

Councillor Allowances

Information Sheet
21 October 2020

This information sheet explains the process for adjusting allowances for councillors, mayors and deputy mayors annually by an inflationary factor. This information has been updated for the allowances payable from 1 November 2020.

Legislative basis

Section 340A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) entitles councillors to allowances as prescribed in regulations. Mayors and deputy mayors are entitled to allowances in addition to those payable to them as councillors.

Regulation 42(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* (the Regulations) specifies the allowances payable to councillors, mayors, and deputy mayors. Regulation 42(2A) entitles deputy mayors to receive the allowance payable to the mayor when they act in the role for four consecutive weeks or more.

The allowances payable from 1 November 2014 are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations.

Indexation

Regulation 42(2) establishes an indexation process so that allowances are adjusted from 1 November each year by multiplying the allowances for the previous year by the inflationary factor for the current year.

The inflationary factor is calculated using the ABS's Wage Price Index (WPI) for Tasmania. The Department of Treasury and Finance references this data in its WPI information sheet each quarter which can be found on Treasury's website:

www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/economic-data-releases-for-tasmania.

The formula for arriving at the inflationary factor is:

$$\frac{\text{Tasmanian June quarter WPI (current year)}}{\text{Tasmanian June quarter WPI (previous year)}}$$

The table on page 3 shows the allowances payable from 1 November 2020 (noting these are rounded to the nearest whole dollar, consistent with the Regulations).

Payment

Regulation 42(3) requires the annual allowance to be paid in monthly or fortnightly instalments. Section 340A(2A) of the Act requires that allowances be paid in arrears.

Foregoing Allowance

Section 340A(3) of the Act enables a councillor, mayor or deputy mayor to decide not to receive part or all of an allowance. Where this prerogative is exercised, the General Manager is to be notified in writing. As the allowances are annual allowances payable monthly or fortnightly in arrears, any such notification is not revokable retrospectively.

Councillor Expenses

Regulation 43 enables councillors to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses in relation to telephone and internet usage, travelling, stationary and office supplies, and 'the care of any person who is dependent on the councillor and who requires the care while the councillor is carrying out his or her duties or functions as a councillor', in accordance with the council's policy under Schedule 5 of the Act.

Reporting

Section 72(1)(cb) of the Act requires each council to include in its annual report a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the mayor, deputy mayor and councillors.

Indexed allowances payable to elected members from 1 November 2020

Council	Allowance for councillors	Additional allowance for deputy mayors	Additional allowance for mayors
Hobart City	\$38,099	\$24,605	\$95,248
Launceston City	\$38,099	\$24,605	\$95,248
Clarence City	\$30,844	\$21,432	\$77,106
Glenorchy City	\$30,844	\$21,432	\$77,106
Kingborough	\$30,844	\$21,432	\$77,106
Burnie City	\$23,358	\$18,256	\$58,396
Central Coast	\$23,358	\$18,256	\$58,396
Devonport City	\$23,358	\$18,256	\$58,396
West Tamar	\$23,358	\$18,256	\$58,396
Brighton	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Huon Valley	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Meander Valley	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Northern Midlands	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Sorell	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Waratah-Wynyard	\$15,876	\$15,080	\$39,686
Break O'Day	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
Circular Head	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
Derwent Valley	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
Dorset	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
George Town	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
Latrobe	\$13,268	\$12,700	\$33,172
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	\$11,174	\$11,113	\$27,934
Kentish	\$11,174	\$11,113	\$27,934
Southern Midlands	\$11,174	\$11,113	\$27,934
West Coast	\$11,174	\$11,113	\$27,934
Central Highlands	\$9,777	\$10,319	\$24,441
Flinders	\$9,777	\$10,319	\$24,441
King Island	\$9,777	\$10,319	\$24,441
Tasman	\$9,777	\$10,319	\$24,441

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