
Quarterly Declaration of Councillor Expenses

1 January to 31 March 2025

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.

The *Councillor Support and Expenses Policy* sets 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*.

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.

Councillor expenses, 1 January – 31 March 2025

Councillor	Communication costs	Travel expenses	Community representation	Professional development	Allowances *	Other costs	Total
Cr Evangeline Aston	320.09	33.46	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,293.96
Cr Edward Crossland	326.57	-	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,266.98
Cr Andrew Davies	442.75	33.46	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,416.62
Cr Kenneth Gomez	423.14	33.46	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,397.01
Cr Sharon Harrison	420.20	7.46	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,368.07
Cr Meca Ho	319.83	380.46	-	1980.00	9,940.41	-	\$12,620.70
Cr Stephen Jolly*	403.38	-	-	-	33,373.72	-	\$33,777.10
Cr Sarah McKenzie*	320.43	73.42	-	-	16,885.97	-	\$17,279.82
Cr Sophie Wade	483.82	-	-	-	9,940.41	-	\$10,424.23

* Cr Stephen Jolly was elected Mayor on Tuesday, 19 November 2024.

* Cr Sarah McKenzie was elected Deputy Mayor on Tuesday, 19 November 2024.