

Fact Sheet – Public Interest Disclosures

This fact sheet explains Public Interest Disclosures at East Gippsland Water.

WHAT IS IT?

Public interest disclosure law enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. This includes ensuring that the person making the disclosure and content of the disclosure are, where possible, kept confidential.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

The new Act (*Protected Disclosures Act 2012*) covers:

- Making disclosures of **improper conduct** by East Gippsland Water and our staff
- **Detrimental action** taken by East Gippsland Water or our staff in reprisal for a public interest disclosure being made.

DEFINITIONS:

Improper conduct is defined in the table below:

Who is performing the improper conduct?	Types of improper conduct
Public Officer or Entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dishonest performance of a public officer or public official of their duties - Knowingly or recklessly breaching public trust by a public officer or public official - Misuse of information obtained by a public officer or public official given to them in that capacity - A conspiracy to commit or attempt to commit the above conduct - Conduct that implies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A substantial mismanagement of public resources - A substantial risk to public health or safety - A substantial risk to the environment
Any person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct adversely affecting the honest performance of a public officer or public official of their functions

Detrimental action is action against a person in reprisal for a public interest disclosure. This could include action causing injury, loss or damage; intimidation or harassment; discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's work, career, job, trade or business, including taking disciplinary action.

HOW TO MAKE A PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE

You can make a public interest disclosure about East Gippsland Water or its board directors, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC), on the contact details provided below.

Please note that East Gippsland Water is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

If the disclosure is under the threshold of the offences described in the above definitions, it should be dealt with under the existing East Gippsland Water complaint or disciplinary processes.

CONTACT

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Phone: 1300 735 135

Website: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.