



## The Hon Shaun Leane MP

Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Suburban Development  
Minister for Veterans

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Ref: BMIN-2-21-11734

Warren McCann  
Chair  
Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal  
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[enquiries@remunerationtribunal.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@remunerationtribunal.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr McCann

The *Local Government Act 2020* has transferred responsibility for determining Victorian mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

Following consultation with the Minister for Government Services, I am writing to formally request that the Tribunal make its first determination for mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances. This request is made under section 23A(4) of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*.

Please find enclosed further information that may assist the Tribunal in relation to its forthcoming determination.

Tribunal secretariat officers may contact Julie Reid, Executive Director, Local Government Victoria on 0428 350 176 or at [julie.reid@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:julie.reid@ecodev.vic.gov.au) for further information.

Thank you for undertaking this important task for the Victorian local government sector. I look forward to the Tribunal's first determination of mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Shaun Leane MP**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**Minister for Suburban Development**  
**Minister for Veterans**

Date: 17/06/2021

cc The Hon Danny Pearson MP, Minister for Government Services

## **First Determination of mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances**

### ***Matters for possible consideration by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal***

#### **Current position on council allowances**

[Recognition and Support: Victorian Government's Policy Statement on Local Government Mayoral and Councillor Allowances and Resources \(April 2008\)](#): While this policy notes that the Government views councillor allowances not as a form of salary, but as recognition of the contributions made by those elected to voluntary, part time roles in the community, the Tribunal may wish to consider whether this view supports a contemporary local government sector that attracts diverse community perspectives to civic life.

#### **Allowances and representation**

The Victorian Government's Gender Equality Strategy, [Safe and Strong](#), sets a target of 50:50 gender representation for councillors and mayors by 2025. In giving effect to this strategy, the Government has undertaken a range of initiatives to encourage women's participation in local government, including the establishment of a new Gender Equality Advisory Committee (GEAC) to drive gender equality across Victoria's 79 councils.

Funding for a range of initiatives to promote and support women on councils has recently been provided, including:

- The [It's Our Time](#) campaign to promote and support women on councils.
- The Victorian Local Governance Association's (VLGA) [Local Women Leading Change program](#)
- The Australian Local Government Women's Association's (Vic Branch) mentoring program for new female councillors.
- The VLGA's [Your Community, Country and Council](#) program that supports aboriginal men and women to stand for council.

The Tribunal may wish to consider the impact that allowances may have on representation in local leadership roles, especially in terms of the representation of women.

#### **Local government priorities**

The [Ministerial Statement on local government](#) articulates the Government's future priorities for the local government sector, including the critical role of councils in Victoria's pathway through social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tribunal may wish to consider whether the priorities identified in this statement should be taken into account in determining councillor allowances.

#### **Allowances paid to members of other community bodies**

Section 23A(5)(a) of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* requires the Tribunal to take into account similar

allowances paid to members elected to voluntary part-time roles in community organisations.

The Tribunal's secretariat may wish to contact officers from my Department for assistance with identifying relevant examples of such community bodies that the Tribunal may wish to consider as a useful basis for comparison.