

Conflict of Interest Policy for NIBU Council & Committees

NIBU Council & Committee members have an obligation to act in the best interests of the organisation and in accordance with the NIBU Constitution. Members of NIBU Council & Committees will strive to avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of the organisation on the one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as the perception of conflicts of interest.

The purposes of this policy are to protect the integrity of the NIBU decision-making processes, to enable our members to have confidence in our integrity, and to protect the integrity and reputation of NIBU Council & Committees.

Conflicts of interests may arise where an individual's personal interests and/or loyalties conflict with those of the NIBU. Such conflicts may: inhibit free discussion; result in decisions or actions that are not in the interests of the NIBU; and risk the impression that the NIBU has acted improperly. A conflict of interest can exist even if no unethical or improper act results from it.

Members are expected to ensure that they do not compromise themselves or the business of their committees by non-declaration of conflict of interest. It is also the responsibility of the Chair of Council & Committees to identify where s/he believes any conflict of interest occurs and to ensure this policy is adopted. In the event of Council & Committees having to decide upon a question in which a member has an interest, all decisions will be made by vote, with a simple majority required. A quorum must be present for the discussion and decision. Where a meeting is quorate and one or more members have to withdraw because of conflict of interest, then the remaining members present shall be deemed quorate. Interested members may join fully in the discussion on matters affecting their own interests until asked to leave the meeting by the Chairman. Interested members may not vote on matters affecting their own interests and may not be present during the vote.

This policy applies to all members of NIBU Council & Committees.