



Public Interest Disclosure

Statement to Stakeholders

The Department of Transport (DoT) encourage people to speak up about wrongdoing and we are committed to making sure people feel confident to do so. The [Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003](#) (PID Act) recognises the value of our employees, contractors and stakeholders reporting wrongdoing. This will assist us to improve our management and work practices.

We strongly support you to make a public interest disclosure where you identify wrongdoing.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is...

an appropriate disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A disclosure can be made by anyone, including members of the public.• You must believe the information is or may be true.• You must make your disclosure consciously and voluntarily under the PID Act.
of public interest information	Your information must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• relate to a public officer, public authority (including DoT) or public sector contractor.• relate to the performance of a public function• show the public officer, authority or public sector contractor is, has been or will be involved in wrongdoing including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– improper conduct;– an offence under State law;– substantial unauthorised or irregular use of public resources;– substantial mismanagement of public resources;– conduct involving a substantial and specific risk of injury to public health, prejudice to public safety or harm to the environment; or– conduct relating to matters of administration affecting someone in their personal capacity falling within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.• not be protected by legal professional privilege.
made to a proper authority	You must make your disclosure to a proper authority this may include the person designated under the PID Act s.23(1)(a) for DoT as the PID Officer (listed below) or to another proper authority named under the PID Act s.5(3)(h).

I think I have a public interest disclosure, what should I do?

If you think you have a public interest disclosure about DoT's functions or people, we encourage you to contact our proper authority, the PID Officer on 1300 040 456 for a confidential discussion. Our PID Officers are:

- Investigation Services Manager
- Manager Risk and Audit
- Director Governance and Audit

Our PID Officer will speak with you before you make your disclosure. They will outline:

- your rights and responsibilities under the PID Act and the protections that will apply to you.
- whether the information is likely to be covered by the PID Act.
- how they will manage your disclosure.

How will I be protected?

The PID Act provides protections for people that speak up. The public interest disclosure process will protect you in the following ways, as long as you use the correct procedure for making your disclosure.

- You will receive immunity from civil or criminal liability, disciplinary action, dismissal and termination of employment or for any breach of secrecy or confidentiality that may apply to you, as a result of making a disclosure. (Please note you are still liable for any wrongdoing you may have been involved in.)
- If you are our employee, we will take all reasonable steps to protect you from detrimental action, or the threat of detrimental action because you have made or intend to make a disclosure.
- We will protect your identity as a discloser as far as possible, except in certain circumstances outlined under the PID Act.

Anything else I should know?

Yes.

- You will only receive the protections of the PID Act if you make your disclosure to our PID Officer or another proper authority named in s.5(3) of the PID Act.
- You must believe your information is or may be true. Making a false or misleading disclosure is an offence.
- Be discreet by keeping your intentions about making a disclosure to yourself. Don't broadcast the fact that you are going to make, or have made, a disclosure.
- Once you make your disclosure to our PID Officer you cannot withdraw it, as you no longer 'own' the disclosure. We are obliged to investigate matters of wrongdoing that are in the public interest.

If your information is not covered by the PID Act we still encourage you speak up about wrongdoing. This may be through our [complaints process](#) (if you are a member of the public) or through our grievance process (if you are our employee).

For further information about public interest disclosures please contact one of our PID Officers. General information is also available from the Public Sector Commission: [A guide to public interest disclosures in WA public authorities \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au).