

Thursday, 10 April, 2008

## **NEW ALLOWANCE PACKAGE TO BETTER SUPPORT COUNCILLORS**

An independent report that recommends the first rise in the support package for councillors in Victoria in eight years has been accepted by the Brumby Government.

The Local Government (Councillor Remuneration Review) Panel Report recommended the new allowance and support package to better reflect the contribution made by locally elected councillors.

“Councillor allowance rates should be fair and reasonable to encourage candidates to step forward for locally elected office,” Local Government Minister Richard Wynne said today.

“The Brumby Government acknowledges the value and significance of the work councillors do and this new package will ensure that this is adequately recognised and supported. Victorian councils are categorised according to population and revenue data.

“The new allowance package continues the existing three-category model of council allowances, based on revenue and population figures and ensures councils can retain flexibility and discretion to set allowances within a range in consultation with their community.

“The package will take effect after the elections for all 79 local councils to be held on November 29 and is being announced now so councils can budget ahead.”

Mr Wynne said the Brumby Government had endorsed the recommendations of the review panel, but modified one to ensure councils retained the flexibility to apply allowance adjustments anywhere within their category range.

The new allowances are based on State Government statutory and executive officer payments between 2000 and 2007 and will take effect for councillors elected at the November 2008 council elections.

The new package includes:

- An increase in the allowances of 30.46 per cent;
- The addition of the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution, which is currently 9 per cent;
- A minimum support toolkit of resources, including mobile phones and personal computers; and
- Reimbursement of costs including travel and child/family care.

The allowance adjustment will also be applied to Melbourne City Council, which is administered separately to other Victorian councils under the City of Melbourne Act.

“Local councils are a distinct and essential tier of government and local communities deserve good local government representation,” Mr Wynne said.

“It is important that we continue to attract the best quality candidates to stand for local government. A more realistic councillor support package will help to remove barriers from potential candidates putting their hands up for the November 29 elections to local government.”

The Councillor Remuneration Review Panel Report, the Government's Response to the report and the State Government's new policy document *Recognition and Support: The Victorian Government's Policy Statement on Local Government Mayoral and Councillor Allowances* can all be viewed at Local Government Victoria's website [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au)

**Table of Council Categories and allowance ranges:**

CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<b>Range:</b> <b>Councillors \$6500-\$15,700</b> <b>Mayor up to \$47,000</b>	<b>Range:</b> <b>Councillors \$8100-\$19,600</b> <b>Mayor up to \$60,700</b>	<b>Range:</b> <b>Councillors \$9800-\$23,500</b> <b>Mayor up to \$75,000</b>
Plus the addition of the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee (currently 9%) where applicable under the new policy	Plus the addition of the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee (currently 9%) where applicable under the new policy	Plus addition of the equivalent of the Superannuation Guarantee (currently 9%) where applicable under the new policy
Alpine Shire Council	Ballarat City Council	Boroondara City Council
Ararat Rural City Council	Banyule City Council	Brimbank City Council
Benalla Rural City Council	Bass Coast Shire Council	Casey City Council
Borough of Queenscliffe	Baw Baw Shire Council	Darebin City Council
Buloke Shire Council	Bayside City Council	Glen Eira City Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Campaspe Shire Council	Frankston City Council
Gannawarra Shire Council	Cardinia Shire Council	Greater Bendigo City Council
Golden Plains Shire Council	Colac Otway Shire Council	Greater Dandenong City Council
Hepburn Shire Council	Corangamite Shire Council	Greater Geelong City Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council	East Gippsland Shire Council	Hume City Council
Horsham Rural City Council	Glenelg Shire Council	Kingston City Council
Indigo Shire Council	Greater Shepparton City Council	Knox City Council
Loddon Shire Council	Hobsons Bay City Council	Monash City Council
Mansfield Shire Council	Latrobe City Council	Moreland City Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Moonee Valley City Council
Moyne Shire Council	Manningham City Council	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Murrindindi Shire Council	Maribyrnong City Council	Port Phillip City Council
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Maroondah City Council	Stonnington City Council
Pyrenees Shire Council	Melton Shire Council	Whitehorse City Council
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Mildura Rural City Council	Whittlesea City Council
Strathbogie Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council	Wyndham City Council
Towong Shire Council	Moira Shire Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
West Wimmera Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council	
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Nillumbik Shire Council	
	South Gippsland Shire Council	
	Surf Coast Shire Council	
	Swan Hill Rural City Council	
	Wangaratta Rural City Council	
	Warrnambool City Council	
	Wellington Shire Council	
	Wodonga City Council	
	Yarra City Council	

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Lord Mayor Melbourne</b>	<b>Deputy Lord Mayor Melbourne</b>
Melbourne <sup>1</sup>	\$32,600	\$143,500	\$58,700

<sup>1</sup> Allowances for Melbourne City Council are separately provided for under s74 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic) and s26 (1) and (2) of the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* (Vic).