

## **MEDIA RELEASE: QUEENSLAND INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER**

### **Queensland Integrity Commissioner and Independent Assessor release aids to help councillors identify and manage conflicts of interest**

**5 February 2019: A step-by-step decision-making guide for councillors** has been developed by the Queensland Integrity Commissioner and the Office of the Independent Assessor to aid councillors in identifying, disclosing, and managing potential conflicts of interest and material personal interests.

The guide and meeting aids are available from the Integrity Commissioner's website: <https://www.integrity.qld.gov.au/>

The Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Dr Nikola Stepanov, says the guide and aids are designed to be a useful and practical tool to assist councillors in dealing with interest issues.

“Across sectors and settings, identifying and appropriately managing conflicts of interest and material personal interests is becoming more complex. The guide and the meeting aids we have developed, aim to help councillors navigate complex interest issues in a transparent and consistent way.”

The Queensland Integrity Commissioner provides ethics and integrity advice to more than 5000 persons, including all public office holders and senior public sector employees. The addition of mayors and councillors to the portfolio of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner has been welcomed by the integrity commission.

“My office's involvement in the local government sector is fairly recent. During this time, I have responded to requests for advice from mayors and councillors on more than two hundred occasions. As well, we have provided a number of educational seminars, with many more planned as part of various training partnerships”, Dr Stepanov said.

“Councillors play a vital role in our local communities while facing difficult challenges. My team and I have been very encouraged and impressed by the attitudes, and the commitment to community values, shown by the mayors and councillors we have been dealing with.”

“I would like to thank the Independent Assessor, Kathleen Florian who assisted in the development of the guide and meeting aids.”

These resources will be available on the Integrity Commissioner's website in the coming weeks. However, you can also request a copy by emailing the Integrity Commissioner at: [integrity.commissioner@integrity.qld.gov.au](mailto:integrity.commissioner@integrity.qld.gov.au)

**ENDS**

**Contact:** [office@integrity.qld.gov.au](mailto:office@integrity.qld.gov.au)