

Thursday 14 November 2013

COUNCIL SAYS ‘THANKS IS ENOUGH’

With the ‘season of giving’ almost upon us, the City of Ryde is promoting its no-gifts ‘Thanks is Enough’ policy as part of a revised Code of Conduct.

The no-gifts policy demonstrates clearly that Council officials, both Councillors and staff, do not need or expect reward for the job they do. A simple ‘thank you’ from satisfied customers or supplier is all that is required.

Acting General Manager, Roy Newsome, said: “It is very important that the community understands that we provide services, give advice and make decisions that are ethical, honest and transparent.

“A no-gifts policy supports that goal by demonstrating that gifts and other benefits do no influence our actions.

“Gifts may be offered for a number of reasons, as a gesture of appreciation in good faith, as a business practise or as an attempt to influence. However regardless of the intent, our clear statement of non-acceptance of gifts removes any questions regarding the integrity and professionalism of Council officials.

“We want to make it very clear to the community and our suppliers that a verbal or written ‘thanks’ is enough.”

An internal and external ‘Thanks is Enough’ education and communication campaign is being implemented to inform Councillors, staff, customers and suppliers of the no-gift policy. Any gifts received up until 31 December 2013 will be collected for donation to a local charity.

The policy review is part of the Council’s response to risks raised at various ICAC investigations and enhances the Council’s governance framework and guidelines for interaction between Councillors, staff, suppliers and the community.