

23 September 2020

The Hon Shelley Hancock  
Minister for Local Government  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Hancock

**Re: Code of Conduct for Local Government Officers**

I write to express ongoing exasperation with the ineffectual nature of the current Code of Conduct in NSW as it applies to Local Government Officers.

Concerns are raised continually by both complainants and by people who are the subject of a complaint.

As I am sure you are aware from similar submissions across the State, the Code of Conduct provides no meaningful tool to address poor behaviour by Local Government public officials.

This is compounded by the costs associated with investigators and the under resourcing of the Office of Local Government to address the matters arising continually across the state.

The reality is, and this should be acknowledged by the NSW Government openly, there is no effective mechanism for fairly and meaningfully reviewing complaints about conduct standards for public officials in Local Government in NSW.

In writing this letter I acknowledge that it is not an easy problem to solve however it needs to be stated clearly and openly that the current solution is doing more harm than good by giving the false impression that NSW has a mechanism for reviewing and fairly dealing with conduct complaints concerning public officials in Local Government.

If I can help in any way whatsoever to progress this issue to something which is meaningful, I will assist in any way. There are many problems requiring a solution, please don't underestimate the importance of this one. It is causing frustration to elected members; it is causing frustration to Local Government professionals and it is no doubt causing frustration to the community.

Yours faithfully



Peter Thompson  
General Manager

cc: Office of Local Government