

Councillor Conduct Register 2025-2026



This register is kept in accordance with Section 150DX of the Local Government Act 2009. Cairns Regional Council must maintain and publish a Councillor Conduct Register. The register must record matters about [150DX (1)(a)] orders made about the unsuitable meeting conduct of councillors, including the chairperson, at its local government meetings [150DX(1)(b)]: decisions not to start, or to discontinue, investigations of suspected conduct breaches of councillors under section 150AEA: [150DX (1)(c)] : decisions about the suspected conduct breaches of councillors referred to the local government under part 3, division 5: [150DX (1)(d)] :decisions about whether or not councillors engaged in misconduct or a conduct breach made by the conduct tribunal under part 3, division 6. This register is required to be published on the Cairns Regional Council Website and will be available for inspection and/or purchase by the public.

Decision maker	Date of decision	Name of Councillor (if required)	Summary of complaint	Decision	Summary of the decision and reasons for the decision <i>(only includes names where substantiated)</i>	Date of Complaint
Cairns Regional Council OIA Reference C/25/00855	27/05/2026	Not required	On 4 February 2026 Cairns Regional Council received a referral from the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) pursuant to Chapter 5A, Part 3, Division 5 of the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld) (the Act). An external investigator was appointed by Cairns Regional Council to investigate and report on the subject matter of the OIA referral. The referral was in relation to a complaint that broadly raised concerns about a Councillor, in that the behaviour of the Councillor was alleged to be targeted, sexualised, mocking and coercive; and had continued despite repeated attempts to address it.	The Councillor did not engage in a conduct breach.	That Cairns Regional Council 1. Accepts the investigation report and finds the Councillor did not engage in a conduct breach 2. Notes that the out of pocket costs of the investigation excluding, internal staff time and resources, is estimated to be \$25,000 to \$30,000; and 3. Notes that the full investigation report will be made publicly available in accordance with section 150AGA of the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld).	18/12/2025
Councillor Conduct Tribunal File No. F26/432	18/06/2026	Cr Amy Eden	Agreed Facts - The First Allegation On 3 December 2022 Cr Eden received an email from the CEO; included in the body of the email was an extract of legal advice obtained by the CEO relating to the issue of councillors using discretionary funds to support a public art project. On 19 January 2023 Cr Eden received an email from a journalist that included questions about funding arrangements for the same public art project. Cr Eden replied to the journalist's email the next day with information that included numerous references to the legal advice obtained by the CEO, and advising the journalist as follows: The CEO had sought legal advice on the legality of the project at the cost to the ratepayer. The advice concluded that the project complied with relevant local government legislation, local government regulation and council policies – however the ultimate decision, which is deemed administrative in nature by local government legislation, is to be made by the Mayor and CEO. It is admitted that Cr Eden knew or ought reasonably to have known that the information provided to the journalist was confidential to council, because the information contained numerous references to legal advice obtained by the CEO. In addition to prohibiting the release of legal advice obtained by council, the confidential information policy also requires councillors to make themselves aware of the types of information council deems to be confidential, and if uncertain, councillors should presume that information is confidential. Agreed Facts - The Second Allegation On 24 May 2023 Cr Eden forwarded to the same journalist an email exchange between the herself and the CEO. The email disclosed that during a councillor workshop in April 2023 discussion had occurred about the possibility of council funding the costs of a former councillor who was involved in legal proceedings connected with the person's former position as councillor. It is admitted that Cr Eden knew or ought reasonably to have known that this information was confidential to council, as the CEO had reminded councillors of their obligations of confidentiality at the time of the discussion. In addition to the general obligations of confidence required by the confidential information policy, the briefing and workshop policy specifically provides that councillor workshop discussions are to be treated as confidential unless the CEO declares otherwise.	Finding of misconduct (x 2)	The Tribunal makes the following orders: 1. Pursuant to ss 150L(1)(c)(iv) & 171(3) of the Act, in respect of allegation 1, Cr Eden has behaved in a way that constitutes misconduct. 2. Pursuant to s 150AR(1)(b)(i) of the Act, in respect of allegation 1, Cr Eden make a public admission to the conduct at a general meeting of Council open to the public within 60 days of the publication of this decision. 3. Pursuant to s 150AR(1)(b)(iii) of the Act, in respect of allegation 1, Cr Eden attend training to address Cr Eden's conduct. 4. Pursuant to ss 150L(1)(c)(iv) & 171(3) of the Act, in respect of allegation 2, Cr Eden has behaved in a way that constitutes misconduct. 5. Pursuant to s 150AR(1)(b)(i) of the Act, in respect of allegation 2, Cr Eden make a public admission to the conduct at a general meeting of Council open to the public within 60 days of the publication of this decision. 6. Pursuant to s 150AR(1)(b)(iii) of the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld), in respect of allegation 2, Cr Eden attend training to address the respondent's conduct.	26/07/2023