

## 10.1. Expenses and Facilities for the Mayor and Councillors

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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 propose the adoption of an amended *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- Under section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), a Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy must be adopted within 12 months of the commencement of a new term.
- The current policy was approved by Council in 2022.
- The attached draft policy was updated and placed on public consultation prior to the Council elections in September 2024. No significant submissions were received.
- The report recommends adoption of the amended Policy.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** Council adopt the attached amended *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

## Background

Under section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), a *Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy* must be adopted within 12 months of the commencement of a new term.

In June 2017, the Office of Local Government (OLG) provided Councils with a better practice template policy for Councillor Expenses and Facilities. The intent of the template policy is to ensure compliance with the OLG Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW, to enable easy understanding of the maximum limits available, and to allow for comparison of provisions across Councils.

The current policy was approved by Council in 2022. The attached amended policy was updated for public consultation prior to the Council election in September 2024, to ensure readiness for the new term, noting the change in approach to technology.

At its meeting on 24 June 2024, Council resolved:

- 1. THAT Council endorse the attached draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy for the purpose of public exhibition for a period of 28 days.*
- 2. THAT a further report be provided to Council following the conclusion of the public exhibition period for the purpose of considering any submissions received and adopting a Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.*

## Report

The main changes recommended to the policy are outlined in the table below.

<b>Expense or facility</b>	<b>Current provision</b>	<b>Recommended provision</b>
Professional development	\$18,000 for all councillors per year \$30,000 for all councillors per year following election	\$20,000 per councillor per term
Laptop	an appropriate ICT device	\$3,000 per councillor per term
Mobile smartphone	an appropriate ICT device	\$2,000 per councillor per term
Mobile data plan	\$60 per month per councillor	\$80 per month per councillor
Payment in advance for meals (at conferences)	As per the NSW Crown Employees (public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009.	\$150 per day
Postage stamps	Provided through Council mail system	600 standard stamps per councillor per year

The amended Policy was exhibited for public consultation from 26 June to 24 July 2024.

There were 45 visits to the exhibition webpage and eight downloads of the pdf version of the policy.

Only one submission was received, which was not intelligible and did not address any changes to the Policy.

Under section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), a Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy must be adopted within 12 months of the commencement of a new term. This will be undertaken in consultation with the new Council.

### **Consultation requirements**

Community engagement has occurred in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Protocol*. The detail of this report provides the outcomes from the engagement for Council to consider prior to adoption.

### **Financial/Resource Implications**

There is current provision within the 2024/25 Budget for the provision of expenses and facilities under this policy.

### **Legislation**

Under section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), a Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy must be adopted within 12 months of the commencement of a new term of Council.