



LORD MAYOR'S OFFICE
TOWN HALL
MACQUARIE STREET
HOBART
TASMANIA

Mr David Barclay
President
Tasmanian Industrial Commission
GPO Box 1108
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mr Barclay

I refer to the Tasmanian Industrial Commission's Board of Inquiry review into Councillor Allowances and provide the following submission in relation to the current allowance for the Lord Mayor.

The current formula for determining aldermanic allowances fails to recognise the considerable responsibility and workload of a Lord Mayor of a fast-growing capital city as opposed to mayors of other cities and municipal areas in Tasmania.

In my view, the responsibility and workload of the Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart is greater and therefore not comparable to the responsibility and workload of the Mayor of the other category 1 city, Launceston.

The Hobart City Council has a budget of \$130 million, \$1.85 billion in assets and 750+ staff.

In my personal opinion, the position of Lord Mayor is regularly more than the hours devoted to a 38 hour week position and many of these hours are taking up normal family or rest time such as evenings and weekends.

As the official spokesperson of the Council, it is critical that the Lord Mayor is across all issues from the start until the end of the day. Calls from media outlets typically commence from 6:30am. Additionally, under the *Local Government Act* the Lord Mayor is responsible for the behaviour and duties of the Aldermen which is another onerous responsibility (akin to the General Manager).

The Office of the Lord Mayor maintains workload records in terms of attendance at meetings with internal and external parties; official calls; council and council committee meetings; aldermanic workshops; Chairing the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority, attending Council of Capital City Lord Mayors meetings, attending Local Government Association of Tasmania meetings; media interviews and events; attendance at events (external to Council events); hosting civic receptions; and, full days on international delegations.

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CITY OF HOBART

In 2016/17 I participated in or attended 815 events (as described above) which involved approximately 866 hours of my time. From July to December 2017 I participated in or attended 436 events (as described above) which involved approximately 533 hours of my time.

While these records go some way to demonstrate the number of hours that typically go into being a Lord Mayor of a capital city council, they don't take into account the significant number of additional hours to prepare for meetings, the amount reading required, or the time taken to answer correspondence and talk with constituents.

It is my submission that there should be a direct reference to workload in the formula used to calculate allowances and consideration should be given to a capital city loading for the position of Lord Mayor.

Further, as an individual with a business background, I am also concerned that the payment for services is via an allowance.

I query that if the work I am doing is not "work", then what am I doing? I believe therefore that the position should be remunerated as a normal salary or wage with a loading for the position, much the same as any other politician at State or Federal level and that superannuation be paid and that tax be deducted.

As it is now established that Aldermen are considered to be workers under the *Work, Health and Safety Act* is an "allowance" still appropriate?

I humbly submit that as an elected official with the responsibility of being the leader of a Capital City that the entitlement is completely inadequate, not commensurate with the workload and in reality is no different to an elected official (possibly a Minister) of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Board of Inquiry on this matter.

I would also appreciate the opportunity to present to the Board and understand the public hearing for verbal submissions will be held on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 1pm. Can you please advise whether a verbal submission by me can be scheduled in the public hearing for Tuesday 20 February 2018?

Yours sincerely



Alderman Sue Hickey
LORD MAYOR (on leave of absence)

Thursday 15 February 2018