

**ANNEXURE A - SCHEDULE  
GUIDELINE 2**

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## Allowances for Council Members

### (1) Background

Section 71(1) of the Local Government Act provides that, “a member of council is entitled to be paid an allowance by the council.” Section 71(2) qualifies this by providing that, “The allowance is to be paid at a rate fixed by council (subject to guidelines issued by the Minister) for the relevant financial year.”

### (2) Definitions and Abbreviations

#### **Approval**

Means approval of the council or the CEO according to council policy.

#### **Acting Principal Member**

Refers to a person appointed pursuant to section 43(2)(b), section 43(2)(c), or section 43(3) of the Local Government Act.

#### **Base Allowance**

The base allowance covers those activities required of a council member in the performance of his or her role as an elected representative. Without limiting the generality of the preceding sentence, the base allowance covers:

(a) agenda study and meeting preparation; (b)

attendance at regular council meetings;

(c) attendance at social functions as a council representative; (d)

constituency responsibilities; and

(e) council representation outside the municipality/shire area, including delegations interstate and overseas, unless such representation has extra meeting approval.

#### **Electoral Allowance**

An allowance provided to assist council members with electoral matters. It may be used at the discretion of individual council members.

#### **Extra Meeting Allowance**

(1) A council must not pay extra meeting allowance unless the council has a policy which determines which meetings will attract the allowance.

(2) For a principal member, deputy principal member and acting principal member, this allowance is not paid separately. It is provided for and included in the base allowance.

(3) For other council members this allowance is paid only in accordance with council policy and after an approved claim is made.

- (4) The extra meeting allowance must not be paid for those meetings specified as covered by the base allowance.
- (5) The extra meeting allowance is capped for each financial year (see tables at clause 8).

**Ordinary council member**

A council member other than the principal member, deputy principal member or, during the relevant period, an acting principal member.

**Professional development allowance**

An allowance payable to council members to attend appropriate and relevant conferences or training courses which sustain a member's professional competence by keeping the member informed of, and able to comply with, development in professional standards applicable to their role as a council member. Any such course or conference must have approval and be consistent with council policy in order to attract this allowance.

**(3) Category of Council**

- (a) Council member allowances will apply differently according to the category of the council.
- (b) Councils must apply to the Minister in order to move between categories.

**(4) Categories**

**(a) Category 1**

City of Darwin

**(b) Category 2**

City of Palmerston  
Alice Springs Town Council

**(c) Category 3**

East Arnhem Regional Council  
Barkly Regional Council  
Katherine Town Council  
Litchfield Council  
MacDonnell Regional Council  
Roper Gulf Regional Council  
Tiwi Islands Regional Council  
Victoria Daly Regional Council  
West Arnhem Regional Council  
West Daly Regional Council

**(d) Category 4**

Belyuen Community Government Council  
Coomalie Community Government Council  
Wagait Shire Council

## **(5) Maximum Rates of Allowance**

The amounts listed in the tables (see clause 8) are the maximum payable to council members depending on the resolution of council pursuant to section 71(3) of the Local Government Act. Councils may resolve an amount lesser than the maximum.

NOTE - Section 128(2) of the Local Government Act provides that once allowances for the members of the council for a particular financial year have been set, they cannot be changed by amendment.

The maximum amounts in the tables are to be indexed at 1 July each year by applying the December quarter Darwin consumer price index percentage amount of the previous year as published by Northern Territory Treasury.

## **(6) Rules Regarding Allowances**

### **(a) Base Allowance Claims**

The base allowance is automatically paid to council members each month or at such frequency as resolved by council, in arrears.

### **(b) Electoral Allowance Claims**

The electoral allowance is automatically paid to council members each month or at such frequency as resolved by council, in arrears.

### **(c) Acting Principal Member Claims**

- (i) When the deputy principal member carries out the functions of the principal member as outlined in section 43(2)(b) and section 43(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, the deputy principal member is entitled to be paid an allowance as the acting principal member.
- (ii) If some other council member is acting as the principal member in accordance with section 43(3) of the Local Government Act, the member is entitled to be paid an allowance as the acting principal member.
- (iii) The acting principal member is entitled to be paid the daily rate, as outlined in the table of allowances. While a council member is acting principal member, the extra meeting and base allowances are suspended. In the case of base allowance, this is on a pro rata basis. The member is still entitled to their usual electoral allowance. The daily rate includes Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
- (iv) The maximum number of days (including Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) that a council member may be paid as the acting principal member is an aggregate of 90 days in a financial year. A member may continue to hold the position for a longer period if council so resolves, however, the allowance reverts to the usual rate for that member.

**(d) Extra Meeting Allowance Claims**

- (i) Council members may only claim an extra meeting allowance for meetings referred to in the council policy.
- (ii) An extra meeting allowance may be claimed for up to a maximum of two meetings per day.
- (iii) Council members must not claim for an extra meeting more than once for the same meeting.
- (iv) When a council member is required to travel in order to attend an approved extra meeting, the council member may claim an extra meeting allowance for each full day of travel, unless that travel falls on the same day on which the meeting is held. In this context, a full day of travelling means at least four hours of travelling, which may include time in transit.
- (v) Claims must be made using the forms approved by council.
- (vi) Forms must include the date on which the meeting was held and indicate the period of time the member was present at the meeting.
- (vii) The member must have attended at least 75 per cent of the duration of the meeting to claim an extra meeting allowance.
- (viii) Claims for extra meeting allowance must be made by the second working day in the month following the meeting for which the claim is made, or as resolved by council. Payment of extra meeting allowance is monthly or as resolved by council.
- (ix) Claims for extra meeting allowance not made in accordance with (viii) will be regarded as a late claim and paid with the next monthly payment. However, if the claim is not made within three months of the meeting for which the extra meeting allowance is claimed, the right to an extra meeting allowance for that meeting is forfeited.
- (x) Claims forms must be submitted by the approved method.

**(e) Professional Development Allowance Claims**

- (i) The allowance is available to all council members.
- (ii) The professional development allowance may be claimed multiple times each year, but the total value of those claims must not exceed the maximum specified in the table (see clause 8).
- (iii) The professional development allowance is to be used to cover the cost of travel to the course or conference, course or

conference fees, meals and accommodation for the duration of the course or conference.

- (iv) Claims must be made using the forms approved by council.
- (v) Only approved courses/conferences consistent with council policy attract professional development allowance.

**(7) Payment of Allowances**

Payment shall be lodged with the council's bank for transfer to council members by no later than the fifth working day in each month, or as resolved by council.

Council members may choose to have some, or all, of their allowance paid into a superannuation fund according to council policy.

NOTE – Section 71(5) of the Local Government Act provides that allowances are not to be paid in advance.

## (8) Maximum Council Member Allowances

Amounts as at 1 January 2010

Note 1: All amounts in the table are to be increased on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July each year by the December quarter Darwin CPI figure from the preceding year.

Note 2: A council must resolve allowances for the financial year when it adopts the budget for the financial year (section 71(3)). A council must adopt its budget on or before 31 July (section 128(1)). The amounts in these tables indicate the maximum level at which allowances may be set. Councils can resolve to pay less than the maximums. A council needs to consider allowances in the overall context of its budget. Once a council has resolved the level of allowances for a financial year they cannot be changed by amendment (section 128(2)).

### Ordinary Council Members

Council Members other than Principal Member and the Deputy Principal Member	Category 1:	Category 2:	Category 3:	Category 4:
	Darwin	Palmerston and Alice Springs	Litchfield Katherine, East Arnhem Barkly, Roper Gulf, MacDonnell, West Arnhem, Victoria Daly, Central Desert, Tiwi Islands, West Daly <sup>1</sup>	Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait
Base Allowance	\$19,074.23*	\$13,352.68*	\$11,445.15*	\$3,815.05*
Electoral Allowance	\$6,979.23*	\$4,886.18*	\$4,188.15*	\$1,396.05*
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*
Max extra meeting allowance	\$12,716.15*	\$8,902.13*	\$7,630.10*	\$2,544.05*
Total Claimable	\$41,949.15*	\$30,320.53*	\$26,442.95*	\$10,934.70*

### Acting Principal Member

	Category 1:	Category 2:	Category 3:	Category 4:
	Darwin	Palmerston and Alice Springs	Litchfield Katherine, East Arnhem Barkly, Roper Gulf, MacDonnell, West Arnhem, Victoria Daly, Central Desert, Tiwi Islands, West Daly	Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait
Daily Rate	\$366.95*	\$258.30*	\$221.40*	\$73.80*
Maximum claimable (90 days)	\$33,117.75*	\$23,182.43*	\$19,870.65*	\$6,623.55*

<sup>1</sup> Note these guidelines amended on 1 July 2014 to provide for new West Daly Council which commenced 1 July 2014. These guidelines apply to West Daly council from that date to provide the same maximums as other category 3 councils.

### Deputy Principal Member

	Category 1:	Category 2:	Category 3:	Category 4:
	Darwin	Palmerston and Alice Springs	Litchfield Katherine, East Arnhem Barkly, Roper Gulf, MacDonnell, West Arnhem, Victoria-Daly, Central Desert, Tiwi Islands, West Daly <sup>2</sup>	Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait
Base Allowance	\$39,217.50*	\$27,452.58*	\$23,530.93*	\$7,844.33*
Electoral Allowance	\$6,979.23*	\$4,886.18*	\$4,188.15*	\$1,396.05*
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*
Total claimable	\$49,376.30*	\$35,518.30*	\$30,898.63*	\$12,419.93*

### Principal Member

	Category 1:	Category 2:	Category 3:	Category 4:
	Darwin	Palmerston and Alice Springs	Litchfield Katherine, East Arnhem Barkly, Roper Gulf, MacDonnell, West Arnhem, Victoria-Daly, Central Desert, Tiwi Islands, West Daly	Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait
Base Allowance	\$106,058.80*	\$74,241.78*	\$63,636.10*	\$21,212.38*
Electoral Allowance	\$27,914.85*	\$19,540.60*	\$16,749.53*	\$5,583.18*
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*	\$3,179.55*
Total claimable	\$137,153.20*	\$96,961.93*	\$83,565.18*	\$29,975.10*

<sup>2</sup> Note these guidelines amended on 1 July 2014 to provide for new West Daly Council which commenced 1 July 2014. These guidelines apply to West Daly council from that date to provide the same maximums as other category 3 councils.