



## 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 2026

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

On 30 July 2025, pursuant to section 7B(1) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local council.

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.

On 9 September 2025, individual letters were sent to each Council inviting submissions and offered to hold a discussion with each Council either in person or through a video link. On 13 September 2025, an advertisement was placed in the NT News to announce the inquiry and invite submissions.

One meeting was held with a Council.

The Tribunal received three submissions from the following Councils as well as the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT):

- City of Palmerston Council
- Wagait Shire Council
- Roper Gulf Regional Council

## 2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal received submissions requesting an increase to Professional Development Allowance. It is noted that the Professional Development Allowance is all inclusive and can include travel and accommodation costs. The Tribunal is aware of significant cost increases for travel, especially for regional areas of the NT, and has agreed to increase the Allowance to \$7,500 a financial year.

## 3. COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased Councillors' allowance by 3% in recognition of movements in earnings within Australia as well as the NT.

## 4. MAYOR AND PRINCIPAL MEMBER ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased the Mayoral Allowance by \$2,000 to recognise the increase in extra meeting activity allowance claimable by all other Elected Councillors.

The Tribunal has determined that on the basis of equity, the three Shire Council Mayors should receive the same Mayor Allowance which has now been set at \$32,686.

## 5. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

The Tribunal has increased the Allowance to a maximum of \$12,000 and recognised the Induction and Mandatory Departmental training should not be applied to the extra meeting allowance cap but has made it available through the Professional Development Allowance.

## 6. FUTURE INQUIRIES

The timing of the Local Council General Election has impacted the inquiry as some Councils are yet to be finalised and as a result, the Tribunal only received one submission from a city, regional and shire Council.

With this in mind, the Tribunal considers that further input will be provided as part of the next review once all Councils have been finalised.


The Tribunal appreciates the feedback received with any outstanding items being carried forward to the next Inquiry.



Mr Gary Higgins  
Chairperson  
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Kezia Purick  
Member  
Remuneration Tribunal



Ms Lynne Walker  
Member  
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 9 December 2025



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REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers  
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**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS**

**DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2026**

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
- Groote Archipelago;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

**Shire Councils are the following:**

- Belyuen;
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

**New Councils:** any Councils newly constituted by the Minister for Local Government  
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.

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

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

A Councillor is a member of a Local Council.

## 2. ALLOWANCES

The following annual allowances will apply from 1 July 2026 and will be paid fortnightly or monthly:

### MAYORAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$134,288
Palmerston	\$97,680
Alice Springs	\$94,560
Litchfield	\$88,320
Katherine and Regional	\$85,280

### MAYOR – SHIRE COUNCILS

Coomalie	\$23,000
Belyuen	\$23,000
Wagait	\$23,000

### Total Mayoral Allowance

Darwin	\$168,325
Palmerston	\$124,032
Alice Springs	\$118,716
Litchfield	\$112,476
Katherine and Regional	\$110,280
Shire Councils up to	\$32,686

## **DEPUTY MAYOR ALLOWANCE**

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

### **Deputy Mayor Total Allowance**

Darwin	\$57,837
Palmerston	\$43,552
Alice Springs	\$40,656
Litchfield	\$40,156
Katherine and Regional	\$37,960

## **COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE**

Darwin	\$34,037
Palmerston	\$26,352
Alice Springs	\$24,156
Litchfield	\$24,156
Other Municipal and Regional	\$21,960

### **Shire Councils**

Coomalie	\$7,686
Belyuen	\$7,686
Wagait	\$7,686

## **3. INCLUSIONS OF ALL ALLOWANCES**

The Allowances are to cover:

- any cost to Councillors for attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by the Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies; and
- 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.

## **4. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE**

4.1. An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$12,000 per financial year, may be accessed by all Councillors and Deputy Principal Members. The allowance may be accessed as follows:

- special meetings of full Council or established 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/meetings as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval; or
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meetings.

The activity allowance may be paid as travel time when travelling to Council meetings and meetings of Local Authorities within the ward the Councillor represents, where the travel involves at least 50kms from home base (at least 100kms return). This activity Allowance is not to be included in the cap of \$12,000.

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

- Fee for attendance at extra meetings or activities is the accumulated hours on any one day and are as follow:
  - up to 2 hours \$200
  - between 2 and 4 hours \$300
  - more than 4 hours \$500 (maximum payable for any one day)

4.3 Where a Councillor receives extra meeting allowance to represent the Mayor or Principal member at an official Council function, that extra meeting allowance will not be applied to the cap.

4.4 Where a Councillor attends the Executive Board of the Local Government Association of NT (LGANT) and receives an extra meeting allowance, that extra meeting allowance will not be applied to the cap.

4.5 Where a Councillor claims an allowance under 6.4, travel time is not to be included as part of the meeting allowance cap.

## 5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

5.1. The Professional Development Allowance is an inclusive allowance which covers costs associated with the Professional Development activities including registration and attendance fees, travel cost including vehicle allowance, travel allowances and travel time as specified in clause 4.2.

5.2. Any course or professional development activity must be specifically related to the role of the Councillor and be approved by the Council.

5.3. The amount available each year is based on a financial year allocation and calculated as follows:

- Following a general or by election, each elected member begins their term of office with a zero balance.
- From the first full calendar month after an election, members earn one-twelfth of the annual allocation for each month served per financial year.
- At the end of each financial year, up to 50% (or half), of the allocation unused can be carried forward to the next financial year.

5.4. The maximum annual amount allocated each financial year is as follows:

- for the 2025-2026 Financial Year: \$4,167; and
- for the 2026-2027 Financial Year: \$7,500.

5.5. Induction and Mandatory Departmental training can be claimed using the Extra Meeting Allowance “fee for attendance” rate and paid from the Professional Development Allowance. These amounts can be claimed after the completion of the necessary calendar months to cover the allocation.

## **6. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE**

6.1. Vehicle Allowance will be available for travel undertaken by all Councillors when the travel:

- (a) exceeds 50kms from home base 100kms return;
- (b) travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle;
- (c) the Councillor is not in receipt of a motor vehicle allowance in Clause 7 below; and
- (d) the vehicle allowance is capped at \$10,000.

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, currently 88 cents per kilometre for 2024-25.

6.3. Vehicle Allowance will be available in the following circumstances, where travel is to and from:

- (a) statutory Council meetings;
- (b) official Council approved meeting;
- (c) approved functions representing the Principal Member;
- (d) Local Authority Meetings within the ward the Councillor represents;
- (e) all meetings of Council and their committees; or
- (f) any additional activity where Extra Meeting/Activity Allowance has been approved.

6.4. When a kilometre reimbursement is paid, travel time will also be paid utilising extra meetings/activities rate. This payment is not to be included in the extra meetings/activities cap as specified in Clause 4.1.

6.5. The Vehicle Allowance Cap will not include:

- travel to and from Local Authorities Meetings within the Ward that the member represents; and
- travel involved with Professional Development activities.

## **7. PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE**

7.1. Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils are entitled to a Council maintained vehicle.

7.2. If Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils choose not to be provided with a Council maintained vehicle, they are entitled to Motor Vehicle Allowance, paid fortnightly or monthly, and will be:

- \$25,000 per year for Municipal Principal Members; or
- \$40,000 per year for Regional Principal Members.


7.3. The Principal members of the Shire Councils may claim reimbursement in accordance with Clause 6.1.

## 8. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

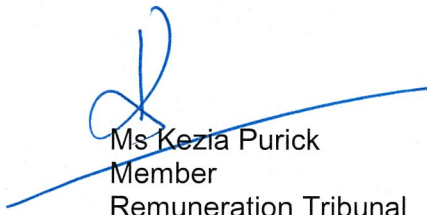
- 8.1 Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members and Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on approved Council business, will be entitled to Travel Allowance.
- 8.2 The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of [Taxation Determination TD 2025/4](#) or any subsequent 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 Gary Higgins  
Chairperson  
Remuneration Tribunal



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