

Subject Mayoral Minute: Submission to NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

To my fellow Councillors

Mayoral Minute

Summary

The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to seek Council endorsement for a submission to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal in regards to review of the 2019 annual determination.

Background

Pursuant to s.241 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Tribunal is required to make an annual determination, by no later than 1 May 2019, on the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors to take effect from 1 July 2019.

Shellharbour City Council (Council) was invited by the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal to make a submission in respect of categorisation, fees and any general matters of this review.

I consider it important to present our case for our council to be considered in a higher classification and as a result I propose that the following be submitted to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for consideration:

1. Council is of the view that the categorisation of councils is too broad in that it does not accurately reflect the amount of work undertaken by councillors covering a larger population.
2. The City of Shellharbour is growing at a significant rate and hence the community, its needs, its diversity and the infrastructure required to service it is also growing rapidly and requires a level of understanding and work rate on the part of Councillors of the City which is greater than the current budget and population would suggest.
3. Council believes that a more sophisticated method which includes councils' risk exposure should be considered to determine each council's category. Remuneration should be commensurate with the responsibilities of the council as a whole.
4. That Council's classification be reviewed with a view to moving Council up to the higher classification.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the following submission to the Local Government NSW Remuneration Tribunal:

1. Council is of the view that the categorisation of councils is too broad in that it does not accurately reflect the amount of work undertaken by councillors covering a larger population.
2. The City of Shellharbour is growing at a significant rate and hence the community, its needs, its diversity and the infrastructure required to service it is also growing rapidly and requires a level of understanding and work rate on the part of Councillors of the City which is greater than the current budget and population would suggest.
3. Council believes that a more sophisticated method which includes councils' risk exposure should be considered to determine each council's category. Remuneration should be commensurate with the responsibilities of the council as a whole.
4. That Council's classification be reviewed with a view to moving Council up to the higher classification.



Approved for Council's consideration:

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2019

Attachments

1. Letter received by NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal dated 12 December 2018

Attachment 1



Ref: A4127215

Shellharbour City Council
Locked Bag 155
SHELLHARBOUR CITY CENTRE NSW 2529

12 December 2018

Dear Mayor

I write to advise that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has commenced its review for the 2019 annual determination.

Pursuant to s. 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act), the Tribunal is required to make an annual determination, by no later than 1 May 2019, on the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors to take effect from 1 July 2019.

Fees

The Tribunal will review the minimum and maximum fee levels for each category. In accordance with section 242A of the LG Act the Tribunal is required to apply the Government's public sector wages policy to the determination of ranges of fees for Councillors and Mayors.

Categorisation

Each of the 128 councils is allocated into one of the following nine categories:

Metropolitan

- Principal CBD
- Major CBD
- Metropolitan Large
- Metropolitan Medium
- Metropolitan Small

Non-metropolitan

- Regional City
- Regional Strategic Area
- Regional Rural
- Rural

The criteria for each of the categories are outlined on pages 19 to 22 of the 2018 determination.

The Tribunal is only required to review the categories every three years and will next consider the model, the criteria applicable to each group and the allocation of councils in detail in 2020.

The Tribunal will however, as part of the 2019 review, consider any requests to review the categorisation of individual councils if there is a strong case to do so. Any requests for a review should be supported by evidence which would indicate that the council is more appropriately allocated in to another category based on the criteria.

Submissions

The Tribunal invites submissions from individual councils in respect of categorisation, fees and any general matters as part of this review. Any submission the Council may wish to make should be received by no later than 30 January 2019 and should be emailed to catherine.power@psc.nsw.gov.au.

Please note that any material provided to the Tribunal may be made available to any member of the public under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

As part of the annual review the Tribunal will seek to meet with Local Government NSW, as it does each year, to receive a sector wide view for local government in NSW.

If you require any further information please email sarah.bradshaw@psc.nsw.gov.au or telephone on 02 9272 6006.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Robert Lang
Local Government Remuneration Tribunal**

