

10.4. 2025/26 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	5. Our Civic Leadership 5.2 Strong civic leadership and customer focussed services

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determination for 2025/26, and for Council to determine to fix and pay an annual fee to Councillors and the Mayor from 1 July 2025, in accordance with the Tribunal's determination.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2025/26 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2025.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years, under section 239 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act). The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination and will next review these categories in 2026.
- The Local Government Act 1993 requires councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2025 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2025/26 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council fix the annual councillors' fee to \$29,950 in accordance with the Metropolitan Medium Councils allowable fee determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the 2025/26 year.
- 2. THAT** Council fix the annual fee Mayoral fee to \$78,480 in accordance with the Metropolitan Medium Councils allowable fee determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the 2025/26 year.

Background

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years, under section 239 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act). The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination and will next review these categories in 2026.

The Tribunal found that the allocation of most councils into the current categories continued to be appropriate having regard to the 2023 review, the current category model and criteria, and the evidence put forward in the submissions received.

The Tribunal has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2025/26 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2025.

Like most Councils, North Sydney has historically fixed the maximum fee as an acknowledgement that the time and effort Councillors expend on Council business cannot be fully recompensed within the fee provisions.

Report

The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in, which for North Sydney Council is Metropolitan Medium.

The Tribunal determination for Member fees in Metropolitan Medium is:

Role	Minimum (25/26)	Maximum (25/26)	24/25 fee
Councillor	\$15,830	\$29,950	\$28,690
Mayor (additional fee)	\$33,630	\$78,480	\$76,190

If a council does not fix a fee by way of a resolution, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.

The full determination report can be found [here](#).

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

An amount of \$379,830 has been allocated in the 2024/25 draft budget for mayoral and councillor fees, representing 0.23% of total operational expenditure.

Based upon the Tribunal determination and recommendation in this report, a budget saving of \$1,850 will be made.

Legislation

Sections 248 and 249 of the Local Government Act 1993 require councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2024 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2025/26 financial year.