



**SOUTHERN DOWNS
REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL
MEETING OF COUNCIL**

LATE AGENDA ITEMS
Friday, 16 December 2016


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10. EXECUTIVE

10.5 Local Government Remuneration & Discipline Tribunal Report 2016

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 16 December 2016
	Chief Executive Officer	File Ref: 04.14.03; 22.07.05

Recommendation

THAT Council :

1. Adopt the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal determined Remuneration Schedule effective from 1 July 2017 for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.
2. Continue to offer Councillors the option for superannuation contributions on the basis that Council and Councillors make contributions in a ratio of two to one up to a maximum Council contribution rate of 12% with the maximum rate from Councillors being 6%.

Report

In accordance with Chapter 8, Part 1, Division 1 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 ("the Regulation") the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal concluded its review of remuneration for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors of Local Governments and has released its Report for 2016 following gazettal of the remuneration schedule on Thursday, 8 December 2016. The Report includes the Tribunal's remuneration determination for 2016/2017 and the remuneration schedule which will apply from 1 July 2017 for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors of Queensland Local Government (excluding Brisbane City Council).

An electronic copy of the Tribunal's 2014 Report can be downloaded from <http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/local-government/remuneration/tribunal-reports.html>

It should also be noted that pursuant to Section 247(6) of the Regulation, the local government must make a resolution under subsection (2) within 90 days after each remuneration schedule has been published in the gazette.

The Tribunal has decided to increase the maximum level of remuneration for all Councillors (including Mayors and Deputy Mayors) by 2% effective from 1 July 2017.

The current Remuneration Schedule 2016/2017 is outlined below, followed by the proposed Remuneration Schedule 2017/2018:

Category 3			
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Mayor		\$122,631
Central Highlands Regional Council	Deputy Mayor		\$76,644
Gympie Regional Council	Councillor		\$65,147
Isaac Regional Council			
Livingstone Shire Council			
Lockyer Valley Regional Council			
Noosa Shire Council			
Scenic Rim Regional Council			
South Burnett Regional Council			
Southern Downs Regional Council			
Tablelands Regional Council			
Western Downs Regional Council			
Whitsunday Regional Council			

Proposed Remuneration Schedule 2017/2018

Category 3			
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Mayor		\$125,084
Central Highlands Regional Council	Deputy mayor		\$78,177
Gympie Regional Council	Councillor		\$66,450
Isaac Regional Council			
Livingstone Shire Council			
Lockyer Valley Regional Council			
Maranoa Regional Council			
Noosa Shire Council			
Scenic Rim Regional Council			
South Burnett Regional Council			
Southern Downs Regional Council			
Tablelands Regional Council			
Western Downs Regional Council			
Whitsunday Regional Council			

The combined total increase in remuneration levels would be \$13,107.

It is important to note that following a review of Council's Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors in April 2016, Councillors have undertaken to make use of a Council vehicle for travel associated with Council business rather than using their own vehicles and claiming travel expenses. The result of that change in practice is highlighted in the following comparison of reimbursements paid to Councillors for vehicle expenses for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016:-

2014/2015	\$34,368.75
2015/2016 – Pre Election July 2015 – March 2016	\$12,970.00
2015/2016 – Post Election April 2016 – June 2016	\$ 0.00

In addition, Section 226 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides the option for employer superannuation contributions to be made for Councillors up to a maximum contribution rate of 12%.

Budget Implications

Provision will be made in the draft 2017/2018 budget for any increase in Councillors' remuneration.

Policy Consideration

Community Plan 2030

8. The Well-governed Southern Downs:

- 8.11 Promote a community that is active and engaged in governance and able to influence change.
- 8.15 Ensure preparedness for unforeseen circumstances that impact financially on the Southern Downs.

Community Engagement

The Tribunal invited submissions from interested persons throughout Queensland and subsequently considered the submissions received in its decision making process. Council lodged a submission indicating its desire to remain as a Category 3 local government authority.

Legislation/Local Law

The Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal is established under the *Local Government Act 2009* and under Section 183(2)(c) of the Act.

The Local Government Regulation 2012

Options

Council:

1. Adopt the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal determined Remuneration Schedule effective from 1 July 2017 for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.
2. Councillors forego the increase effective from 1 July 2017 and redirect the funds generated from the increase to another operational budget activity.
3. Continue to offer Councillors the option for superannuation contributions on the basis that Council and Councillors make contributions in a ratio of two to one up to a maximum Council contribution rate of 12% with the maximum rate from Councillors being 6%.

Attachments

Nil