



Please quote our ref: GOVERNANCE – Councillors – Allowances and Expenses
Your ref:
Enquiries to: Scott Riley, General Manager 6452 4800

16 February 2018

Ms Alex Johnston
Tasmanian Industrial Commission
G P O Box 1108
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Ms Johnston

SUBMISSION - COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION REVIEW

I refer to the recent invitation for submissions to the Councillor Remuneration Review contained in the correspondence dated 12 January 2018.

On behalf of Circular Head Council the following points are raised for consideration in the review proceedings that are relevant to regional and remote Mayoral and Councillor functions and the interactions with the community in the region.

It is important to note for Circular Head Council the compensation allowance for Councillor duties is insufficient to replace full time paid employment requiring the triangular commitment of family, community and paid employment, resulting in substantial after hours dedication to the role of Mayor or Councillor to respect the integrity of public office.

In addition it is also reasonable to consider the following elements;

- Time equity balance for increased travel distances representing remote and isolated communities which incurs considerable travel time and time away from paid employment at a personal cost to individuals;
- Commitment and dedication to good governance upskilling of rural and remote councillors which involves majority of out of region travel to attend training courses and represent the community interests at higher forums and events;
- The coupling of compensation to population fails to reflect the unique challenges of rural and remote isolation and unique community needs.

Whilst there is not support for substantial quantum increases matching larger urban authorities in the allowance consideration, as this would impact operational costs unsustainably, some modest acknowledgement with a reflective increase to reflect the commitment of representative Mayor and Councillors in the rural and remote context is considered worthy of genuine consideration.



CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

Further to attract, renew and or retain the skills and experience in serving the community, consideration must allow for the genuine commitment made by rural and remote representatives who serve with dedication, often at considerable personal sacrifice.

I look forward to your positive consideration of this correspondence and the issues raised therein.

Yours sincerely

**Cr Daryl Quilliam
MAYOR**