

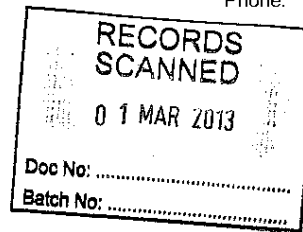


**Premier & Cabinet**  
Division of Local Government

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541  
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference: A313769  
Your Reference:  
Contact: Anita Gambhir  
Phone: 02 4428 4215

Mr Paul Hickey  
General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Mr Hickey

Thank you for your letter of 6 February 2013 seeking advice about the establishment of a panel of conduct reviewers and Ballina Shire Council's concerns about the requirement to advertise in a Sydney metropolitan newspaper.

At the outset I would like to clarify that the new Model Code Procedures do not specifically require that the expression of interest for the appointment of a panel of conduct reviewers be advertised in a metropolitan newspaper. The Procedures simply state that the expression of interest must be advertised locally and in the Sydney metropolitan area. Provided the expression of interest is advertised in a way that can be accessed and responded to by persons in the Sydney metropolitan area, this requirement will be met.

In the past, many regionally based councils including on the far north coast, have found it difficult to source sufficient numbers of appropriately qualified reviewers locally. The intention behind this requirement is to ensure that all councils, regardless of where they are in the State, have a sufficiently large pool of appropriately qualified conduct reviewers to enable them to effectively implement the new framework.

If the Council's current Panel has been established pursuant to a public expression of interest process, contains a sufficient number of conduct reviewers (i.e. 5 or more) and the Panel members all meet the prescribed selection criteria, then the Council will not need to readvertise.

If not, then the Council will have until September to establish a new panel under the new requirements. In doing so, the Council may wish to consider establishing a shared panel with other councils as a means of reducing costs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**Ross Woodward**  
Chief Executive, Local Government  
A Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet

T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209  
E [dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dlg@dlg.nsw.gov.au) W [www.dlg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au) ABN 99 567 863 195

