schedule 2 [2] inserts a new section 734A, which enables the Director-General to make preliminary enquiries for the purpose of deciding whether to conduct or authorise an investigation under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Schedule 2 [3] and [4] amend Schedule 4 to provide for the deputy of a member of the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to act as the member so that the Tribunal proceedings can be conducted concurrently in two divisions.

Schedule 2 [5] and [6] amend Schedule 8 in relation to savings and transitional provisions consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act, including a provision stating that the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal is to be known as the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal.

Schedule 3 Consequential amendments

The Schedule makes the amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* referred to in paragraph (c) of the Overview.

The amendments are mainly consequential on:

- (a) amendments made by Schedule 1 in connection with codes of conduct applying to councils, and
- (b) amendments made by Schedule 1 that change the name of the Pecuniary Interest Tribunal.

Schedule 4 Consequential amendment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988

The Schedule makes the amendment to the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* referred to in the Overview.

The amendment is made to section 9 of that Act and provides that a reference to a disciplinary offence in that Act extends to a substantial breach of an applicable requirement of a code of conduct applying to a council. The result is that the Independent Commission Against Corruption will be able to deal with conduct that is corrupt conduct (as defined in section 8 of that Act) and that could constitute or involve a substantial breach of a code of conduct.



New South Wales

Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Bill 2004

Contents

	Page
1 Name of Act	2
2 Commencement	2
3 Amendment of Local Government Act 1993 No 30	2
4 Amendment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 No 35	2
Schedule 1 Amendments relating to discipline	3
Schedule 2 Other amendments	17
Schedule 3 Consequential amendments	20
Schedule 4 Consequential amendment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988	23



New South Wales

Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Bill 2004

No. _____, 2004

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* in relation to the discipline of councillors, council staff and other persons, and in relation to other matters; to make consequential amendments; and for other purposes.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:	1
1 Name of Act	2
This Act is the <i>Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Act 2004</i> .	3 4
2 Commencement	5
This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.	6 7
3 Amendment of Local Government Act 1993 No 30	8
The <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> is amended as set out in Schedules 1–3.	9 10
4 Amendment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 No 35	11 12
The <i>Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988</i> is amended as set out in Schedule 4.	13 14

Schedule 1 Amendments relating to discipline

(Section 3)

[1] Section 248A

Omit the section. Insert instead:

248A Annual fees or other remuneration not to be paid during period of suspension

A council must not at any time pay any fee or other remuneration, to which a councillor would otherwise be entitled as the holder of a civic office, in respect of any period during which:

- (a) the councillor is suspended from civic office under this Act, or
- (b) the councillor's right to be paid any fee or other remuneration is suspended under this Act,

unless another provision of this Act specifically authorises payment to be made, or specifically permits a person to authorise payment to be made, when the suspension is terminated.

[2] Section 435 Surcharging by Departmental representative

Omit "culpable" from section 435 (2) (a).

[3] Section 440

Omit the section. Insert instead:

440 Codes of conduct

- (1) The regulations may prescribe a model code of conduct (the *model code*) applicable to councillors, members of staff of councils and delegates of councils.
- (2) Without limiting what may be included in the model code, the model code may:
 - (a) relate to any conduct (whether by way of act or omission) of a councillor, member of staff or delegate in carrying out his or her functions that is likely to bring the council or holders of civic office into disrepute, and

- (b) in particular, contain provisions for or with respect to conduct specified in Schedule 6A. 1
2
- (3) A council must adopt a code of conduct (the *adopted code*) that incorporates the provisions of the model code. The adopted code may include provisions that supplement the model code. 3
4
5
6
- (4) A council's adopted code has no effect to the extent that it is inconsistent with the model code as in force for the time being. 7
8
9
- (5) Councillors, members of staff and delegates of a council must comply with the applicable provisions of: 10
11
 - (a) the council's adopted code, except to the extent of any inconsistency with the model code as in force for the time being, and 12
13
14
 - (b) the model code as in force for the time being, to the extent that: 15
16
 - (i) the council has not adopted a code of conduct, or 17
 - (ii) the adopted code is inconsistent with the model code, or 18
19
 - (iii) the model code contains provisions or requirements not included in the adopted code. 20
21
- (6) A provision of a council's adopted code is not inconsistent with the model code merely because the provision makes a requirement of the model code more onerous for persons required to observe the requirement. 22
23
24
25
- (7) A council must, within 12 months after each ordinary election, review its adopted code and make such adjustments as it considers appropriate and as are consistent with this section. 26
27
28
29
- (8) Nothing in this section or such a code gives rise to, or can be taken into account in, any civil cause of action, but nothing in this section affects rights or liabilities arising apart from this section. 30
31
32
33

- (5) A motion for a formal censure resolution may, without limitation, be moved on the report of a committee of the council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the council. 1
2
3
4
- 440H How is the process for suspension of a councillor for misbehaviour initiated?** 5
6
- (1) The process for the suspension of a councillor from civic office is initiated by: 7
8
- (a) a request made by the council by resolution communicated to the Director-General, in which the council states its belief that grounds may exist that warrant the councillor's suspension, or 9
10
11
12
- (b) a request made by the Director-General to the council for a report from the council in relation to the councillor's alleged misbehaviour, or 13
14
15
- (c) a report made by the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman, in which the Commission or the Ombudsman states that the Commission or Ombudsman is satisfied that grounds exist that warrant the councillor's suspension. 16
17
18
19
20
- (2) The council must make a report to the Director-General requested under subsection (1) (b) before the date specified in the Director-General's request or any later date allowed by the Director-General. 21
22
23
24
- (3) This section authorises such requests and reports to be made, and a reference in this section to a report made by the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman is a reference to a report made to the Director-General under the authority of this subsection or under any other provisions of this or any other Act. 25
26
27
28
29
30
- (4) Nothing in this section affects any function under any other provisions of this or any other Act that authorises the making of a report or recommendation concerning suspension of a councillor from civic office. 31
32
33
34

440I	What are the grounds on which a councillor may be suspended?	1
		2
(1)	The grounds on which a councillor may be suspended from civic office under this Division are that:	3
		4
(a)	the councillor's behaviour has:	5
	(i) been disruptive over a period, and	6
	(ii) involved more than one incident of misbehaviour during that period,	7
		8
	and the pattern of behaviour during that period is of such a sufficiently serious nature as to warrant the councillor's suspension, or	9
		10
		11
(b)	the councillor's behaviour has involved one incident of misbehaviour that is of such a sufficiently serious nature as to warrant the councillor's suspension.	12
		13
		14
(2)	The process for the suspension of a councillor from civic office cannot be initiated by a request made by the council unless:	15
		16
		17
(a)	where subsection (1) (a) applies—the councillor has:	18
	(i) on two or more occasions been formally censured for incidents of misbehaviour that occurred during the period concerned, or	19
		20
		21
	(ii) on at least one occasion been expelled from a meeting of the council or a committee of the council for an incident of misbehaviour during the period concerned, or	22
		23
		24
		25
(b)	where subsection (1) (b) applies—the councillor has:	26
	(i) been formally censured for the incident of misbehaviour concerned, or	27
		28
	(ii) been expelled from a meeting of the council or a committee of the council for the incident of misbehaviour concerned.	29
		30
		31
(3)	Subsection (2) does not affect the Director-General's power to initiate the process for the suspension of a councillor from civic office.	32
		33
		34
(4)	Furthermore, subsection (2) does not prevent the Director-General from initiating the process for the suspension of a councillor from civic office as a result of a request or report referred to in section 440H.	35
		36
		37
		38

440J	How are requests and reports dealt with?	1
(1)	The Director-General may arrange for a departmental report to be prepared into the matters raised by or connected with a request or report referred to in section 440H.	2 3 4
(2)	The Director-General may authorise a member of the staff of the Department to conduct an investigation into any or all of those matters to assist in the preparation of the departmental report.	5 6 7 8
(3)	The preparation of a departmental report is a prerequisite to a decision by the Director-General to suspend the councillor from office, but is not necessary if the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman states in a report that the Commission or Ombudsman is satisfied that grounds exist that warrant the councillor's suspension.	9 10 11 12 13 14
(4)	In this Division, <i>departmental report</i> means a report prepared by a person authorised by the Director-General to do so.	15 16
440K	Suspension by Director-General for misbehaviour	17
(1)	The Director-General may by order in writing suspend a councillor from civic office for a period not exceeding one month:	18 19 20
(a)	if the Director-General has considered a departmental report into the matters concerned and is satisfied that grounds exist that warrant the councillor's suspension, or	21 22 23 24
(b)	if the Independent Commission Against Corruption or the Ombudsman states in a report that the Commission or Ombudsman is satisfied that grounds exist that warrant the councillor's suspension.	25 26 27 28
(2)	A copy of the order must be served on the councillor.	29
(3)	A councillor, while suspended from civic office under this section:	30 31
(a)	is not entitled to exercise any of the functions of the civic office, and	32 33
(b)	is not entitled to any fee or other remuneration to which he or she would otherwise be entitled as the holder of the civic office.	34 35 36

440L	When does an order of suspension take effect?	1
	The period of suspension under an order made by the Director-General commences on the date 7 days after the service of the order on the councillor or the date specified in the order for the commencement of the period of suspension, whichever is the later.	2 3 4 5 6
440M	Appeals against suspension	7
(1)	A councillor against whom an order of suspension is made by the Director-General may appeal against the order to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal.	8 9 10
(2)	Such an appeal may not be made more than 28 days after the date the order was served on the councillor.	11 12
(3)	The Tribunal may stay the order of suspension until such time as the Tribunal determines the appeal.	13 14
(4)	The Tribunal may:	15
	(a) confirm the order, or	16
	(b) quash the order, or	17
	(c) amend the order consistently with the powers of the Director-General.	18 19
(5)	If the order is quashed, any fee or other remuneration withheld is payable to the councillor.	20 21
(6)	If the order is amended, the order as amended has effect as if it had been made in that form by the Director-General.	22 23
(7)	The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the making, hearing and determination of appeals under this section.	24 25 26
440N	Referral of matters to Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal	27 28
(1)	The Director-General may refer a matter that is the subject of a request or report referred to in section 440H for consideration by the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal instead of suspending the councillor concerned under this Division.	29 30 31 32 33

(2)	However, a matter that is the subject of a request by a council may not be referred to the Tribunal unless the councillor concerned has previously been suspended under this Chapter for misbehaviour.	1 2 3 4
(3)	The preparation and consideration of a departmental report is not a prerequisite to a decision by the Director-General to refer a matter to the Tribunal, but the Director-General may take into consideration a departmental report into the matter if one is prepared.	5 6 7 8 9
(4)	A matter is referred to the Tribunal under this section by means of a report presented to the Tribunal by the Director-General. A report may contain or be accompanied by such material and observations as the Director-General thinks fit.	10 11 12 13
(5)	The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the reference of matters to the Tribunal under this section.	14 15
440O	Are there alternatives to suspension or referral to Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal?	16 17
(1)	The Director-General may, after considering a request or report made under section 440H and any relevant departmental report prepared under section 440J, decide to take no further action on the request or report, whether or not a departmental investigation or departmental report has been authorised, started or completed, if satisfied that no further action is warranted.	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
(2)	The Director-General may, instead of suspending a councillor from civic office under this Division or referring the matter to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal, refer the matter to the council with recommendations as to how the council might resolve the matter, by alternative dispute resolution or otherwise.	25 26 27 28 29 30
440P	Expenses to be borne by council	31
(1)	The Director-General may recover the reasonable expenses incurred by or in respect of the Department in considering and dealing with a request made by a council under section 440H from the council, including the expenses of any departmental investigation and departmental report into the matters raised by or connected with the request.	32 33 34 35 36 37

(2)	The Director-General may make a determination of the amount of the expenses referred to in subsection (1) and serve a notice on the council requiring the amount so determined be paid in recovery of the Department's expenses.	1 2 3 4
(3)	An amount equal to the expenses as so determined is payable to the Department as a debt by the council concerned, except as determined by the Director-General.	5 6 7
(4)	The council may apply to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of whether any part of the expenses so determined are not reasonable expenses.	8 9 10
(5)	The Director-General must give effect to any decision of the Tribunal on a review of the determination of the amount of the expenses.	11 12 13
(6)	A reference in this section to expenses incurred includes a reference to remuneration paid to departmental staff.	14 15
440Q	Reasons to be given	16
(1)	The Director-General is required to prepare a written statement of reasons for:	17 18
(a)	imposing or deciding not to impose a period of suspension, or	19 20
(b)	referring a matter to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal.	21 22
(2)	The statement of reasons is to be provided to the council and councillor concerned.	23 24
[5]	Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 2, heading	25
	Omit " Tribunal ".	26
	Insert instead " and Disciplinary Tribunal—pecuniary interest matters ".	27 28

[6] Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 3	1
Insert after section 470:	2
Division 3 Proceedings before the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal—misbehaviour matters	3 4 5
470A Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to decide whether or not to conduct proceedings into a referred matter relating to misbehaviour	6 7 8
(1) After considering a report presented to it under section 440N in relation to a referred matter, the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal may decide to conduct proceedings into the matter.	9 10 11 12
(2) If the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal decides not to conduct proceedings into a referred matter, it must provide a written statement of its decision, and the reasons for its decision:	13 14 15 16
(a) to the councillor to whom the report relates, and	17
(b) to the council concerned, and	18
(c) to the Director-General.	19
(3) To avoid doubt, a decision by the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal not to conduct proceedings into a referred matter is not a decision to which section 484 or 485 applies.	20 21 22 23
470B Circumstances in which Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal may dispense with hearing	24 25
(1) After considering a report presented to it under section 440N and any other document or other material lodged with or provided to the Tribunal in relation to the report, the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal may determine the proceedings without a hearing if:	26 27 28 29 30
(a) the Director-General and the councillor to whom the report relates have agreed that the proceedings may be determined without a hearing, and	31 32 33
(b) there are no material facts in dispute between the Director-General and the councillor, and	34 35

(c)	in the opinion of the Tribunal, public interest considerations do not require a hearing.	1 2
(2)	To avoid doubt, a decision by the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to determine proceedings in a referred matter without a hearing is a decision to which sections 484 and 485 apply.	3 4 5 6
[7]	Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 4, heading	7
	Insert before section 471:	8
	Division 4	9
	Proceedings before the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal—general provisions	10 11
[8]	Section 478 Additional complaints	12
	Insert after section 478 (4):	13
(5)	This section does not apply to proceedings in relation to a matter referred to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal under section 440N.	14 15 16
[9]	Section 480 Release of information	17
	Insert “in the case of proceedings in relation to a complaint—” before “direct” in section 480 (1) (a) and (b) wherever occurring.	18 19
[10]	Section 480 (1)	20
	Insert at the end of section 480 (1) (b):	21
	, or	22
(c)	in the case of proceedings in relation to a matter referred to the Tribunal under section 440N—direct that all or any of the following matters are not to be published:	23 24 25 26
	• the name and address of any witness	27
	• the name and address of the councillor to whom the referred matter relates	28 29
	• any specified evidence	30
	• the subject-matter of the referred matter.	31

[11] Section 480 (3) (b)	1
Insert “or the councillor to whom the referred matter relates,” after “made,”.	2 3
[12] Section 482 Decision of Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal—pecuniary interest matters	4 5
Insert at the end of section 482 (1) (d):	6
, or	7
(e) suspend the councillor’s right to be paid any fee or other remuneration, to which the councillor would otherwise be entitled as the holder of the civic office, in respect of a period not exceeding 6 months (without suspending the councillor from civic office for that period).	8 9 10 11 12
[13] Section 482A	13
Insert after section 482:	14
482A Decision of Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal—misbehaviour matters	15 16
(1) This section applies where a matter has been referred to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal under section 440N.	17 18 19
(2) The Tribunal may, if it finds that the behaviour concerned warrants action under this section:	20 21
(a) counsel the councillor, or	22
(b) reprimand the councillor, or	23
(c) suspend the councillor from civic office for a period not exceeding 6 months, or	24 25
(d) suspend the councillor’s right to be paid any fee or other remuneration, to which the councillor would otherwise be entitled as the holder of the civic office, in respect of a period not exceeding 6 months (without suspending the councillor from civic office for that period).	26 27 28 29 30

[14] Section 484 Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to provide details of its decisions	1 2
Insert “(or to the relevant council in the case of a matter that has been referred to the Tribunal under section 440N)” after “complaint” in section 484 (1).	3 4 5
[15] Section 485 Appeals to Supreme Court	6
Insert “, other than a decision of the Tribunal determining an appeal to the Tribunal under section 440M” after “the proceeding” in section 485 (1).	7 8
[16] Chapter 14, Part 5	9
Insert after section 490:	10
 Part 5 Miscellaneous	 11
490A Acts of disorder	12
For the purposes of this Chapter and Schedule 6A, a councillor commits an <i>act of disorder</i> if the councillor, at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council, does anything that is prescribed by the regulations as an act of disorder for the purposes of this Chapter and Schedule 6A.	13 14 15 16 17
490B Certain regulations not affected	18
Nothing in this Chapter affects any regulations made, or the power to make regulations, with respect to the conduct of meetings of a council or a committee of a council, and in particular with respect to:	19 20 21 22
(a) the keeping of order at any such meetings, or	23
(b) censuring a councillor in connection with a breach of a council’s code of meeting practice.	24 25
[17] Section 674 Remedy or restraint of breaches of this Act—other persons	26 27
Insert after the note at the end of section 674 (4):	28
(5) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to anything done or omitted to be done under Division 3 of Part 1 of Chapter 14.	29 30
Note. Section 440M confers a right of appeal to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal against an order of suspension of a councillor under Division 3 of Part 1 of Chapter 14.	31 32 33

[18] Schedule 6A		1
Insert after Schedule 6:		2
Schedule 6A Code of conduct		3
	(Section 440)	4
1	Conduct that contravenes all or specified provisions of this Act or the regulations in all or specified circumstances	5 6
2	Conduct that is detrimental to the pursuit of the charter of a council	7 8
3	Improper or unethical conduct	9
4	Abuse of power and other misconduct	10
5	Action causing, comprising or involving any of the following:	11
	(a) intimidation, harassment or verbal abuse	12
	(b) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to employment	13 14
	(c) prejudice in the provision of a service to the community	15
6	Conduct of a councillor causing, comprising or involving any of the following:	16 17
	(a) directing or influencing, or attempting to direct or influence, a member of the staff of the council or a delegate of the council in the exercise of the functions of the member or delegate	18 19 20 21
	(b) an act of disorder committed by the councillor at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council	22 23

Schedule 2 Other amendments

(Section 3)

[1] Section 352

Omit the section. Insert instead:

352 Independence of staff for certain purposes

- (1) A member of staff of a council is not subject to direction by the council or by a councillor as to the content of any advice or recommendation made by the member.
- (2) This section does not prevent the council or the mayor from directing the general manager of the council to provide advice or a recommendation.

[2] Section 734A

Insert after section 734:

734A Preliminary enquiries by Director-General

- (1) The Director-General may make preliminary enquiries for the purpose of deciding whether to exercise any of his or her powers of investigation under this Act or powers to authorise an investigation under this Act.
- (2) The enquiries may be made whether or not a complaint has been made under this Act in connection with any matter to which the enquiries relate.

[3] Schedule 4 Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal

Insert after clause 2 (2):

- (2A) If so requested by the member, the member's deputy may, if available, act in the place of the member in connection with a particular matter when the member is not absent. For this purpose, the affairs of the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal may be conducted concurrently in two divisions.

[4] Schedule 4, clause 2 (3)

Omit "so acting". Insert instead "acting under this clause".

[5] Schedule 8 Savings, transitional and other provisions consequent on the enactment of other Acts	1 2
Insert at the end of clause 1 (1):	3
<i>Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Act 2004</i>	4
[6] Schedule 8	5
Insert at the end of the Schedule with appropriate Part and clause numbers:	6
Part Provisions consequent on enactment of Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Act 2004	7 8 9
Meaning of “amending Act”	10
In this Part, <i>amending Act</i> means the <i>Local Government Amendment (Discipline) Act 2004</i> .	11 12
Surcharging	13
The amendment made to section 435 (2) by the amending Act applies only to alleged negligence or misconduct occurring or committed after the commencement of the amendment.	14 15 16
Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal	17 18
On and from the commencement of the amendment made to section 487 by the amending Act:	19 20
(a) the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal established under section 487 immediately before that commencement continues in existence and is to be known as the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal, and	21 22 23 24 25
(b) the person holding office as the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal immediately before that commencement continues in office, subject to Schedule 4, as the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal for the balance of the term of office for which he or she was appointed, and	26 27 28 29 30 31

-
- (c) a person holding office as the deputy of the member immediately before that commencement continues in office, subject to Schedule 4, on the same terms and conditions as those applicable immediately before that commencement, and 1
2
3
4
5
 - (d) any matters or proceedings pending before the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal immediately before that commencement are not affected by the enactment or commencement of the amending Act and are to continue to be dealt with by the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal, and 6
7
8
9
10
11
12
 - (e) a reference in any other Act, in any instrument made under an Act or in any other document to the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal is to be read as a reference to the Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal. 13
14
15
16
17

Misbehaviour 18

Division 3 of Part 1 of Chapter 14, as inserted by the amending Act, applies to misbehaviour occurring after but not before the earlier of the commencement of that Division or the commencement of the first provisions of that Division to commence. 19
20
21
22
23

Schedule 3 Consequential amendments	1
(Section 3)	2
[1] Section 12 What information is publicly available?	3
Omit “the council’s code of conduct” from section 12 (1).	4
Insert instead “the model code prescribed under section 440 (1) and the code of conduct adopted by the council under section 440 (3)”.	5 6
[2] Section 329 Can the holder of a civic office be dismissed?	7
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” in section 329 (5).	8
[3] Section 372 Rescinding or altering resolutions	9
Insert “regulations made under section 360 and, if applicable,” after “in accordance with” in section 372 (1).	10 11
[4] Section 372 (6)	12
Insert “of the meeting of the council” after “minutes”.	13
[5] Chapter 14, Introduction	14
Omit “requires councils to adopt a code of conduct”.	15
Insert instead “provides for the adoption of codes of conduct”.	16
[6] Chapter 14, Introduction	17
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest”.	18
[7] Sections 465 and 468	19
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” wherever occurring.	20
[8] Sections 469 Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal to decide whether or not to conduct proceedings into a complaint	21 22
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” wherever occurring.	23
[9] Section 470 Circumstances in which Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal may dispense with hearing	24 25
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” wherever occurring in the section and the note to the section.	26 27

[10] Sections 471–486	1
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” wherever occurring.	2
[11] Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 2, flowchart (after section 486)	3
Omit “ Tribunal ” from the heading.	4
Insert instead “ and Disciplinary Tribunal—pecuniary interest matters ”.	5 6
[12] Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 2, flowchart	7
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” where secondly occurring.	8 9
[13] Chapter 14, Part 3, Division 2, flowchart	10
Insert below the matter relating to “• disqualify for up to 5 years”:	11
• suspend right to be paid for up to 6 months	12
[14] Chapter 14, Part 4, heading	13
Insert “ and Disciplinary ” after “ Pecuniary Interest ”.	14
[15] Sections 487–490	15
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” wherever occurring.	16
[16] Section 673 Remedy or restraint of breaches of this Act—the Minister, the Director-General and councils	17 18
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” in the note to the section.	19 20
[17] Section 674 Remedy or restraint of breaches of this Act—other persons	21 22
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” in the note to the section.	23 24
[18] Schedule 4 Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal	25 26
Insert “and Disciplinary” after “Pecuniary Interest” in clause 1.	27

[19] Dictionary

Omit the definition of *Pecuniary Interest Tribunal*. Insert instead:

Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal means the
Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary
Tribunal established under this Act.

1
2
3
4
5

Schedule 4 Consequential amendment of Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988

(Section 4)

Section 9 Limitation on nature of corrupt conduct

Insert after section 9 (5):

- (6) A reference to a disciplinary offence in this section and sections 74A and 74B includes a reference to a substantial breach of an applicable requirement of a code of conduct required to be complied with under section 440 (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, but does not include a reference to any other breach of such a requirement.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11