

ITEM 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL - ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE TO LORD MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has made determinations under Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect of the annual fees payable to the Lord Mayor and Councillors effective from 1 July 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

The annual fees payable for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 be:

- 1 \$34,330 for each Councillor including the Lord Mayor, and
- 2 \$106,960 additional fee for the Lord Mayor.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance and Customer Service
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides for the establishment of a Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) to determine categories for councils, together with annual fees payable to Mayors and Councillors. The Tribunal, in accordance with Section 241 of the Act, must determine no later than 1 May each year the minimum/maximum fees payable for Councillors and Mayors for each category.

Council is required under the Act to determine the fee to be paid to the Lord Mayor and Councillors. Section 248 of the Act stipulates that a council must pay each Councillor an annual fee in accordance with the Tribunal’s determinations, the annual fee is to be the same for each Councillor and Council is able to pay that fee having regard to the category established by the Tribunal.

Council may fix a fee that is equal to or greater than the minimum but not greater than the maximum for the appropriate category. When a council declines to fix a fee, it must pay the appropriate minimum fees as determined by the Tribunal.

Section 239 of the Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years. In accordance with the Act, in 2023 the Tribunal undertook a review of the categories and allocation of councils into each category as part of this review.

Wollongong City Council remains categorised as ‘Major Regional City’ and the proposed fee represents a three per cent increase to the previous year’s fee.

PROPOSAL

This report recommends the full increase be applied to Lord Mayoral and Councillors’ fees for 2023/24. Pursuant to s.241 of the Act, the annual fees to be paid to Councillors and Lord Mayor, effective from 1 July 2023 are to be as follows:

Category: Major Regional City	2022/23	2023/24
Councillor fee	\$33,330	\$34,330
Lord Mayoral Fee	\$103,840	\$106,960

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal “*We are a connected and engaged Community*”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are sufficient funds in the 2023/24 budget to meet a three per cent increase as determined by the Tribunal.

CONCLUSION

The Tribunal has determined that the minimum and maximum fees applicable for the purposes of remuneration of local government elected representatives will be increased by three per cent, consistent with the government's policy on wages. It is recommended Council adopt the proposed fees for 2023/24 as outlined in this report.