

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – ELECTED MEMBER REMUNERATION

ELECTED MEMBER:	Cr West
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
FILE REFERENCE:	
STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:	Nil
ATTACHMENTS:	Attachment 1 Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination 2025

ELECTED MEMBER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. In accordance with Section 5.99 of the *Local Government Act 1995* **DECIDES** to pay an Annual Attendance Fee in lieu of council meeting, committee meeting and prescribed fees being
 - 48.8% of the maximum set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Councillors other than the President
 - 27.5% of the maximum set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for the President
2. In accordance with section 5.99A(1)(b) of the Act, **RESOLVES** that each Council Member is to receive 28.6% of the maximum allowance for Information Communications and Technology set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal
3. In accordance with section 5.98(5) of the Act, Council has resolved that the President and Deputy President are to receive 100% of the maximum allowance set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal under that section
4. **NOTES** that under this approach the total annual remuneration for each office of Council in 2025-26 would be
 - President - \$29,500
 - Deputy President- \$11,817
 - Councillor - \$6,200
5. **REQUESTS** that the Chief Executive Officer amend Council Policy C2 Councillors – out of pocket expenses to reflect this resolution
6. **RESOLVES** that this resolution is to take effect from 1 July 2025

OFFICER COMMENT

A notice of motion was received from Cr West on 21 May 2025 with the intention of revising the value and form of elected member fees and allowances.

Cr West has proposed a model whereby each Councillor would receive an annual remuneration of \$6,200 and the President would receive \$29,500. These remuneration totals would be a combination of allowances.

Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, elected members are entitled to receive remuneration. The Act provides that local governments can decide to remunerate elected members either on a per meeting basis or pay an annual attendance fee lieu of meeting fees. The second option being an annual attendance fee is paid to an elected member regardless of how meetings they attend.

Meeting fees can only be paid for Ordinary Council Meetings, Meetings of formal committee under 5.8 of the Act or certain specific meetings named in the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. Council forums and budget workshops for example do not attract meeting fees.

Previously, by convention and later by policy, Council has resolved that remuneration is to be provided on a per meeting basis. Council Policy C.2 provides that elected members are to receive 75 per cent of the maximum Council meeting fee set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Council has resolved that the President and Deputy President are to receive 75 per cent of the maximum President and Deputy allowance set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. This allowance reflects the additional work undertaken by those positions and is separate and additional to meeting fees or the annual attendance fee paid in lieu of meeting fees.

The remuneration to elected members as published according to legislation in the 2023-24 annual report is as follows:

Councillor	Sitting Fees	President / Deputy President Allowance	Communications Allowance	Travel Reimbursement	Total
Cr Phillip Blight	\$6,612.00	\$15,656.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$23,308.00
Cr Gregory Ball	\$2,681.00	\$979.50	\$1,040.00	\$342.00	\$5,042.50
Cr Bryan Kilpatrick	\$3,243.00	2938.50	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$7,221.50
Cr Geoff West	\$2,057.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$3,097.00
Cr Sherryl Chilcott	\$3,242.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$4,282.00
Cr Bronwyn Hegarty (councillor until October 2023)	\$935.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$1,195.00
Cr Wade Longmuir	\$2,494.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$3,534.00
Cr Ann O'Brien	\$2,556.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00	\$0.00	\$3,596.00

Each year the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal amends the fees and allowances payable. For the upcoming financial year, the Tribunal has set the following minimum and maximum ranges:

Council meeting fees

Minimum	Maximum
\$105	\$270

Annual attendance fee in lieu of meeting fee

	Minimum	Maximum
Councillor	\$4,020	\$10,650
President	\$4,020	\$21,880

President Allowance (in addition to meeting fees or annual attendance fee)

Minimum	Maximum
\$575	\$22,470

With eleven Ordinary Council Meetings at \$202 per meeting (75% of the maximum); approximately three committee meetings at lower committee fee rate of \$101 and an average of two Special Council Meetings per year (\$202), the approximate yearly remuneration under the Council Meeting fees option being \$2,936 will always be less than the minimum annual attendance fee of \$4,020.

Achieving the total annual remuneration for each Office of Council involves manipulating the remuneration under each category within the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal bands.

Allowance type	Annual amount	% of maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Elected member meeting allowance	\$5,200	48.8%	\$4,020	\$10,650
President allowance	\$22,470	100%	\$575	\$22,470
President annual meeting attendance allowance	\$6,030	27.5%	\$4,020	\$21,880
ICT allowance	\$1,000	28.6%	\$500	\$3,500

In 2025-25, under this approach the total annual remuneration of each office in the Council would be as follows:

Office	Elected member meeting allowance	President allowance	Deputy President allowance	President annual meeting attendance allowance	ICT allowance	Total
President	-	\$22,470	-	\$6,030	\$1,000	\$29,500
Deputy President	\$5,200	-	\$5,617	-	\$1,000	\$11,817
Councillor	\$5,200	-	-	-	\$1,000	\$6,200

In 2023-24, the total remuneration of seven elected members at the Shire of Wagin was \$50,080. Under the proposed approach this would increase to \$72,317.

A comparison of nearby local governments is provided below:

Local Government	Total remuneration (2023-24)
Cuballing	\$22,374
Williams	\$26,581
Brookton	\$31,624
Wickepin	\$33,902
Pingelly	\$35,687
West Arthur	\$38,907
Wandering	\$39,074
Woodanilling	\$42,449 (aggregated) - \$36,385 (actual)
Dumbleyung	\$56,464
Lake Grace	\$105,589
Narrogin (Band 3)	\$121,906
Katanning (Band 3)	\$147,517

Under section 5.63 Councillor fees and exempt from declaration of interest provisions.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority