

# Key messages

- The new Model Code of Conduct has been developed following extensive consultation with councils and other key stakeholders.
- Based on feedback, the Division is giving councils greater flexibility to resolve less serious matters informally. It is also providing for stronger penalties to help deter ongoing disruptive behaviour and serious misconduct.
- The new code is designed to introduce greater fairness. The investigation of all complaints about councillors and general managers is now managed from start to finish by an independent conduct reviewer.
- New standards have been included to address misuse of the code. Minor changes have also been made to standards previously covered by the code.
- Clearer procedures have been introduced to help make the code easier to understand and use.
- The Division has more options to directly manage administration of the code and address its misuse. Both the Division and the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal will be able to impose stronger penalties for repeated misconduct.
- These changes will help councils get on with the core business of serving their communities.