
From: NSW Gov No Reply [mailto:noreply@minister.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 9:16 AM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: Model Code of Conduct Consultation - Gifts and Benefits



The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Dear Mr Faulkner

By now, your council will have adopted a new code of conduct based on the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (Model Code of Conduct).

As you would be aware, the new Model Code of Conduct sets for the first time a monetary threshold on the value of gifts that may be accepted by council officials. The Office of Local Government (OLG) consulted with councils and integrity agencies such as the NSW Ombudsman and the Independent Commission Against Corruption, in setting that threshold at \$50. The threshold now applies uniformly to all council officials including both councillors and council staff.

Out of the 95 submissions received in response to the consultation draft of the Model Code of Conduct, only 5 raised concerns about the \$50 cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted by council officials.

I have since been approached by a number of mayors and councillors, who have raised concerns with me about the appropriateness of the \$50 cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted by councillors. In particular, it has been suggested that the cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted by councillors should be raised to \$500.

I am interested to hear the views of other councils on this matter. In particular, I would be interested to hear councils' views on the following:

- Whether \$50 is an appropriate monetary value for the cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted by councillors.
- If the \$50 cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted by councillors is not appropriate, at what value should it be set?
- If it is suggested that the cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted should

be raised, should it be raised uniformly for all council officials, or should it just be raised for councillors and the \$50 cap retained for other council officials such as council staff.

- If it is suggested that the cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted should be raised for councillors and not for other council officials such as council staff, why does your council believe that councillors should be subject to a different standard than the one that applies to other classes of council officials in relation to the acceptance of gifts.

I request that councils make a submission to the Office of Local Government (OLG) at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au by **Friday 8 November 2019**. Submissions should be marked "Gifts and Benefits Feedback" and marked to the attention of OLG's Council Governance Team.

I appreciate your council's assistance with this matter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact OLG's Council Governance Team on 4428 4100.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
