

## 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 City Council and its community and stakeholders at a local, state and national level. In recognition of this, the Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive remuneration in the form of a councillor allowance. The Mayor is entitled to receive a higher allowance.

Both the Local Government Act 2020 (the 2020 Act) and the Local Government Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) currently apply to Councillor allowances. The 2020 Act also deems that until the Remuneration Tribunal meets and makes a determination, sections 73B, 74 and 74B of the 1989 Act apply, despite their repeal (s39(6)).

Section 74(1) of the 1989 Act requires a Council to review and determine the level of the Councillor allowance and the Mayoral allowance within the period of 6 months after a general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

Local Government Victoria provided advice to Councils that the Remuneration Tribunal is unlikely to meet and make a determination by 30 June 2020 (the deadline under the 1989 Act) and accordingly Council completed a process of review and determination under section 74 of the 1989 Act at its meeting held 15 March 2021.

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. At its 15 March 2021 meeting Council resolved that the Councillors are paid \$34,431 per annum and the Mayor be paid \$109,975 per annum, which includes 9.50% in lieu of superannuation guarantee contribution. This is the upper limit of allowances for Category 3 Councils.

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 *Councillors and Delegated Committee Members Resources and Expenses 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 *Councillors and Delegated Committee Members Resources and Expenses 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 advance monthly.

\* Costs incurred under these categories may include those relating to the participation of partners in accordance with the *Councillors and Delegated Committee Members Resources and Expenses Policy*.

#### Schedule of Councillors Expenses & Resources 1 April to 30 June 2021

Councillor	Conferences, Seminars & Training	Travel Local	Communication	Functions External to Civic Centre	Carer Expenses	Total	Councillor Allowance
Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 745.91	\$ 218.18	\$ -	\$ 964.09	\$ 8,607.69
Cr Bob Turner	\$ 678.09	\$ -	\$ 689.81	\$ 533.38	\$ -	\$ 1,901.28	\$ 8,607.69
Deputy Mayor Goran Kesic	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.98	\$ 8,607.69
Cr Julie Shannon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,014.70	\$ 109.09	\$ -	\$ 1,123.79	\$ 8,607.69
Mayor Kathy Majdlik	\$ 319.82	\$ 18.18	\$ 890.33	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ 1,338.33	\$ 27,493.74
Cr Lara Carli	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 174.09	\$ -	\$ 424.09	\$ 8,607.69
Cr Moira Deeming	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 336.09	\$ 174.09	\$ -	\$ 510.18	\$ 8,607.69
Cr Sophie Ramsey	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 650.71	\$ 219.09	\$ -	\$ 869.80	\$ 8,607.69
Cr Steven Abboushi	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 673.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 673.34	\$ 8,607.69
Grand Total	\$ 997.91	\$ 18.18	\$ 5,396.87	\$ 1,537.92	\$ -	\$ 7,950.88	\$ 96,355.26

#### 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.

Council's Public Transparency Policy requires that a Council make available on its website Travel Registers for Councillors and Council Staff. The travel register contains 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.