



SUMMARY DECISION CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL

Details

Date of decision:	17 October 2025
Complainant:	Melissa Maguire
Respondents:	Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell; Councillor Sarah Henderson; Councillor Mark Fraser; Councillor Damien Hale
Local Government Council:	City of Palmerston
Code of Conduct:	Schedule 1 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>
Sitting Panel Members:	Councillor Peter Clee – Chair Councillor Greg Marlow – Member Ms Tanya Ling – Member

Panel Determinations

Conduct of Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell (Primary Conduct):

	Summary of Complaint	Breaches established	Action taken
1.	Honesty and integrity	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 1 of the Code of Conduct.
2.	Care and Diligence	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 2 of the Code of Conduct.
3.	Courtesy	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 3 of the Code of Conduct.
4.	Prohibition on bullying	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 4 of the Code of Conduct.
5.	Respect for Cultural Diversity	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 6.1 of the Code of Conduct.
6.	Conflict of Interest	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 7 of the Code of Conduct.

7.	Accountability	Yes	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has breached item 10 of the Code of Conduct.
8.	Interests of the Municipality	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondent has not contravened item 11.1 of the Code of Conduct.

Conduct of Councillors Henderson, Fraser and Hale (Secondary Conduct):

	Summary of Complaint	Breaches established	Action taken
1.	Honesty and integrity	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 1 of the Code of Conduct.
2.	Care and Diligence	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 2 of the Code of Conduct.
3.	Courtesy	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 3 of the Code of Conduct.
4.	Prohibition on bullying	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 4 of the Code of Conduct.
5.	Respect for Cultural Diversity	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 6.1 of the Code of Conduct.
6.	Conflict of Interest	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 7 of the Code of Conduct.
7.	Accountability	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 10 of the Code of Conduct.
8.	Interests of the Municipality	-	The Panel has concluded that the Respondents have not contravened item 11.1 of the Code of Conduct.

The Panel determines that:

- a. With respect to the Primary Conduct a breach of clause 10 is found. Having regard to the seriousness of the conduct, its public nature, and the importance of maintaining



impartiality during the caretaker period, but also considering the absence of prior adverse findings, Mayor Pascoe-Bell be formally reprimanded.

- b. With respect to the Secondary Conduct, pursuant to section 127(3)(a) of the Act, no breach is found and no further action is required.

Right of Review

Pursuant to section 327 of the Act, the Complainant can apply for a review of the Panel's decision by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Such application must be made within 28 days of receiving this decision notice.