

Circular Details	15-07 / 10 February 2015 / A410127
Previous Circular	<i>Not applicable</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Councils to Implement

Misuse of Council Resources – 2015 State Election

What's new or changing

In the lead up to the 2015 State election, council officials need to be aware of their obligations under the Model Code of Conduct regarding the use of council resources.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils may experience an increased risk that council resources are misused.
- It is important that the community has confidence that council property and resources are only used for official purposes.
- Councils are encouraged to ensure that council officials are aware of their obligations regarding the use of council resources.

Key points

- Clause 7.16 and 7.17 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that council officials must not:
 - use council resources, property or facilities for the purpose of assisting their election campaign or the election campaign of others unless the resources, property or facilities are otherwise available for use or hire by the public and any publicly advertised fee is paid for the use of the resources, property or facility;
 - use council letterhead, council crests and other information that could give the appearance it is official council material for the purpose of assisting their election campaign or the election campaign of others.
- These obligations apply to all election campaigns including council, State and Federal election campaigns.
- Councils should also ensure that they exercise any regulatory powers in relation to election activities such as election signage in an impartial and even-handed way and in accordance with established procedures and practices.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action under the code of conduct.

Where to go for further information

- For more information, contact the Office's Council Governance Team on 4428 4100.



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