

Background

Significant demands and expectations are placed on Councillors of Melton City Council in carrying out their civic and statutory functions. In carrying out their roles as Councillors, they accept a range of responsibilities in representing Melton Council and its community and stakeholders at a local, state and national level.

The Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive remuneration in the form of a councillor allowance as per section 74A and 74B of the Local Government Act. The Mayor is entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The Victorian Government sets upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. For the purpose of these allowance limits, Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each council. Melton is categorised as a Category 3 Council and currently the Councillors are paid \$34,431 per annum and the Mayor is paid \$109,975 per annum, which includes 9.50% in lieu of superannuation guarantee contribution. The upper limit of allowances for Category 3 Council is \$31,444 for Councillors and \$100,434 for the Mayor, plus 9.50% in lieu of superannuation guarantee.

Soon after being elected, each Council determines the precise annual amount that will be paid to its Mayor and Councillors, within the limits of the categories set by the Government. These amounts apply from the time of the Council making a resolution after conducting a review of its allowances. Reviews are required to take place within the period 6 months after a general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

Allowances levels are subject to adjustments that are announced in the Victorian Government Gazette by the Minister for Local Government.

In addition to the allowance, Councillors are entitled to refunds of money spent while undertaking their duties as Councillors. They are also entitled to receive an appropriate level of support to enable them to be accessible and available to the community. The level of support and refunds are governed by Councillors and details are provided in the Council's *Resource Support and Expenses of Councillors and Special Committee Members Policy*.

Expense Categories

1. Conferences, Seminars and Training *

This category covers registration and accommodation fees, meals and travel associated with attendance by Councillors at conferences, seminars and training held locally, interstate and overseas. These are held by local government related organisations, professional bodies and private sector providers on issues and events which impact on local government and Councillors decision making responsibilities.

2. Travel Local *

This category covers costs associated with assisting Councillors in meeting the transport costs incurred in attending meetings, functions and other commitments within and outside the municipality. This comprises use of taxi service, reimbursement for use of private vehicle while conducting Council business, car parking fees as described in the *Resource Support and Expenses of Councillors and Special Committee Members Policy*. This category also comprises costs associated with accommodation and incidentals incurred when travelling on Council business in outer metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

3. Communication

This category covers communication costs associated with ensuring that Councillors are accessible and are able to communicate with constituents, stakeholders, other Councillors, Council officers and family members while conducting Council business. This category comprises costs associated with use of mobile phones, home phones and internet access services.

4. Functions External to Civic Centre *

In some cases, Councillors may need to use external hospitality services when conducting Council business outside Council offices. In doing so, Councillors seek reimbursement for expenses incurred. These expenses comprise costs associated with the provision of meals, refreshments and other entertainment (for Councillors and their guests) considered appropriate to the nature of Council business being conducted.

5. Carer Expenses

The Council reimburses the cost of necessary carer expenses incurred by Councillors in the course of carrying out their duties. This covers child care and other forms of care needed to support immediate family members as outlined in the *Resource Support and Expenses of Councillors and Special Committee Members Policy*.

6. Councillor Allowance

Allowances are paid in advanced monthly.

* Costs incurred under these categories may include those relating to the participation of partners in accordance with the *Resource Support and Expenses of Councillors and Special Committee Members Policy* and *Council Attendance Function Policy*.

Schedule of Councillors Expenses 1 January to 31 March 2020

	Cr Kathy Majdlik	Cr Sophie Ramsey	Cr Bob Turner	Cr Lara Carli	Cr Ken Hardy	Cr Goran Kesic	Cr Steven Abboushi	Cr Michelle Mendes	Cr Yvonne Sebire	Total
1. Conferences, Seminars & Training	\$ 6,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64	\$ 6,241
2. Travel Local	\$ 2,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 301	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,546
3. Communication	\$ 260	\$ 325	\$ 194	\$ 256	\$ 155	\$ 86	\$ 85	\$ 86	\$ 42	\$ 1,489
4. Functions External to Civic Centre	\$ 64	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 224	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 673
5. Carer Expenses	\$ 10,610	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,610
6. Councillor Allowance	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 27,494	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 8,608	\$ 96,356
Total	\$ 27,812	\$ 9,061	\$ 8,930	\$ 28,029	\$ 9,288	\$ 8,693	\$ 8,693	\$ 8,694	\$ 8,714	\$ 117,914

Travel Register – Interstate Travel Costs incurred by Mayor, deputy Mayor & Councillors

For full details of costs incurred by Councillors while travelling on interstate and overseas Council business, please refer to the travel register. The register provides details of travel undertaken including a total cost that covers fares, accommodation, conference registration, sustenance and other incidental costs associated with travel.

The Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 requires that a Council make available for public inspection documents, containing prescribed material including the maintenance of a travel register containing details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months.