



Quarterly Declaration of Councillor Expenses

1 January to 31 March 2021

Understanding Councillor Expenses

The Local Government Act 2020 provides that a Council must reimburse a Councillor or a member of a delegated committee for out-of-pocket expenses which the Council is satisfied are bona fide expenses; have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor; and are reasonably necessary for the Councillor to perform that role.

The Act further requires that a Council must adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees.

In August 2020, Council adopted a *Councillor Support Policy* to set out the resources and support to be provided to Councillors and members of Delegated Committees and the expenditure that may be claimed in performing their duties.

Further, Council resolved that the cost to Council of all payments, charges and reimbursements made under that policy be publicly reported on a quarterly basis, by means of a report on Council's website. This continued the practice of transparent reporting of Councillor expenses which has been in place since 2011.

Councillor Allowances

The Local Government Act 2020 provides that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are paid an allowance which is determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019*.

At the time of preparing this report, no determination had been made, meaning that allowances have been paid in accordance with the previous provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Councillor Expense Report

Yarra City Council has long held the view that the community has a right to know the level of expenses incurred by each Councillor, and that this information should be available quarterly, and without the need to visit Council offices and make a formal request.

The following pages set out the expenses incurred by each Councillor in the following categories:

Councillor allowances, which includes statutory allowances for the Mayor and Councillors, inclusive of any amount sacrificed into a complying superannuation fund.

Communication costs, which includes monthly fees and usage costs associated with Councillor smart phone computer equipment. They do not include any charges reimbursed by Councillors.

Travel expenses includes taxi fares, public transport costs, reimbursement to Councillors for kilometres travelled in their private vehicles, airfares, accommodation and ancillary costs associated with travel for Council business.

Community representation includes cost of attendance at events while representing Council in an official capacity, such as community events, dinners, fundraisers, media events, and network meetings.

Professional development includes registration fees, travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance or participation in conferences or professional development programs and professional membership fees.

Other costs includes carer expenses, printing and other incidental expenditure incurred by Councillors in performing their Councillor role.

Cr Edward Crossland

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 22.75
Community representation	\$ 0.00
Professional development	\$ 0.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,420.69

Cr Gabrielle de Vietri (Mayor)

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 22,229.61
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 29.81
Community representation	\$ 45.91
Professional development	\$ 809.09
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 23,347.78

Cr Stephen Jolly

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 324.49
Travel expenses	\$ 13.99
Community representation	\$ 0.00
Professional development	\$ 0.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,523.06

Cr Herschel Landes

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 0.00
Community representation	\$ 0.00
Professional development	\$ 0.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,397.94

Cr Anab Mohamud

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 88.41
Community representation	\$ 20.00
Professional development	\$ 400.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,906.35

Cr Claudia Nguyen (Deputy Mayor)

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 20.54
Community representation	\$ 27.27
Professional development	\$ 350.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,795.76

Cr Brigid O'Brien

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 228.34
Travel expenses	\$ 0.00
Community representation	\$ 0.00
Professional development	\$ 609.99
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,022.91

Cr Amanda Stone

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 228.34
Travel expenses	\$ 0.00
Community representation	\$ 0.00
Professional development	\$ 0.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,412.92

Cr Sophie Wade

Expense category	
Councillor allowances	\$ 7,184.58
Communication costs	\$ 213.36
Travel expenses	\$ 0.00
Community representation	\$ 20.00
Professional development	\$ 200.00
Other costs	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,597.94

Former Councillors

Communication costs incurred by councillors are recorded in the quarter in which the invoice is received. The invoice received in this quarter included expenses for a number of Councillors who left office on 24 October 2020. These expenses are listed below.

Expense category		
Danae Bosler	\$	154.67
Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei (former Deputy Mayor)	\$	154.67
Misha Coleman (former Mayor)	\$	206.89
Jackie Fristacky	\$	10.43
Dan Nguyen	\$	292.4
James Searle	\$	154.67