



Gretchen Anna Robertson

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL - DECLARATION

Councillor declaration of interest register

The guiding principle for Councillors' declarations in the interest register is set out in the Otago Regional Council's Code of Conduct⁹, which states:

"Ethical behaviour - Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour"

In addition, the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 is concerned with members' financial and non-financial interests. The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: *"A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."*¹⁰

Keeping a Councillors' declaration of interest register (both financial and non-financial) allows the member and Council to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises. The register should also include any such interest(s) held by a Councillor's partner or spouse.

The register must be reviewed annually¹¹. If a Councillor is in any doubt as to whether or not a particular course of action (including a decision to take no action) raises a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from the Chief Executive immediately.

Where a Councillor's circumstances change, the Councillor must ensure the Register of Interests is updated as soon as possible.

The information in the completed declarations will be publicly available on Council's website.

	Type of Interest	Description
1.	Details of employment, trade or profession carried on by the Councillor or the Councillor's spouse / partner for profit or gain.	Husband works for Ernslaw 1 forestry company with an Aquaculture Venture
2.	Any company, trust, partnership etc of which the Councillor or their spouse / partner is a director, partner or trustee.	<i>Evansdale Triangle Partnership (Forestry Block)</i>
3	Other companies and business entities or interests.	
4	Beneficial interests in trusts.	

⁹ Adopted by the Otago Regional Council on 22 February 2017

¹⁰ Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

¹¹ Refer clause 9, Otago Regional Council Code of Conduct

5.	The address of any land in which the Councillor has a beneficial interest within the jurisdiction of the Otago region.	15 Wales St, Maori Hill, Dunedin 38a & 38b Evans St, Opoho, Dunedin 14 Kinsman St, Kaikorai, Dunedin Forestry Lot at Evansdale as a joint partner
6.	The address of any land owned by the Otago Regional Council (in which the Councillor or his or her spouse / partner is): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tenant; or • Which is tenanted by a firm in which the member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the member or spouse / partner is a director or shareholder, or a trust of which the member or spouse / partner is a trustee or beneficiary. 	
7.	Organisations and Trusts that obtain, or are seeking funding/other assistance from the ORC.	
8.	Gifts.	
9.	Payments for activities or services.	
10.	Creditors (if greater than \$50K, but not the amount).	<i>Mortgage with ASB Bank</i>
11.	Debtors (if greater than \$50K, but not the amount).	
12.	Details of any ORC consents, permits or rights held by the Councillor, spouse / partner, family or trust/company.	
13.	Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Councillor's actions during the course of their duties as a member.	

The information contained in this statement is to the best of my knowledge complete and accurate as at the below date. I confirm that I have included in this statement details of any interests held by me or my spouse / partner through trusts or companies.

Signed *[Signature]* Date 28/2/2019