

## 10.6. 2023/24 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil
<b>CSP LINK</b>	5. Our Civic Leadership 5.2 Strong civic leadership and customer focussed services

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determination for 2023/24, and for Council to determine to fix and pay an annual fee to Councillors and the Mayor from 1 July 2023 in accordance with the Tribunal's determination.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2023-24 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2023.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years under section 239 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Tribunal undertook a review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination. No change to the categorisation for North Sydney Council (Metropolitan Medium) has been determined.
- The *Local Government Act 1993* requires councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2023 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2023-24 financial year.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council fix the annual councillors' fee to \$27,650 in accordance with the Metropolitan Medium Councils allowable fee determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the 2023/24 year.
- 2. THAT** Council fix the annual fee Mayoral fee to \$73,440 in accordance with the Metropolitan Medium Councils allowable fee determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the 2023/24 year.

## Background

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years under section 239 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Tribunal undertook a review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination.

The Tribunal has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2023/24 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2023.

Council has historically fixed the maximum fee as an acknowledgement that the time and effort Councillors expend on Council business cannot be fully recompensed within the fee provisions.

## Report

As part of its report, the Tribunal has determined the creation of two new remuneration categories, 'Metropolitan Major' and 'Rural Large'.

The Tribunal has also varied the criteria of several existing categories.

As a result of the creation of the two new categories and changes to the criteria of some of the existing categories, the Tribunal has re-categorised 26 councils into a higher existing category or into a new category.

In its determination, the Tribunal has acknowledged the issues raised in submissions about the remuneration received by mayors and councillors, including a lack of diversity in representation, the changing nature of work required to be undertaken and changed community expectations. The Tribunal has suggested there would be merit in a comprehensive review of the framework for mayor and councillor remuneration. This will be considered as part of the Government's examination of the broader issues facing local government.

The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in, which for 2023/24 is Metropolitan Medium.

The Tribunal determination for Member fees in Metropolitan Medium is:

Role	Minimum (23/24)	Maximum (23/24)	22/23 fee
Councillor	\$14,810	\$27,650	\$26,840
Mayor (additional fee)	\$31,470	\$73,440	\$71,300

If a council does not fix a fee by way of a resolution, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.

The full determination report can be found [here](#).

### **Consultation requirements**

Community engagement is not required.

### **Financial/Resource Implications**

An amount of \$280,480 has been allocated in the 2023/24 draft budget for councillor fees and \$74,510 for Mayoral fees. This is sufficient to allow for Council to fix the maximum fee allowed by the Tribunal.

### **Legislation**

Sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993* require councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2023 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2023-24 financial year.