

Public Interest Disclosures

The [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003](#) (PID Act) allows any person to make a disclosure if they believe something is wrong with the way that a public authority, public officer or public sector contractor is acting, without fear of reprisal.

As a State Government statutory authority, the Wheatbelt Development Commission and its staff and contractors are subject to the PID Act. The Commission supports its employees to uphold high standards of professional and ethical conduct. We strongly encourage employees and community to disclose any unethical behaviour.

Making a public interest disclosure

The PID Act deals with disclosures in the public interest made by any person, not just disclosures made by government employees. Disclosures can be anonymous.

A disclosure is more than a general complaint about dissatisfaction with a product or service or a decision by government. It is also more than a personal grievance that can be resolved by agreement between parties. The information disclosed must:

- Relate to a matter of public interest; and
- Show or tend to show wrongdoing by a:
 - Public authority,
 - Public officer, or
 - Public sector contractor performing a public function

If the information is not covered by the PID Act, you can still lodge your complaint through the Wheatbelt Development Commission's [complaints management procedure](#).

Who to contact

All contact and related discussions are treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the requirements of the PID Act.

To lodge a disclosure relating to a staff member, contact the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on 1300 374 731 or via the following link: <https://intranet.dpird.wa.gov.au/resources/public-interest-disclosure-pid> to speak with one of the public interest disclosure officers, who are authorised to receive disclosures of public interest information in accordance with section 23 (1)(a) of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003.

If a DPIRD PID Officer receives a disclosure about the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and it relates to a matter the public authority is responsible for, it will be referred to the Public Sector Commission.

To lodge a disclosure relating to a Board member, contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission on 9622 7222 or email ceo@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au, to speak with the Chief Executive Officer who is the designated person responsible for receiving disclosures of public interest information in accordance with section 23(1)(a) of the PID Act.

What should be considered?

At the time you make your disclosure, you should:

- Believe on reasonable grounds that the information you have is, or may be, true (false or misleading disclosures attract a penalty); and
- Understand your rights under the PID Act.

Further information

More information about public interest disclosures may be obtained by visiting the [Public Sector Commission website](#) or contacting the Public Sector Commission's Integrity Advisory Service on + 61 (08) 6552 8888 or integrity@psc.wa.gov.au.