

8.3 REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 352

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance**REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services****COPY****SUMMARY:**

Section 74(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) provides for each Council to review and determine Mayoral and Councillor allowances within six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later. The allowances fixed become payable for the next four financial years subject to any variations or adjustments by the Minister for Local Government.

At its meeting on 6 May 2013, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to set the Mayoral allowance at \$85,741 and Councillor allowances at \$26,843 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the four-year term of office of the Council.

Statutory procedures under the Act have been completed and there were no submissions received.

This report concludes that the proposal to set the Mayoral allowance at \$85,741 and Councillor allowances at \$26,843 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the four-year term of office of the Council should be confirmed.

CONSULTATION:

Chief Executive

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana****SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella****THAT:**

- (1) Having given notice of its intention to fix Mayoral and Councillor allowances 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years, in accordance with sections 74 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and having considered submissions received in relation to the proposal in accordance with section 223 of the Act, Council now resolves to:
 - Set the Mayoral allowance at \$85,741 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years.

- Set Councillor allowances at \$26,843 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years.
- (2) Note that the allowances set by the Council will be subject to any variations or adjustments made by the Minister for Local Government during the four-year period.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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Section 74 of the Act provides for each Council to review and determine Mayoral and Councillor allowances within six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later and the allowances fixed become payable for the next four financial years, subject to any variations or adjustments made by the Minister for Local Government.

The allowances payable for Darebin Councillors are:

- Councillors – \$26,843 per annum plus superannuation guarantee contribution
- Mayor – \$85,741 per annum plus superannuation guarantee contribution.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Review Process

In accordance with section 74 of the Act, Council is required to review and determine the allowances for the next four years, subject to any variations or adjustments made by the Minister for Local Government. The review is to include a public consultation process under section 223 of the Act.

At its meeting on 6 May 2013, Council considered a detailed report in relation to allowances payable to Mayors and Councillors based on the complexity factors relating to the City of Darebin including:

- Community
- Environment and Infrastructure
- Governance and Representation
- Regional Factors; and
- Advocacy and representation .

Following its assessment of these factors, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to set the Mayoral allowance at \$85,741 and Councillor allowances at \$26,843 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the four-year term of office of the Council.

Public Notice and Submissions

In accordance with sections 74 and 223 of the Act, public notice of the proposed allowances was published in 'The Age' newspaper on Wednesday 8 May 2013 with copies in the Northcote Leader and Preston Leader the following week.

Persons wishing to make a submission in relation to the proposed allowances were invited to do so by Wednesday 5 June 2013 with any person requesting to be heard in support of their written submission to be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 11 June 2013.

No submissions were received in relation to the proposed Mayoral and Councillor Allowances, thus it is recommended that Council sets the Mayoral allowance at \$85,741 and the Councillor allowance at \$26,843 plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%) for the four-year term of office of the Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS



Environmental Sustainability

The environmental issues and challenges referred to in the report have an impact on the advocacy and community leadership roles of the Mayor and Councillors.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The human rights, equity and inclusion issues and challenges referred to in the report have an impact on the advocacy and community leadership roles of the Mayor and Councillors.

Other

As outlined in the report, the determination of Mayoral and Councillor allowances is a statutory requirement for the Council.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The allowances proposed in this report have been in effect since 27 October 2012 and maintain the status quo for Darebin Councillors.

The proposed allowances have been included in the 2013/2014 Proposed Budget.

CONCLUSION

It is considered that Darebin City Council, with the diverse and complex service, social and advocacy issues outlined in this report, continues to warrant the maximum allowance available to Category 3 Councils within the policy framework adopted by the Victorian Government.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Nil

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes - 6 May 2013

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