

REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Organisation: Audit Office of NSW
Name: Ms Margaret Crawford
Position: Auditor-General
Date Received: 1 February 2016



Mr M. Coure MP
Chair
Committee on Parliamentary
Privilege and Ethics
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Contact: Barry Underwood
Phone no: [REDACTED]
Our ref: D1545886
Your ref: D15/33826

1 February 2016

Dear Mr Coure

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 4 November 2015 and the opportunity to provide feedback on the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament.

Having reviewed the Code my thoughts for your consideration are:

- the core values included within the preamble "...maintain the public trust placed in them by performing their duties with honesty and integrity, respecting the law..." would benefit from further explanation similar to the NSW Public Sector Commission's publication, *Behaving Ethically: A guide for NSW government sector employees*
- Section 1 of the Code, Disclosure of conflict of interest, should state that the member cannot vote or participate in a debate where a significant actual or perceived conflict of interest exists
- the disclosure obligations in section 7, Secondary employment or engagements, should also apply if the Member votes on a matter and not just when the Member participates in a debate
- the disclosure obligations in section 7 should cover the past two years irrespective of when the Member sworn in
- the Code should cover actions to be taken if there are breaches of the Code or allegations of breaches
- the Code should be signed when a Member is sworn in and then regularly thereafter to act as a formal commitment and regular reminder of the Code.

I hope you find this useful. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Barry Underwood, Executive Manager Governance [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
A T Whitfield PSM
Acting Auditor-General