



# Councillor Conduct Matters

Type	Status	Date Application resolved by Council	Applicant	Respondent	Decision tabled in Council Meeting	Decision	Notes	Cost to Council* *Excludes Officer time	Link to published Determination
Internal Arbitration	Complete	1-Mar-21	Council by resolution	Cr Steven Hughes	30-Aug-21	Four findings of misconduct One month suspension	In the published determination the Arbitrator cited that Cr Hughes was found to have engaged in four instances of misconduct by breaching the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Arbitrator gave a period of one month's suspension (maximum allowed).	\$7,724	<a href="https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/175802/Minutes-of-Frankston-Council-meeting-held-on-Monday-30-August-2021.pdf">https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/175802/Minutes-of-Frankston-Council-meeting-held-on-Monday-30-August-2021.pdf</a>
Councillor Conduct Panel	Complete	Application by Councillor on 1 Dec 2021	Cr Steven Hughes	Cr Kris Bolam	15-Aug-22	Application dismissed	In the published determination the Panel dismissed the Application. The allegations made by Cr Hughes against Cr Bolam were dismissed. Council resolved an urgent business item on 15 August 2022 to reimburse Cr Bolam \$4300 for legal expenses he incurred as the Respondent.	\$28,340	<a href="https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/188156/Hughes-Bolam-CCP-2021-7-Councillor-Conduct-Panel-Determination-and-Statement-of-Reasons-for-Decision-29-July-2022.pdf">https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/188156/Hughes-Bolam-CCP-2021-7-Councillor-Conduct-Panel-Determination-and-Statement-of-Reasons-for-Decision-29-July-2022.pdf</a>
Mediation	Complete	Not available	Group of Councillors	Cr Steven Hughes	4-Oct-22	Mediation was unresolved.	When Council resolved to make an Application for Internal Arbitration on 6 June 2022, Cr Hughes agreed to participate in mediation. The mediation was unresolved and Council proceeded with the Application for Internal Arbitration.	\$15,027	Not applicable
Internal Arbitration	Complete	6-Jun-22	Council by resolution	Cr Steven Hughes	30-Jan-23	Four findings of misconduct One month suspension Written apology to Council staff	In the published determination the Arbitrator found that Cr Hughes failed to comply with the prescribed standards of conduct in the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Arbitrator's findings outlined these were breached in respect of four allegations. There was no finding of misconduct in response to the remaining (4) allegations and these were dismissed. The Arbitrator gave a period of one month's suspension (maximum allowed) and ordered a written apology to staff.	\$11,127	<a href="https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/193137/Frankston-City-Council-and-Hughes-IAP-2022-21.pdf">https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/193137/Frankston-City-Council-and-Hughes-IAP-2022-21.pdf</a>
Councillor Conduct Panel	Complete	3-Oct-22	Council by resolution	Cr Steven Hughes	6-Sep-23	Serious misconduct finding Reprimanded Three month suspension	In the published determination the Councillor Conduct Panel found Cr Hughes engaged in serious misconduct and was ordered to be reprimanded (a professional censure, signalling that the conduct is condemned) and suspended from the office of Councillor for a period of three calendar months commencing after the meeting of Council at which the decision was tabled. The decision was subsequently tabled and an extra meeting of Council was held on 6 September 2023. Cr Hughes is due to return to the office of Councillor on 5 December 2023.	\$28,340	<a href="https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/201695/Frankston-City-Council-and-Hughes-CCP-2022-14-Councillor-Conduct-Panel-Determination-and-Statement-of-Reasons-for-Decision-31-August-2023.pdf">https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/201695/Frankston-City-Council-and-Hughes-CCP-2022-14-Councillor-Conduct-Panel-Determination-and-Statement-of-Reasons-for-Decision-31-August-2023.pdf</a>
Councillor Conduct Panel	On hold	20-Feb-23	Council by resolution	Cr Steven Hughes	Not available	Not available	Cr Steven Hughes resigned from the office of Councillor on 11 December 2023. As a result the Panel Hearing will not be held in the remainder of this term of Council (September 2024). Awaiting final Panel Directions and final costs.	\$39,469	Not available
Cost year to date								\$130,029	