



MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

10:00 AM

Held at the West Daly Regional Council
1/4 Albatross Street,
WINNELLIE NT 0812

This meeting is open to the public excluding confidential
Council business.

Agenda available online and if any queries please contact
Governance and Quality Assurance Officer on
info@westdaly.nt.gov.au
or phone: 08 7922 6403

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AGENDA

West Daly Regional Council Finance Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

**WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
WINNELLIE NT**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

West Daly Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work, paying our respect to Elders past, present and in the future.

PRESENT, APOLOGY AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Finance Committee

Title	Name	Present	Apology	Absent
Mayor	Ralph Narburup			
Deputy Mayor	Wilfred Harris			
Councillor	Jake Clark		X	

Staff

Title	Name	Present	Apology	Absent
CEO	Matthew Eastham			
A/CEO	Andrew Everingham			
CFO	James Cartwright		X	
SR Accountant	Migari Wijayasekara		X	
Governance	Sharon Binns			

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Does anyone have a conflict of interest to declare on anything on the agenda?

GENERAL BUSINESS

Are there any matters of general business that is not on the agenda to discuss?

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 1 Confirmation of Finance Committee meeting minutes 26 October 2022..... 4

REPORTS

- 2 Finance Report - January 2023 8
- 3 Remuneration Tribunal Determination for Elected Members 24
- 4 Remuneration Determination - Allowances for Members of Local Authorities. 40

GENERAL BUSINESS

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- 5 Confirmation of Finance Committee meeting minutes 26 October 2022

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential papers).

- 6 Vehicle Costs - Mayor

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(iv) (a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.; AND information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual (Mayor).

- 7 CEO Annual Leave

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual (Employment in confidence).



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 1

Prepared by **Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance
Officer**

Confirmation of Finance Committee meeting minutes 26 October 2022

Purpose

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 26 October 2022 are submitted for confirmation that those minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Background

To ensure Committee members have read and understood the minutes of the Finance Committee which have not been confirmed.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 2019 ss 101 & 102.

Impact for Council

For information.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-2023:

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings
Focus 5 - Building our Region	
5.4 Regional Analysis	

Journey 5.4.4

Strengthen key relationships to maximise economic data for the benefit of communities

Recommendation

- 1. That Finance Committee note and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2022 as a true and correct record.**

Attachments

- 1 26 Oct 2022 Finance Committee meeting



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
 HELD IN THE WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL
 1/4 ALBATROSS STREET, WINNELLIE
 WINNELLIE NT 0812
 ON WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2022
 AT 10:00 AM

The meeting was delayed due to the apology of late arrival of Mayor Narburup and in compliance with the *Local Government Act s100*, it was deemed the attendees would wait for his arrival and publishing not necessary.

Mayor Narburup opened the meeting at 10:44am

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

West Daly Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work, paying our respect to Elders past, present and in the future.

PRESENT APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Finance Committee

Title	Name	Present	Apology	Absent
Mayor	Ralph Narburup	X		
Deputy Mayor	Wilfred Harris via Teams	X		
Councillor	Jake Clark	X		

Staff

Title	Name	Present	Apology	Absent
CEO	Matthew Eastham		X	
A/CEO	Andrew Everingham	X		
CFO	James Cartwright	X		
SR Accountant	Migari Wijayasekara		X	
Governance	Sharon Binns	X		

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

There were no declarations of interest at this Finance Committee Meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**1) Confirmation of Finance Committee meeting minutes 24 August 2022**

011/2022 Sharon spoke to the report.

Motion:

- 1. That Finance Committee note and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2022 as a true and correct record.**

Moved: Cr. Clark
 Seconded: Cr. Narburup
 Resolution: Unanimously

REPORTS**2) Finance Report - September 2022**

012/2022 James spoke to the report.

Motion:

- 1. That Council receives and notes the Financial report for September 2022.**

Moved: Cr. Clark
 Seconded: Cr. Narburup
 Resolution: Unanimously

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION**RECOMMENDATION:**

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 as the items lists come within the following provisions:-

- 3 Housing works at Fossil Head grant -** *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law (Legal agreements attached).*
- 4 Shelter and ablution construction works at Fossil Head -** *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person. (Grant agreement).*
- 5 Grant - Inverter at Deleye -** *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person. (grant agreement).*



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 2

Prepared by **James Cartwright, Chief Financial Officer**

Finance Report - January 2023

Purpose

To provide the Finance Committee the Financial Management Reports for the period ended 31 January 2023.

Background

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, Division 7, require that Council receive a report setting out:

- (a) the actual income and expenditure of the council for the period from the commencement of the financial year up to the end of the previous month; and
- (b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and
- (c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget.

Council has continued to meet its financial obligations for the period, as per the attached report

Statutory Environment

Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Impact for Council

Under Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* Council must receive the Financial Report.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-23:

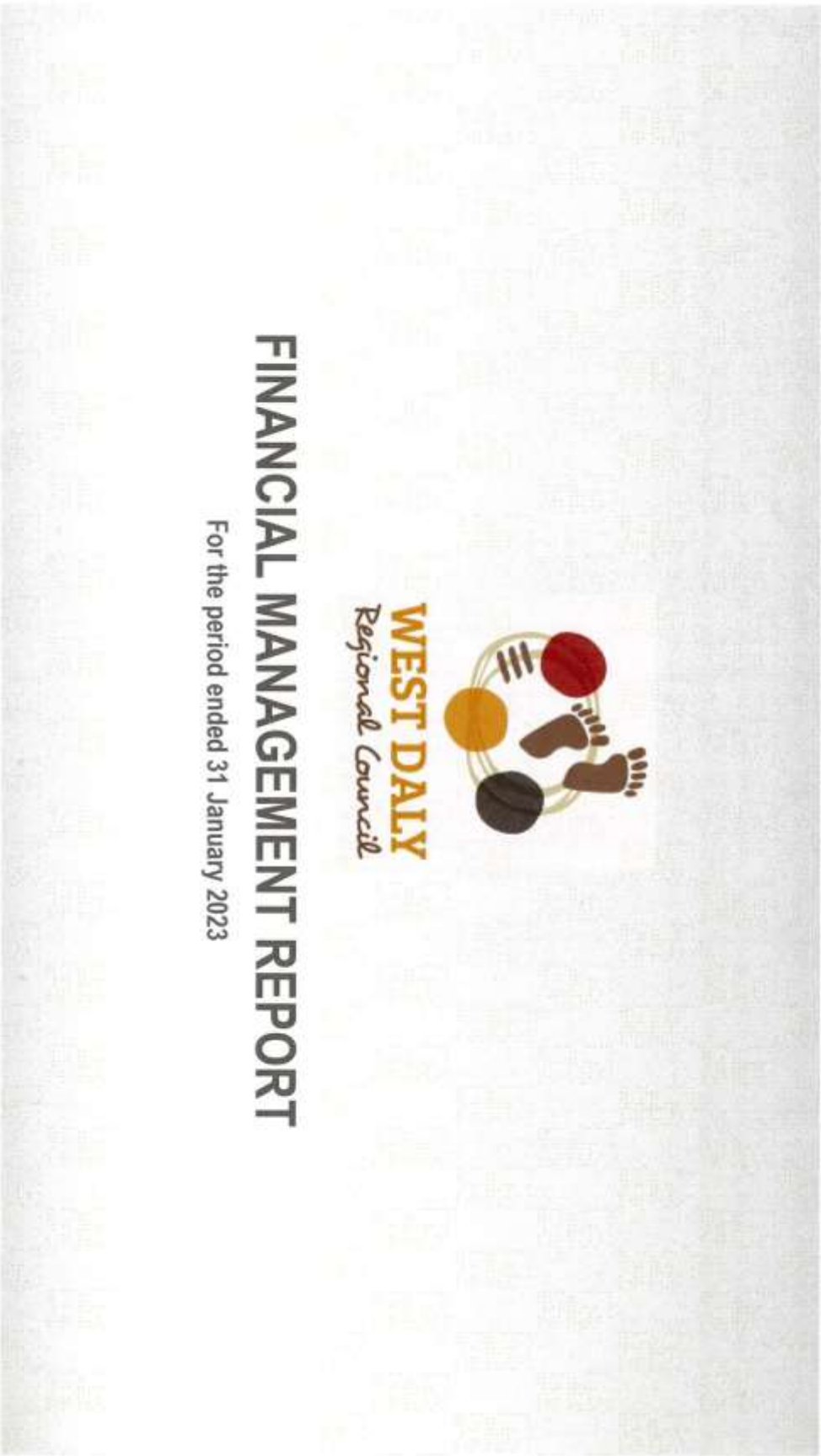
Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

- 1. That Council receives and notes the Financial report for January 2023.**

Attachments

- 1 Finance Report January 2023



Certification by the Council CEO

Council Name: WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL
Reporting Period Ended: 31 January 2023



To the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:
(1) the internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
(2) the monthly reports best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

Matthew Eastham ASM
CEO

Date:  22/1/23.

Snapshot - Financial Report

Revenue	\$ 11.33M	Current Ratio	1.57	Cash at Bank	\$ 8.51M
Expenditures	\$ 9.81M	Unspent Tied Funds <small>(including commitments of \$307K)</small>	\$ 977K	Net Current Assets	\$ 3.35M
Operating Result <small>(including tied grants)</small>	\$ 1.52M	Local Authority	\$ 528K	Capital Expenditures	\$ 2.30M

WDRC Financial Management Report January 2023

Income and Expense Statement - Actual v Budget

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING AS AT 31 JANUARY 2022	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	YTD Variance %	Annual Budget \$	Note Reference
OPERATING INCOME						
Rates	1,412,131	1,412,131	0	0%	1,412,131	
Charges	755,267	755,267	0	0%	755,267	
Fees and Charges	662,873	1,158,743	(495,870)	-43%	1,986,417	(1)
Operating Grants and Subsidies	7,312,392	6,138,571	1,173,821	19%	10,523,255	(2)
Interest / Investment Income	133,583	75,507	58,076	77%	129,441	(3)
Commercial and Other Income	1,063,563	782,362	281,201	36%	1,341,192	(4)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	11,339,809	10,322,582	1,017,227		16,147,713	
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
Employee Benefit Expenses	3,514,470	3,967,285	452,815	11%	6,801,060	(5)
Operational Expenses	3,177,240	2,457,530	(719,710)	-29%	4,212,908	(6)
Elected Member Allowances	116,665	165,622	48,957	30%	283,924	(7)
Elected Member Expenses	34,720	35,000	280	1%	60,000	
Council Committee & LA Allowances	2,932	5,250	2,318	44%	9,000	(7)
Council Committee & LA Expenses	938	7,000	6,062	87%	12,000	(7)
Interest Expense	23,472	136,397	112,925	83%	233,824	(8)
Repair and Maintenance	515,368	539,183	23,815	4%	924,314	
Contractors Materials and Labour	1,938,106	2,248,922	310,816	14%	3,855,295	(9)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	9,323,911	9,562,190	238,279		16,392,325	
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	2,015,898	760,392	1,255,506		(244,612)	
Depreciation	491,595	521,995	30,401	6%	1,043,991	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) INCLUDING DEPRECIATION	1,524,303	238,397	1,285,907		(1,288,603)	

MDRC Financial Management Report January 2023

Income and Expense Statement - Variance Analysis

Income / Expense Item	Note Reference	Comments
Fees and Charges	(1)	This is a timing variance relating to recognition of our admin fees.
Operating Grants and Subsidies	(2)	Unbudgeted revenue due to additional home lands grant funding, this is matched against our expenditure which has occurred over a short time period.
Interest / Investment Income	(3)	Interest rates have increased significantly from when the budget was prepared, resulting in increased interest revenue.
Commercial and Other Income	(4)	TDC leases signed and charged for July and August in August and \$300K in LA funding moved to Wadeye Pool Fund. This also includes rental income which was budgeted to Fees and Charges.
Employee Benefits Expenses	(6)	Underspend on wages primarily due to unfilled administrative positions budgeted and lower than budgeted hours worked by Community Safety Patrol and Civil staff.
Operational Expenses	(6)	Variance due to insurance premiums paid in August (\$300K budgeted against the rest of the year) and higher expenditure on our tied grant programs (primarily home lands, disaster recovery and roadworks). Council has also seen an increase in emergency and essential repairs on our assets, particularly housing and yellow plant.
Elected Member Allowances	(7)	Variance due to budget including all professional development and extra meeting allowances.
Interest Expense	(8)	Variance due to \$19 lease interest expenditure not yet applied.
Contractors Materials and Labour	(9)	Budget variance due to budgeted expenditure being coded to operational expenses. (see note 6)

WDRC Financial Management Report January 2023

Monthly Balance Sheet Report

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2022	YTD Actuals \$	Note Reference *
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	8,519,569	(1)
Tried Funds	977,819	
Unlied Funds	7,541,750	
Accounts Receivable		
Trade Debtors	498,167	(2)
Rates & Charges Debtors	572,004	
Other Current Assets	497,541	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	10,087,281	
Non-Current Financial Assets	0	
Right-of-Use Assets	5,159,809	
Property, Plant and Equipment	5,195,015	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	10,354,824	
TOTAL ASSETS	20,442,105	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2022	YTD Actuals \$	Note Reference *
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	119,856	(4)
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	36,479	(5)
Current Provisions	449,348	
Accruals	83,987	
Other Current Liabilities	4,732,421	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,422,091	
Non-Current Provisions	27,448	
Other Non-Current Liabilities	5,553,568	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,581,016	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,003,107	
EQUITY		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	0	
Reserves	0	
Accumulated Surplus	9,438,998	
TOTAL EQUITY	9,438,998	

Monthly Balance Sheet Report Note 1. Details of Cash and Investments Held

Details of Cash and Investments Held		\$
Cash at Bank Operational		1,081,832
Cash at Bank Trust		2,436,825
Cash Investment - Fixed Term		5,000,000
Cash on Hand Petty Cash		912
		8,519,569

	Amount
Tied Funds	977,819
Untied Funds	7,541,750
	8,519,569

Details of Cash Investment - Fixed Term

Product Information

Product	Actual Balance	Available Balance	Interest Rate	Maturity
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	4.25%	19/07/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	4.25%	19/07/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	4.06%	6/06/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	4.06%	6/06/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	4.01%	27/03/2023

WDRC Financial Management Report January 2023

Current Ratio

“How many dollars do we have for every dollar we owe?”
 The Current Ratio is the amount of current assets (cash or assets that are readily convertible to cash), divided by the amount of liabilities (debts that will be due within a year).

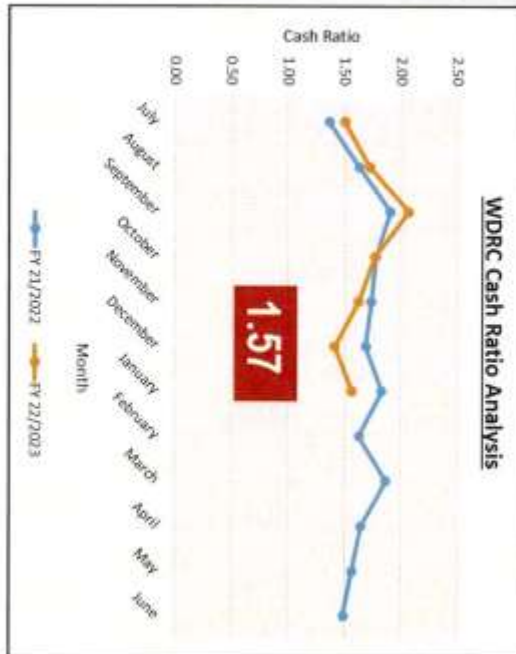
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash in Bank	8,519,569	Accounts Payable	119,856
Less: Grants to be refunded	0	Other Current Liabilities	4,732,421
Trade and Rates Debtors	8,519,569	Grants in advance	1,070,171
Other Current Assets	497,541	Commitments	307,113
Less:		Unspent Grants	977,819
Staff Liability	478,796	(Agency & Core)	
	9,510,485		6,137,209

Current Ratio for FY2023/23

FY 22/2023		FY 21/2022	
Jul-22	1.50	Jul-21	1.36
Aug-22	1.72	Aug-21	1.63
Sep-22	2.07	Sep-21	1.91
Oct-22	1.77	Oct-21	1.78
Nov-22	1.63	Nov-21	1.74
Dec-22	1.41	Dec-21	1.69
Jan-23	1.57	Jan-22	1.83
Feb-23		Feb-22	1.63
Mar-23		Mar-22	1.87
Apr-23		Apr-22	1.65
May-23		May-22	1.57
Jun-23		Jun-22	1.49

FY 21/2022		FY 22/2023	
Jul-21	1.36	Jul-22	1.50
Aug-21	1.63	Aug-22	1.72
Sep-21	1.91	Sep-22	2.07
Oct-21	1.78	Oct-22	1.77
Nov-21	1.74	Nov-22	1.63
Dec-21	1.69	Dec-22	1.41
Jan-22	1.83	Jan-23	1.57
Feb-22	1.63	Feb-23	
Mar-22	1.87	Mar-23	
Apr-22	1.65	Apr-23	
May-22	1.57	May-23	
Jun-22	1.49	Jun-23	

WDRC Financial Management Report January 2023



Monthly Balance Sheet Report
Note 2. Statement on Debts Owed to Council (Accounts Receivable)

Trade Debtor's Account - Age Analysis	Current / Unapplied	Part Due 1-30 Days	Part Due 31-60 Days	Part Due 61-90 Days	Part Due 90+ Days *	Total
Trade Debtors	-6,123	296,845	15,289	170,463	30,532	498,167

Note 3. Rates

WDRG has raised \$2.17 million in rates for FY23, which includes \$1.41 million in Rates and \$750k in Refuse/Carbage charges.

Monthly Balance Sheet Report
Note 4. Statement on Debts Owed by Council (Accounts Payable)

Creditor's Account - Age Analysis	Current / Unapplied	Past Due 1 - 30 Days	Past Due 31 - 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total
Trade Creditors	-39,059	48,945	71,206		38,864	119,856
Other Creditors	-					-
Total Accounts Payable	-39,059	48,945	71,206	0	38,864	119,856

Note 5. Statement on Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations

GST & PAYG	JANUARY 2022
13240	GST Rec 85,228
22240	GST Pay -36,479
22230	PAYG 0
	48,749

Monthly Balance Sheet Report Highest 10 Contractor Payments/ Items paid in the month

Supplier Name	Territory enterprise or industry supplier \$	Interstate / overseas enterprise or industry supplier \$
13337 Inland Electrical Pty Ltd	188,025	
13484 Stevel's Motorworld Pty Ltd 4X4 Mega Centre	71,205	
13447 Trafford Group Pty Ltd T/A Trans Tank International	69,080	
13479 Stizler Pty Ltd	43,629	
13446 Hames Sharley NI	43,135	
10124 Maurin Travel & Freight Services	43,008	
13431 SCC Carpentry Constructions	41,272	
12619 Wex Australia Pty Ltd (Puma Energy)		34,669
13478 Visual Security Pty Ltd	27,757	
12810 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	21,164	
TOTAL	548,276	34,669

Monthly Financial Report for Each Local Authority Area

	NOTES	Regional Office / Unallocated - Darwin			LA 1 - Ngarraminyanga		
		YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$
OPERATING INCOME							
Rates		0	0	0	106,776	106,776	0
Charges		0	0	0	71,055	71,055	0
Fees and Charges		6	0	6	21,301	102,576	(81,275)
Operating Grants and Subsidies		0	0	0	481,281	496,312	(15,031)
Interest / Investment Income		0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial and Other Income		622	838	(216)	169,609	100,324	69,285
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		628	838	(210)	850,022	877,044	(27,022)
OPERATING EXPENDITURE							
Employee Benefit Expenses		955,154	1,020,357	65,203	370,772	520,739	149,467
Operational Expenses		529,084	743,579	214,495	274,767	164,382	(110,385)
Elected Member Allowances		0	0	0	4,550	10,765	6,215
Elected Member Expenses		0	0	0	8,727	4,375	(4,352)
Council Committee & LA Allowances		0	0	0	1,965	2,042	79
Council Committee & LA Expenses		0	0	0	105	694	589
Interest Expenses		0	0	0	0	0	0
Repair and Maintenance		153	0	(153)	132,169	113,720	(18,449)
Contractors Materials and Labour		7,005	4,087	(2,918)	97,119	202,347	105,228
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		1,491,396	1,768,023	276,627	890,172	1,018,564	128,392
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(1,490,768)	(1,767,184)	(276,837)	(40,150)	(141,520)	(155,413)
Depreciation		0	0	0	0	0	0
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) INCLUDING DEPRECIATION		(1,490,768)	(1,767,184)	(276,837)	(40,150)	(141,520)	(155,413)

WDRG Financial Management Report January 2023

Monthly Financial Report for Each Local Authority Area

OPERATING INCOME	NOTES	LA 2 - Replenishment			LA 2 - Wasteye			Total		
		YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance
Rates		120,256	120,256	(0)	1,185,098	1,185,098	0	1,412,130	1,412,130	-0
Charges		71,143	71,143	0	613,069	613,069	0	755,267	755,267	0
Fees and Charges		67,413	101,200	(33,787)	574,157	954,967	(380,810)	662,877	1,158,743	(495,866)
Operating Grants and Subsidies		880,445	562,746	297,699	5,970,668	5,081,394	889,277	7,312,394	6,138,571	1,173,823
Interest / Investment Income		0	0	0	133,583	75,507	58,076	133,583	75,507	58,076
Commercial and Other Income		221,915	71,899	150,016	671,417	609,300	62,117	1,063,563	782,362	281,201
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		1,341,172	927,244	413,928	9,147,992	8,519,332	628,660	11,339,814	10,322,580	1,017,234
OPERATING EXPENDITURE										
Employee Benefit Expenses		526,644	536,427	9,783	1,661,900	1,890,262	(228,362)	3,514,470	3,967,285	(452,815)
Operational Expenses		298,587	164,876	(133,709)	2,074,817	1,384,691	(690,126)	3,177,255	2,457,529	(719,726)
Elected Member Allowances		17,034	11,015	(6,019)	95,882	143,843	(48,761)	116,666	165,623	(48,957)
Elected Member Expenses		8,679	4,375	(4,304)	17,317	26,250	(8,933)	34,723	35,000	(277)
Council Committee & IA Allowances		705	1,638	(933)	284	1,570	(1,306)	2,932	5,250	(2,318)
Council Committee & IA Expenses		178	1,526	(1,348)	655	4,780	(4,125)	938	7,000	(6,062)
Interest Expenses		0	0	0	23,472	136,397	(112,925)	23,472	136,397	(112,925)
Repair and Maintenance		132,196	141,937	9,736	250,850	283,531	(32,681)	515,368	539,183	(23,815)
Contractors Materials and Labour		34,014	114,967	(80,953)	1,799,968	1,977,523	(177,555)	1,938,106	2,248,922	(310,816)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		1,018,037	976,258	(41,779)	5,924,325	5,798,845	(125,480)	8,323,930	9,562,189	(238,259)
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		323,135	(49,514)	405,207	3,223,667	2,720,487	754,166	2,015,884	740,391	776,974
Depreciation		0	0	0	0	321,995	321,995	0	321,995	321,995
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) INCLUDING DEPRECIATION		323,135	(49,514)	455,207	3,223,667	2,198,492	232,145	2,015,884	238,396	256,979

WDRG Financial Management Report January 2023

Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month

Where a council credit card has been issued to an Elected Member and/or the CEO, a list per cardholder of all credit card transactions in the month is to be published including the name of the supplier, the amount for each transaction and the reason for the transaction.

Cardholder Name M Eastham

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
3/01/2023	620.00	Company Director Sydney	Australian Institute of Company Directors Standard Annual Membership Renewal
27/01/2023	16.00	News Limited Surry Hills	News Paper Subscription
Total	636.00		



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 3

Prepared by **Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance
Officer**

Remuneration Tribunal Determination for Elected Members

Purpose

On the 14 February 2023 the Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 1 of 2023 was deemed tabled at the NT Legislative Assembly sittings on 14 February 2023.

Background

On 29 June 2022, the then Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payment to a member of a local council.

The resulting report and determination was considered and it was found the existing allowance covering base, electoral allowance and extra meeting fees does not meet an equitable approach and there was inconsistency of what is paid to Councillors across the NT.

For West Daly Regional Council the following changes will take effect 1 July 2023.

Councillor allowance

Role	Current Base and Electoral Allowance	New Allowance	Increased by
Mayor	\$94,888	\$102,000	\$7,112
Deputy Mayor	\$32,720	\$36,000	\$3,280
Councillor	\$18,454	\$20,000	\$1,546

The Remuneration Tribunal acknowledges that it is important to clearly state what is covered by the Councillor Allowance as there is confusion among Councillors as to the purposes of Allowances.

As such, the Councillor Allowance is to cover:

- Any cost to Councillors of attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by Council;
- Contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- Contribution towards any home office and supplies;
- Allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area;
 - Including, but not limited to:
 - Donations;
 - Organisations sponsorship
 - Membership fees
 - Patron expenses; and
 - Constituent support.

Vehicle allowance for use of private vehicle

Councillors are eligible for a vehicle allowance if the Councillor must travel more than 50 kms from their home to attend a meeting/activity for a minimum round trip of 100 kms, and travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle.

The rate is calculated through the Australian Taxation Office and for 2022-23 the rate is 78 cents per kilometre.

Vehicle for Principal Member

Principal Members are to be offered a Council maintained vehicle **or** a vehicle allowance of \$40,000 per financial year. This recognises the high cost of maintaining vehicles in the regional areas.

The vehicle allowance will be paid each fortnight or monthly.

Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance

An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$10,000 per financial year. The allowance may be accessed as follows:

- Additional meetings of full Council or establishment of sub-committee of Council;
- Attendance at Local Authority meetings;
- Attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official Council duties;
- Attendance at functions as an invited representative of Council and with Councils approval;
- Attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of Council meetings.

Extra meeting / Activity Allowance is paid to eligible members (not Principal members) at the rate:

- Fee if activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:
 - Up to 2 hours \$200
 - Between 2 and 4 hours \$300
 - More than 4 hours \$500

There are additional allowances which are provided in the attachment.

Statutory Environment

Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006

Impact for Council

Budgetary considerations and for information.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-23:

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation
1. That Finance Committee note the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination No. 1 of 2023 – Allowances for Members of Local Councils

Attachments

- 1 Determination of Allowances for members of local councils

ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 755
 Laid on the Table
14 / 2 / 2023



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
 REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
 (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
 LOCAL COUNCILS**

REPORT ON DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

As a result of amendments to the *Local Government Act 2006* and the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), on 29 June 2022, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local council pursuant to section 7B(1) of the AMSORE Act.

The resulting Report and Determination must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt by the Minister.

Under section 7B(7) of the AMSORE Act, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.

Emails were sent to all Local Councils in July 2022 advising them of the Inquiry. The Remuneration Tribunal then emailed each Council on Friday, 16 September 2022 and invited submissions and offered to hold a discussion with each Council either in person or through a video link. The Remuneration Tribunal received six submissions and met with all Councils, with the exception of two Councils.

2. EQUITY

The Remuneration Tribunal considers that equity should be the major principle applied in establishing levels of remuneration for elected Councillors throughout the Territory. The Remuneration Tribunal found the existing allowance covering base, electoral allowance and extra meeting fees does not meet this principle as there is a disparity of what is paid to Councillors across the Northern Territory. This disparity has been addressed in this Inquiry and consequent Determination.

3. CATEGORISATION

The Remuneration Tribunal has recognised three categories of Councils being Municipal, Regional and Community Councils.

Municipal Councils are defined as the following:

- Alice Springs;
- Darwin;
- Katherine;
- Litchfield; and
- Palmerston.

Regional Councils are defined as the following:

- Barkly;
- Central Desert;
- East Arnhem;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

Community Councils are defined as the following:

- Belyuen;
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

4. ELECTORAL ALLOWANCE

Presently there is a differential electoral allowance paid to Councillors where the larger electorates, in a geographical sense, are paid less than the three major Municipal Councils in Darwin, Alice Springs and Palmerston. It is unclear among Councillors with whom the Remuneration Tribunal met, as to the purpose of the Electoral Allowance and the Remuneration Tribunal has been advised that in some cases Councillors see this as part of their remuneration to attend statutory meetings. There is one Council that appears not to pay this allowance to its Councillors.

The Remuneration Tribunal believes the Electoral Allowance should be included with the current base amount to establish a Councillor's Allowance.

5. COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal believes there should be a base Councillor Allowance established. The Remuneration Tribunal considers that this allowance should be lower for Community Councils based on population and geographical size.

In addition to this Allowance, a Professional Development Allowance will be maintained. However, this will now be more flexible to allow Councillors to either bring forward the allowance into a future year or roll it over from a past year.

Finally, the Remuneration Tribunal is concerned that the extra meeting allowance has been restricted and this will now be restructured and more readily accessed by Councillors and Deputy Principal Members.

6. BUILDING ON THE COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE

The base Councillor's Allowance will be \$20,000 per year, but this will be increased based on factors including population, electors, number of wards and geographical size. The Remuneration Tribunal, taking into account these factors, has determined the following allowances:

• Darwin	\$31,000
• Alice Springs	\$22,000
• Litchfield	\$22,000
• Palmerston	\$22,000
• All other Municipal and Regional Councillors	\$20,000
• Coomalie	\$7000
• Belyuen	up to \$5000
• Wagait	up to \$5000

7. COVERAGE OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal acknowledges that it is important to clearly state what is covered by the Councillor Allowance as there is confusion among Councillors as to the purposes of Allowances.

As such, the Councillor's Allowance is to cover:

- any cost to Councillors of attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies;
- allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area;
 - including, but not limited to:
 - donations;
 - organisation sponsorship;
 - membership fees;
 - patron expenses; and
 - constituent support.

8. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE FOR USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE

Councillors are entitled, in some circumstances, to Vehicle Allowance when attending statutory meetings of Councils and Council approved activities with a cap of \$5000 in a financial year.

This Vehicle Allowance recognises that there are significant travel requirements for some Regional Councillors to attend statutory meetings and it was noted that, at least one Councillor, has a 1500km round trip to attend their meetings.

The Remuneration Tribunal believes that a capped amount should be set aside, and Councillors will be eligible to apply for a vehicle allowance each time they travel to statutory meetings, local authority meetings and approved Council business up to this capped amount. It is recommended that Council staff calculate the distance of travel for Councillors to attend these meetings and use this amount for the provision of each vehicle allowance.

Councillors will be eligible for a vehicle allowance if the Councillor must travel more than 50kms from their home to attend a meeting/activity for a minimum round trip of 100kms, and travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle.

Vehicle Allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance which will be paid at rates set by the Australian Tax Office each year. The current rate for 2022-23 is 78 cents per kilometre.

Vehicle Allowance will be paid in the following circumstances:

- travel to and from statutory council meetings;
- travel to and from official council approved meetings;
- travel to and from approved function representing a Principal Member;
- travel to and from Local Authority meetings;
- travel to and from all meetings of the Council or their sub-committees; and
- travel to and from any additional activity where extra meeting/activity allowance has been approved.

9. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal is also concerned that some Councillors do not have access to funds that properly reimburse their travel time when attending extra meetings or activities of the Council.

Presently, there are three differential amounts for extra meeting allowance and the Remuneration Tribunal cannot find justification as to why one Council receives up to 50% more for this allowance than others. The Remuneration Tribunal has determined an Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$10,000 for all Deputy Principal Members and Councillors throughout the Territory. This allowance may be accessed by Deputy Principal Members and Councillors as follows:

- additional meetings of a full Council or established sub-committees of council;
- attendance at Local Authority Meetings within the Ward that Councillors represent;
- attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official council duties;
- attendance at functions as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval;
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meeting;

Allowances to be paid to eligible members (excluding Principal Members) are:

1. Fee if activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| ○ Up to 2 hours | \$200 |
| ○ Between 2 and 4 hours | \$300 |
| ○ More than 4 hours | \$500 |

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined an Extra Meeting / Activity allowance for Councillors of Community Councils of up to \$1000 a year, if the extra meeting / activity is approved by Council.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

The Professional Development Allowance is increased to \$4000 in a financial year, and will now be more flexible. The total amount claimable in a year, is the total of two years being based on the annual allowance, plus one year drawn in advance or one years remaining balance from a previous year. The maximum amount claimable by any Councillor, is the sum total of one year for each year of the elected term.

The Professional Development Activity must be specifically related to the role of a Councillor and approved by the Council. Courses to be encouraged are:

- AICD Company's Director Course; and
- Professional Activity conducted by Local Government Association Northern Territory.

Proof of completion for each stage of the course / activity is required before further payments can be claimed.

11. DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE

Currently, Deputy Principal Members are paid Base and Electorate Allowance in three groups:

- Darwin;
- Alice Springs and Palmerston; and
- Others.

If the same methodology is also applied to a Deputy Principal Member's Allowance and a Councillor's Allowance is maintained, this allowance will be:

Council	Deputy Principal Member Allowance	Councillor Allowance	Total Allowances
Darwin	\$23,800	\$31,000	\$54,800
Palmerston	\$17,200	\$22,000	\$39,200
Alice Springs	\$16,500	\$22,000	\$38,500
Litchfield	\$16,000	\$22,000	\$38,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$36,000

There is no additional Allowance for Deputy Principal Members of Community Councils.

12. PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE

Currently, Principal Members are paid Mayoral and Electorate Allowance in three groups:

- Darwin;
- Alice Springs and Palmerston; and
- Others.

Applying the same methodology for Councillor Allowance, and building on the Councillor Allowance, the Principal Member Allowance has been calculated as follows:

Council	Principal Member Allowance	Councillor Allowance	Total Allowance
Darwin	\$127,200	\$31,000	\$158,200
Palmerston	\$92,000	\$22,000	\$114,000
Alice Springs	\$89,000	\$22,000	\$111,000
Litchfield	\$83,000	\$22,000	\$105,000
Others Town and Regional	\$82,000	\$20,000	\$102,000
Coomalie	\$18,000	\$7,000	\$25,000
Belyuen	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Wagait	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

13. VEHICLES FOR PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF TOWN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS

In discussions with Councils, the Remuneration Tribunal was advised that some Principal Members are provided with a Council maintained vehicle. It is considered that this allowance should be included in the Determination.

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined that if the Principal Members has not been given a vehicle by the council, they are entitled to an allowance. The Remuneration Tribunal has determined the vehicle allowance of \$25,000 per financial year.

Principal Members of Regional Councils are to be offered a Council maintained vehicle or a vehicle allowance of \$40,000 per financial year. This recognises the high cost of maintaining vehicles in the Regional areas.

The Vehicle Allowance will be paid each fortnight or monthly.

14. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on Council approved business will be entitled to Travel Allowance.

The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of Taxation Determination TD 2021/6 or any subsequent Taxation Determination made in substitution of that Determination.

15. FUTURE INQUIRIES

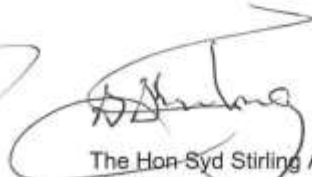
This is the first inquiry into Members of Local Government Council Allowances by an independent body and it would be enhanced if a follow up inquiry by the Remuneration Tribunal can be conducted in 2023, to review the impact of the allowances that have been established. Such an Inquiry will also allow Councils and Councillors to raise any issues that have resulted from the implementation of this Determination.

16. APPENDIX A

Appendix A provides a comparison between existing and new allowances.



Mr Michael Martin OAM
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Syd Stirling AM
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Mr Gary Higgins
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 24 January 2023

APPENDIX A to the Report on Allowances for Members of Local Councils

Comparison of Existing Allowances with New Allowances**Municipal and Regional Councils**

ALLOWANCE COUNCIL	CURRENT	NEW
Councillors Katherine & Regional	\$18,454	\$20,000
Alice Springs	\$21,430	\$22,000
Palmerston	\$21,430	\$22,000
Litchfield	\$21,430	\$22,000
Darwin	\$30,706	\$31,000

Mayor Total Allowance

Katherine & Regional	\$94,888	\$102,000
Litchfield	\$94,888	\$105,000
Alice Springs	\$110,704	\$111,000
Palmerston	\$110,704	\$114,000
Darwin	\$158,144	\$158,200

Deputy Mayor Total allowance

Katherine & Regional	\$32,720	\$36,000
Litchfield	\$32,720	\$38,000
Alice Springs	\$38,173	\$38,500
Palmerston	\$38,173	\$39,200
Darwin	\$54,531	\$54,800

Community Councils

Councillors Belyuen	\$4,503	\$5,000
Coomalie	\$4,000	\$7,000
Wagait	\$653	\$5,000
Mayor Belyuen	\$25,039	\$25,000
Coomalie	\$27,848	\$30,000
Wagait	\$3,631	\$10,000



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS**

DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

Under section 7B of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the Tribunal determines as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

Municipal Councils are the following:

- Alice Springs;
- Darwin;
- Katherine;
- Litchfield; and
- Palmerston.

Regional Councils are the following:

- Barkly;
- Central Desert;
- East Arnhem;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

Community Councils are the following:

- Belyuen.
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

Financial Year is the period from 1 July to the 30 June.

Councils are defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as an area, and means the Local Council constituted for that area under section 14(b).

The role of Mayor is defined in section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and is prescribed as:

- (1) The Principal Member of a municipal council is to have the title Mayor.
- (2) However:
 - (a) in the case of the council for the City of Darwin local government area – the principal member is to have the title Lord Mayor; and
 - (b) in the case of the Litchfield Council – the council may, by resolution, decide the principal member instead has the title President.
- (3) The Council may, by resolution, decide the principal member of a regional or shire council has the title Mayor or President.

Deputy Mayor is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Councillor is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as an elected member of a Local Council:

2. ALLOWANCES

The following allowances will be paid annually.

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$31,000
Palmerston	\$22,000
Alice Springs	\$22,000
Litchfield	\$22,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$20,000

Community Councils

Coomalie	\$7000
Belyuen	up to \$5000 as approved by Council
Wagait	up to \$5000 as approved by Council

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$23,800
Palmerston	\$17,200
Alice Springs	\$16,500
Litchfield	\$16,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$16,000

PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$127,200
Palmerston	\$92,000
Alice Springs	\$89,000
Litchfield	\$83,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$82,000

Community Councils

Coomalie	\$23,000
Belyuen	up to \$20,000 as approved by Council
Wegait	up to \$5000 as approved by Council

3. INCLUSIONS OF ALL ALLOWANCES

The Allowances are to cover:

- any cost to Councillors of attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies;
- allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area:
 - Including, but not limited to:
 - donations;
 - organization sponsorship;
 - membership fees;
 - patron expenses; and
 - constituent support.

4. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

- 4.1. An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$10,000 per financial year, may be accessed by all Municipal and Regional Councillors and Deputy Principal Members of those Councils. The allowance may be accessed as follows:

- additional meetings of full Council or established sub-committees of Council;
- attendance at Local Authority Meetings within the Ward the member represents;
- attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official Council duties;
- attendance at functions as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval; and
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meetings.

- 4.2. Allowances to be paid to eligible members (not including Principal Members) are:

- Fee if activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:
 - up to 2 hours \$200
 - between 2 and 4 hours \$300
 - more than 4 hours \$500
- An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$1000 per financial year, can be paid to Councillors of the Community Councils, when attending an extra meeting / activity approved by the Council.

5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE \$4000 PER YEAR

- 5.1. Professional Development Allowance is \$4000 per person, per financial year and will be paid to all Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members, Councillors of Municipal and Regional Councils.
- 5.2. Professional Development Allowance up to \$1000 per financial year, may be claimed by all Principal Members and Councillors of Community Councils if approved by the Council.
- 5.3. Any course or professional development activity must be specifically related to the role of the Councillor and be approved by the Council. The AICD Company's Director Course should be encouraged, as well as professional development activity that is arranged by the Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT).
- 5.4. Total amount claimable each year is the total of two years, being based on an annual allowance, plus one year drawn in advance or one year's remaining balance from a previous year. The maximum amount claimable by any Councillor is the total sum of one year for each year of the Councillor's elected term.
- 5.5. Proof of completion for each stage of the course is required before further payments can be claimed.

6. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

- 6.1. Vehicle Allowance will be available for travel undertaken by all Councillors when the travel involves 50kms from home base, and is capped at \$5000 per financial year, travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle, and the Councillor is not in receipt of a motor vehicle provisions in Clause 7 below.
- 6.2. Vehicle Allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance which will be paid at rates set by the Australian Taxation Office each year and is 78 cents a kilometre in 2022-23.
- 6.3. Vehicle Allowance will be available in the following circumstances:
 - travel to and from statutory Council meetings;
 - travel to and from official Council approved meeting;
 - travel to and from approved function representing the Principal Member;
 - travel to and from Local Authority Meetings;
 - travel to and from all meetings of Council or their sub-committees; and
 - travel to and from any additional activity where Extra Meeting/Activity Allowance has been approved.

7. PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE

- 7.1. If Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils are not given a Council maintained vehicle they can receive a Vehicle Allowance.
- 7.2. The Vehicle Allowance, which will be paid fortnightly or monthly, will be:
 - \$25,000 per year for Municipal Principal Members; or
 - \$40,000 per year for Regional Principal Members.

8. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

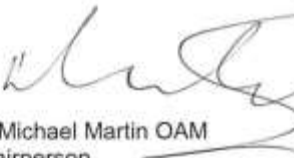
Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members and Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on approved Council business, will be entitled to Travel Allowance.

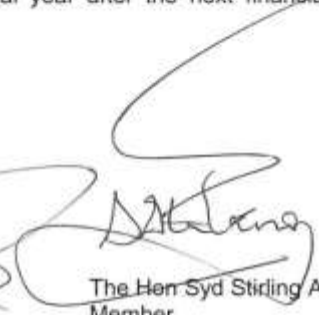
The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of Taxation Determination TD 2021/6 or any subsequent Taxation Determination made in substitution of that Determination.


9. GENERAL

9.1. Pursuant to section 7B(7) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.


Mr Michael Martin OAM
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal


The Hon Syd Stirling AM
Member
Remuneration Tribunal


Mr Gary Higgins
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 24 January 2023



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 4

Prepared by **Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance
Officer**

Remuneration Determination - Allowances for Members of Local Authorities.

Purpose

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined in a review of changes to Local Authority payments.

Background

Local Authority is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* and viewed as a critical function of Councils by the resident in the community. The Remuneration Tribunal believes the current level of allowance is inadequate and has established the following allowances:

The Chairperson was paid approximately \$140 for attendance at a Local Authority meeting but will be paid as follows:

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$450
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$600

A Local Authority member was paid approximately \$110 for attendance at a Local Authority meeting will be paid as follows:

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$200
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$400

Statutory Environment

*Local Government Act 2019
Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other
Entitlements) Act 2006*

Impact for Council

Budget to be reviewed in consideration of new allowances in the financial year.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-23:

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

- 1. That Finance Committee note the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination No. 1 of 2023 of Allowances for members of Local Authorities.**

Attachments

- 1 Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Authorities

ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 756
 Laid on the Table
14, 2, 2023



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
 REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
 (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
 LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

REPORT ON DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

As a result of amendments to the *Local Government Act 2006* and the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), on 29 June 2022, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local authority pursuant to section 7E(1) of the AMSORE Act.

The resulting Report and Determination must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt by the Minister.

Under section 7E(9) of the AMSORE Act, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.

Emails were sent to all Local Government Councils in July 2022 advising them of the Inquiry. The Remuneration Tribunal discussed this Inquiry during meetings with Local Government Councils.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

There are Local Authorities within nine Regional Councils and the number of Local Authorities in these Councils range from three to thirteen. The current allowance for members to attend meetings is just over \$100 and \$140 for the Chair of a Local Authority. Many Regional Councils advised that the Local Authorities are under resourced.

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet's Local Government Division is currently conducting a review of Local Authorities and confirmed that they would remain an important aspect of Local Government in Regional Councils.

3. IMPORTANCE OF AN ADEQUATE ALLOWANCE

It is important that Local Authorities are viewed as a critical function of Councils by the residents of Regional Councils and that the allowances paid are commensurate with payments for attending similar meetings within the community. Therefore, the Remuneration Tribunal believes that the current level of allowance is inadequate and has established the following allowances.

The Chair of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

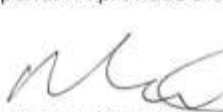
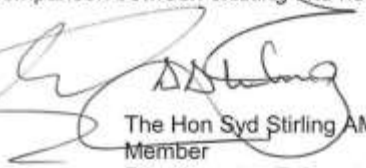

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$450
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$600

A Member of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$200
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$400

4. APPENDIX A

Appendix A provides a comparison between existing and new allowances.

 Mr Michael Martin OAM Chairperson Remuneration Tribunal	 The Hon Syd Stirling AM Member Remuneration Tribunal	 Mr Gary Higgins Member Remuneration Tribunal
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Dated 24 January 2023

APPENDIX A to the Report on Allowances for Members of Local Authorities

Comparison of Existing Allowances with New Allowances**Local Government Authorities**

POSITION	Period	CURRENT	NEW
Chair	Up to 2 hours	\$140	\$300
	2 to 4 hours	\$140	\$450
	More than 4 hours	\$140	\$600
Member	Up to 2 hours	\$110	\$200
	2 to 4 hours	\$110	\$300
	More than 4 hours	\$110	\$400



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

Under section 7E of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the Tribunal determines as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

Local Authority is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as established by a Council under section 76.

The Chair of a Local Authority is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as in section 98.

A Member of a Local Authority is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as a member of an audit committee, a council, a council committee of a local authority.

Financial Year is the period from 1 July to the 30 June.

2. ALLOWANCES

The following allowance will be paid for each meeting of a Local Authority.

The Chair of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:


If the meeting is held up to 2 hours	\$300
If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours	\$450
If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours	\$600

A Member of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:


If the meeting is held up to 2 hours	\$200
If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours	\$300
If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours	\$400

3. GENERAL


- a. Pursuant to section 7E(9) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the allowances determined are effective from either:
- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
 - from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.



Mr Michael Martin OAM
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Syd Stirling AM
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Mr Gary Higgins
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 24 January 2023