

Code of Ethics

Guidelines on Professional Conduct

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IPWEA

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING AUSTRALIA



our Code of Ethics

As public works practitioners, we use our knowledge and skills for the benefit of the community to create solutions for a sustainable future.

In doing so, we strive to serve the community ahead of other personal or sectoral interests

Our Code of Ethics defines the values and principles that shape the decisions we make in public works practice.

As members of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, we commit to practice in accordance with the Code of Ethics and accept that we will be held accountable for our conduct.

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In the course of public works practice we will:

1. DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

- 1.1 Act on the basis of a well-informed conscience
- 1.2 Be honest and trustworthy
- 1.3 Respect the dignity of all persons

2. PRACTISE COMPETENTLY

- 2.1 Maintain and develop knowledge and skills
- 2.2 Represent areas of competence objectively
- 2.3 Act on the basis of adequate knowledge

3. EXERCISE LEADERSHIP

- 3.1 Uphold the reputation and trustworthiness of the practice of public works
- 3.2 Support and encourage diversity
- 3.3 Communicate honestly and effectively, taking into account the reliance of others on our expertise

4. PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 Engage responsibly with the community and other stakeholders
- 4.2 Practise public works to foster the health, safety and wellbeing of the community and the environment
- 4.3 Balance the needs of the present with the needs of future generations



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The Guidelines are not intended to be, nor should they be interpreted as, a full or exhaustive list of the situations and circumstances that may comprise compliance and non-compliance with the **Code of Ethics**. If called upon to do so, members are expected to justify any departure from both the provisions and spirit of the Code.

Ethical public works practice requires judgment, interpretation and balanced decision-making in context.

IPWEA recognises that, while our ethical values and principles are enduring, standards of acceptable conduct are not permanently fixed. Community standards and the requirements and aspirations of public works practice will develop and change over time. Within limits, what constitutes acceptable conduct may also depend on the nature of individual circumstances.

Allegations of non-compliance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

1. DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

1.1 Act on the basis of a well-informed conscience

- a) be discerning and do what you think is right
- b) act impartially and objectively
- c) act appropriately, and in a professional manner, when you perceive something to be wrong
- d) give due weight to all legal, contractual and employment obligations

1.2 Be honest and trustworthy

- a) accept, as well as give, honest and fair criticism
- b) be prepared to explain your work and reasoning
- c) give proper credit to those to whom proper credit is due
- d) in managing perceived conflicts of interest, ensure that those conflicts are disclosed to relevant parties
- e) respect confidentiality obligations, express or implied
- f) do not engage in fraudulent, corrupt, or criminal conduct

1.3 Respect the dignity of all persons

- a) treat others with courtesy and without discrimination or harassment
- b) apply knowledge and skills without bias in respect of race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital or family status, national origin, or mental or physical handicaps

2. PRACTISE COMPETENTLY

2.1 Maintain and develop knowledge and skills

- a) continue to develop relevant knowledge and expertise
- b) act in a careful and diligent manner
- c) seek peer review
- d) support the ongoing development of others

2.2 Represent areas of competence objectively

- a) practise within areas of competence
- b) neither falsify nor misrepresent qualifications, grades of membership, experience or prior responsibilities

2.3 Act on the basis of adequate knowledge

- a) practise in accordance with legal and statutory requirements, and with the commonly accepted standards of the day
- b) inform employers or clients if a task requires qualifications and experience outside your areas of competence

3. EXERCISE LEADERSHIP

3.1 Uphold the reputation and trustworthiness of the practice of public works

- a) advocate and support the extension of ethical practice
- b) engage responsibly in public debate and deliberation

3.2 Support and encourage diversity

- a) select, and provide opportunities for, all public works practitioners on the basis of merit
- b) promote diversity in public works leadership

3.3 Communicate honestly and effectively, taking into account the reliance of others on public works expertise

- a) provide clear and timely communications on issues such as public works services, costs, outcomes & risks

4. PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 Engage responsibly with the community and other stakeholders

- a) be sensitive to public concerns
- b) inform employers or clients of the likely consequences of proposed activities on the community and the environment
- c) promote the involvement of all stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact upon them and the environment

4.2 Practise public works to foster the health, safety and wellbeing of the community and the environment

- a) incorporate social, cultural, health, safety, environmental and economic considerations into the public works task

4.3 Balance the needs of the present with the needs of future generations

- a) in identifying sustainable outcomes consider all options in terms of their economic, environmental and social consequences
- b) aim to deliver outcomes that do not compromise the ability of future life to enjoy the same or better environment, health, wellbeing and safety as currently enjoyed

GUIDELINES on PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Guidelines on Professional Conduct provide a framework for members of IPWEA to use when exercising their judgment in the practice of public works



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