

**Notice** is given that a Special Meeting of the Kingston City Council has been scheduled for 6.00pm at 1230 Nepean Highway Cheltenham on Monday 22 June 2009.

*Business will be as follows:*

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration by Councillors or Officers of any conflict of interest**
3. **Reports by Officers**

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4. **Urgent Business**
5. **Confidential Items in Camera**

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**Determination of Mayoral and Councillor Allowances**

**Approved by:**

Cr Ron Brownlees, Mayoral and Councillor Allowances  
Special Committee Chairperson

**Author:**

Michael Fry, Team Leader Council Business

**1. Purpose**

This report proposes that the Council determine the level of the Mayoral Allowance and the Councillor Allowance following the conduct of a review of these Allowances undertaken in accordance with the provisions of section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989.

**2. Background**

Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989 provides that:

*(1) A Council must review and determine the level of the Councillor allowance and the Mayoral allowance within the period of 7 months after a general election....*

*(4) A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 in respect of a review of allowances.*

On 27 April 2009 Council voted to put its allowances out for public submissions in accordance with the Local Government Act. Public Notice was provided in the Age Newspaper and on the Council's website on Wednesday 29 April 2009, and press releases issued to the local newspapers. The resolution proposed that the Councillors Allowance be set at \$24,188.40 and the Mayoral Allowance be set at \$72,565.20, within the Category 3 Council range as stipulated, subject to any change required by Order in Council, plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%).

At this time a special committee comprising Councillors Bauer, Brownlees and Dundas was established to hear any submissions received in relation to the proposed Mayoral and Councillors Allowances.

**3. Issues**

The only submission received was from Mr Steve Buckingham, who objected to the level of Councillor allowances as advertised.

A meeting of the special committee was convened on Tuesday, 3 June 2009, to consider any submissions received and to hear any submitter who wished to be heard in support of his or her written submission Mr Buckingham requested, and was afforded, the opportunity to address the special committee in support of his written submission. In summary, the following matters were raised for consideration by the special committee and Council:

1. Councillors have not acknowledged that the role is essentially voluntary and an honour.
2. The allowance is treated as a wage, but no criteria of skill or evaluation is required to execute the position of Councillor.
3. Role of Councillor is not full time and need not interfere with normal employment.
4. Diligence by Councillors is not being applied and Councillors are underperforming in their duties.

**City of Kingston  
Special Council Meeting**

**Agenda**

**22 June 2009**

The special committee is of the view that the proposed Mayoral and Councillor Allowances, as proposed in the Council's resolution of 27 April 2009:

- accords with the independent report prepared by the Local Government (Councillor Remuneration Review) Panel that recommended to, and was accepted by, the State Government, the first rise in the Councillor Support package for councillors in Victoria for eight years;
- is fair and reasonable in its encouragement of Candidates to stand in local government elections;
- acknowledges the value and significance of the work councillors perform;
- take into account the movement in the remuneration of the State Government's statutory and executive officer payments;

**4. Recommendation**

That Council, in accordance with the provisions of sections 74 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("the Act"):

1. determine to set the Councillor Allowance at \$24,188.40 and the Mayoral Allowance at \$72,565.20, plus an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9%). These Allowances are within the stipulated Category 3 Council range, and are subject to any change required by Order-in-Council; and
2. advise the submitter, Mr Steve Buckingham, of the Council's decision and the reasons for the Council's decision, in accordance with the provisions of section 223 of the Act.