

## **1. ATTACHMENTS**

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### **9.2. FEES FOR COUNCILLORS AND MAYOR 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR - ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2023 Annual Determination - Councillor Fees - LG Remuneration Tribunal
2. Circular 23-03 2023/24 Determination of the LG Remuneration Tribunal

**Attachment 1 - 2023 Annual Determination - Councillor Fees - LG Remuneration Tribunal**

**Local Government  
Remuneration Tribunal**

# Annual Determination

Report and determination under sections  
239 and 241 of the Local Government Act  
1993

27 April 2023



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# Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the LG Act) requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year on its determination of categories of councils and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors, councillors, and chairpersons and members of county councils.

## Categories

Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years.

In accordance with the LG Act the Tribunal undertook a review of the categories and allocation of councils into each category as part of this review.

Accordingly, the revised categories of general purposes councils are determined as follows:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Principal CBD	Major Regional City
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area
Metropolitan Major	Regional Strategic Area
Metropolitan Large	Regional Centre
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Rural
Metropolitan Small	Rural Large
	Rural



## Fees

The Tribunal determined a 3 per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

For the new categories, the Tribunal has determined fees having regard to the relevant factors and relativities of remuneration ranges for existing categories.

Twenty six (26) councils are recategorised into a higher existing category or placed in a new category.

# Section 1 – Introduction

1. Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories in 2020.
2. Section 241 of the LG Act provides that the Tribunal determine the maximum and minimum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of councils, as well as chairpersons and members of county councils for each of the categories determined under section 239.
3. Section 242A(1) of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those of the Industrial Relations Commission.
4. The Tribunal can also determine that a council can be placed in another existing or new category with a higher range of fees without breaching the Government's Wages Policy as per section 242A (3) of the LG Act.
5. Natural disasters have a significant impact on the way mayors in particular work. There is an increase on time demands from the community, and media during these events as well as an increase in workloads. Whilst it is worth noting these issues, it is not within the Tribunal's authority to determine additional remuneration in recognition of the increasing demands on a mayor's time for these events.
6. The Tribunal's determination takes effect from 1 July each year.

## Section 2 – 2022 Determination

7. In 2022, the Tribunal received eight (8) submissions, which included five (5) requests for recategorisation. Three of these requests sought the creation of new categories.
8. The Tribunal found that the current categories and allocation of councils to these categories remained appropriate but noted that some councils may have a case for recategorisation at the next major review of categories in 2023.
9. The Tribunal determined that fees would increase 2 per cent in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category from 1 July 2022.

# Section 3 – 2023 Review

## 2023 Process

10. The Tribunal's annual review commenced in October when it wrote to all councils inviting submissions regarding fees, categorisation and any other general matters. The invitation noted that it is expected that submissions are endorsed by the respective council.
11. The Tribunal also wrote to the President of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) inviting a submission.
12. The Tribunal received 18 written submissions, of which 15 were from individual councils, 1 submission from LGNSW, 1 from Australian National University academic, Associate Professor Tanya Jakimow, and 1 from the United Services Union (USU).
13. The Tribunal notes that 12 of the 15 council submissions were endorsed by the representative councils.
14. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks all parties for their submissions.
15. Noting its comments in its reports of 2021 and 2022, the Tribunal met Central NSW Joint Organisation member representatives in Orange, and Far South West Joint Organisation member representatives in Broken Hill. The Tribunal also gave an overview of its work to a meeting of the Country Mayors' Association in Newcastle. While in Broken Hill the Tribunal met with LGNSW representatives.
16. The Tribunal and Assessors met as required to discuss submissions, review category criteria and allocation of councils



## Categories

17. Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years. The Tribunal last reviewed the categories in 2020.
18. In determining categories, the Tribunal is required to have regard to the following matters that are prescribed in Section 240 of the LG Act:
- *the size of areas;*
  - *the physical terrain of areas;*
  - *the population of areas and the distribution of the population;*
  - *the nature and volume of business dealt with by each council;*
  - *the nature and extent of the development of areas;*
  - *the diversity of communities served;*
  - *the regional, national and international significance of the council;*
  - *such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government; and*
  - *such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.*
19. The 2020 Determination established the following categories:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Principal CBD	Major Regional City
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area
Metropolitan Large	Regional Strategic Area
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Centre

Metropolitan Small      Regional Rural

Rural


20. For its 2023 review, the Tribunal undertook an extensive examination of the categories, criteria and allocation of councils into each of the categories.
21. The Tribunal examined statistical and demographical data, with population data sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census (the latest available data).
22. Having regard to section 239 of the LG Act, information examined and provided through submissions, the Tribunal has determined the categories of general purpose councils as follows:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Principal CBD	Major Regional City
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area
Metropolitan Major	Regional Strategic Area
Metropolitan Large	Regional Centre
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Rural
Metropolitan Small	Rural Large
	Rural

23. In reviewing the current model, the Tribunal sought to improve consistency of criteria.
24. In examining the criteria for each of the categories, the Tribunal is of the view that non-resident population criteria should also be included for consistency in the following categories:

- 
- Major Strategic Area
  - Regional Strategic Area
  - Regional Centre
  - Regional Rural

25. Three (3) councils will be reclassified as a result of meeting criteria thresholds into an existing category.
26. The Tribunal has determined the creation of two (2) new categories, being Metropolitan Major and Rural Large.
27. In determining the 2 new categories the Tribunal gave significant consideration to section 239 of the LG Act, statistical data, the existing categories and relativities between each category.
28. It was determined that the existing Rural category did not differentiate between large and small rural councils, in population, size, and terrain. Evidence demonstrated that a number of Rural councils are large in geographic area, requiring great distances to be covered. The Tribunal also examined a range of data that it believes goes to the delivery of efficient and effective local government.
29. Hence a new category Rural Large is created. The determination is amended to reflect the new category and criteria that includes a population greater than ten thousand, and a councillor to resident ratio of 1 to 1200. The Tribunal notes there are a number of Rural councils on the cusp of this new category.
30. The revised category also shows more clearly the differences for large rural and remote councils. It is becoming apparent these councils require



different considerations regarding the role Mayors and Councillors in servicing the community across such large distances.

31. Evidence reviewed established the need to differentiate between some Large Metropolitan councils. Comparison data reviewed included population, operating revenue, and submission evidence relevant to section 239 of the LG Act. This examination further exposed the gap between Metropolitan Large and Major CBD categories, thus resulting in the Tribunal establishing a new category to bridge the gap.
32. The determination is amended to reflect a new category, Metropolitan Major, with a population criteria threshold of 400,000 (including non-resident).
33. Accordingly, the Tribunal has identified a number of councils that will be recategorised into these new categories.
34. Given the relativities in population threshold criteria, the Tribunal is of the view that the population criteria for Regional Strategic Area be adjusted from 200,00 down to 100,000.
35. As a result, three (3) councils will be reclassified as Regional Strategic.
36. Whilst the Tribunal did explore additional criteria points that may go to efficient and effective local government, within the bounds of statutory provisions no further changes to the criteria could be determined in this review.
37. The category County Councils remain unchanged, retaining the categories of Water and Other.

38. **Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories** has been amended to reflect changes outlined above.

## Submissions Received – Categorisation


39. Nine (9) submissions received from councils requested recategorisation and five (5) of these requested the creation of new categories.
40. A summary of matters raised in submissions and the Tribunal's consideration of those matters is outlined below

## Request for New Categories

41. Requests were received for the creation of new categories namely, Metropolitan Large Growth Area, Metropolitan Major, Metropolitan Medium Growth and Regional Growth.
42. Blacktown City Council again requested the creation of a new category, Metropolitan Large - Growth Area. Council stated its current categorisation in Metropolitan Large “*does not reflect the complexities of servicing their rapid rate of growth and economic influence*”.
43. Blacktown City Council contends that a new category would allow a criteria to be set that reflects:
- Size
  - Rate of growth
  - Economic influence
  - Operational budget


- Complexities of remaining financially sustainable whilst maintaining services and providing new infrastructure

44. Penrith Council reiterated previous submissions, again requesting the creation of a new category, Metropolitan Large Growth Centre. Council argues they are unique compared to other similar sized councils, providing significant regional services to Greater Western Sydney.
45. Penrith Council contends its claim for creation and inclusion in a new category is enhanced through their leading role in the region demonstrating the exponential growth that will occur in the Penrith Local Government area. Council submits they are playing a leading role in several significant city-shaping projects and initiatives such as:
- Western Sydney Airport
  - Western Sydney Priority Growth Area
  - Penrith Health and Education Precinct
  - The Greater Sydney Commission District planning process
  - National Growth Areas Alliance
  - Sydney Science Park
  - Defence Industries Precinct and
  - South Creek Corridor
46. While the Tribunal understands that areas of Western Sydney are developing rapidly, not least with the new airport and associated infrastructure it is not persuaded to create a new category, Metropolitan Large - Growth Area/Centre. These councils are experiencing growth and will in the future have populations of residents and non-residents that meet the thresholds for recategorisation. It is not within the Tribunal's legislative



remit to anticipate growth. However as dealt with earlier in this determination, the Tribunal acknowledges the need for a new Metropolitan category to reflect increasing population and bridge gap between current categories, Metropolitan Large and Major CBD.

47. Canterbury Bankstown Council proposed the creation of a new category, Metropolitan Major, that would sit in between current category of Metropolitan Large and Major CBD.
48. Council based its argument for a new category on the following grounds:
  - Categories need to have consistent criteria
  - A new category of Metropolitan Major would capture increased population and workloads post amalgamation process
  - New criteria should be based on population size and councillor to resident ratio
  - Councils size, with a current population of 372,322 across five wards
  - Population and distribution of population
  - Councils' area and physical terrain
  - Diversity of communities served
  - Nature and volume of business dealt with by Council
49. Council proposed a new criteria could include population threshold and councillor to resident ratio, with thresholds being 350,000 and 1 to 24,000.
50. The Tribunal considered the suggested criteria of a councillor to resident ratio for all categories. Whilst the Tribunal has included this criteria for



Rural Large category, it has not included it for all categories. It may warrant further consideration for other categories in future reviews.

51. The Tribunal is persuaded to include a new category, Metropolitan Major, with a population criteria threshold of 400,000 in the determination.
52. Camden Council's submission requests the creation of a growth category for Metropolitan Medium councils. They argue the proposed new category would allow criteria to be established to better reflect their growth rate, economic influence and complexities involved in servicing growth.
53. Council proposes the new category be called Metropolitan Medium – Growth Area. Council submits that its inclusion into this new category is based on the following:
  - Population growth
  - Development corridors
  - Growing assets and major infrastructure
  - Major services and institutions
54. The Tribunal has already determined a new metropolitan category, taking into account population and relatives in population between existing categories. It is not persuaded to include another new metropolitan category.
55. Maitland City Council requested the creation of a new category, Regional Growth Area to bridge the gap between Regional Centre and Regional Strategic.
56. Council based its argument for a new category on the following grounds:




- Maitland is the fastest growing regional city in NSW
- significant role in accommodation growth
- Council being an emerging health centre, with the \$470 million investment in the new Maitland Hospital
- Significant role in delivery of state goals, including Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 and a state partner in infrastructure delivery including roads and facilities

57. Council also contends the current categorisation model for non-metropolitan is inadequate. It argues that the application of the population criteria is flawed as increments initially rise by 20,000 before leaping up by 160,000.
58. The current population criteria thresholds for non-metropolitan councils are outlined in the table below:


Category	Population Criteria
Rural	<20,000
Regional Rural	>20,000
Regional Centre	>40,000
Regional Strategic Area	>200,000
Major Strategic Area	>300,000

59. The Tribunal has considered the issues raised in Council's submission but is not persuaded for reasons noted earlier for anticipation of growth versus actual population, to create a new category, Regional Growth Area.

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60. The Tribunal acknowledges the point made in Council's submission regarding incremental increases for non-metropolitan categories population criteria.
  61. As outlined earlier the Tribunal has determined to change the population criteria for Regional Strategic from 200,000 to 100,000. This will result in Maitland Council being reclassified.

## Requests for Recategorisation

62. The Tribunal received four (4) requests for recategorisation. Liverpool, Byron, Tweed and Burwood Councils put forward individual cases for recategorisation for the Tribunal's consideration.
63. A summary of council's requests and the Tribunal's findings are outlined in the paragraphs below.
64. Liverpool Council requested to be reclassified from their current classification of Metro Large to Major CBD category. Liverpool Council's case to be included in Major CBD category is based on the following grounds:
  - Population forecast to grow by 59.23% in the next 20 years from 242,817 to 386,646
  - A GDP estimated at \$13.03 billion, with 91,000 jobs in the LGA
  - Significant development in the LGA that includes new council offices and chambers, new city library, childcare facility, and the \$106 million Liverpool Quarter development consisting of retail, commercial, food and beverage spaces

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- Liverpool being an integral part of Western Sydney Deal to deliver transformative change
  - Liverpool being home to several significant infrastructure projects, including Western Sydney Airport, Western Sydney Infrastructure plan, Holsworthy Barracks and Liverpool Hospital upgrades
  - Diversity of population

65. The Tribunal notes that the current criteria for Major CBD remains unchanged. It includes being a major provider of business and government services, and secondary CBD to metropolitan Sydney.
66. Having regard to section 239 of the LG Act, the criteria, the submission put forward, and for reasons outlined earlier in regard to anticipated growth versus actual growth, the Tribunal is not persuaded to include Liverpool Council in Major CBD category.
67. Byron Shire Council requested to be reclassified from their current category of Regional Rural into Regional Centre.
68. Council noted, based on ABS 2021 census data, with a population of 36,077, it is on the cusp of reaching the population threshold of 40,000 residents.
69. Council believes they meet several other additional criteria that supports their case for reclassification. Council's request is based on the following grounds:
  - Non-resident population of 4,817 travel from surrounding locations to work in the LGA

- A population growth increase of 7.2% over the last 5 years, which is above the state increase of 5.3%
- Proximity to Gold Coast and Ballina/Byron airports
- Byron being home to internationally renowned Hinterland region
- Byron being home to a large number of festivals and events

70. As outlined earlier in this determination, the criteria for Regional Centre has been amended to include non-resident population as a criteria point.


71. This result is Byron Shire Council will be reclassified to Regional Centre.

72. Tweed Shire Council once again requested reclassification from Regional Centre to Regional Strategic Area on the following grounds:

- Proximity to Sydney via Gold Coast airport
- Proximity to Brisbane and Gold Coast
- Tweed being a major city centre and population centre for Northern Rivers Joint Organisation
- Tweed being the largest employer and strongest growth area in the Northern Rivers
- The construction of new state of the art Tweed Valley Hospital due to open in late 2023

73. Tweed Shire Council will be reclassified as a result of changes to Regional Strategic Area criteria outlined earlier in this determination.

74. Burwood Council requested to be reclassified from their current classification of Metropolitan Small to Metropolitan Medium. Council acknowledged that they do not currently meet the population criteria to be



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placed into the requested category. The criteria as outlined in the 2022 Determination, Appendix 1 of the criteria that apply to categories states


“Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.”

75. If Burwood Council's non-resident working population was included, the total population would be 53,435 well short of exceeding the population threshold for Metropolitan Medium.
76. Further examination demonstrates that Burwood council does not meet the broader criteria for Metropolitan Medium. Accordingly, Burwood Council will remain in current classification of Metropolitan Small.
77. The matters raised generally in submissions of Berrigan, Cowra, Inner West, Kur-ring-gai, Singleton and Temora Councils are outside of the scope of the Tribunal statutory functions, but in the view of the Tribunal are worthy of further consideration. These matters relate to the current remuneration principles and structures that apply to mayors and councillors in NSW and the potential impacts of these constraints. These are discussed further below.

## Section 4 – 2023 Fees

78. In determining the maximum and minimum fees payable in each of the categories, the Tribunal is required by section 242A of the LG Act, to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under section 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (IR Act), when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.
79. Pursuant to section 146C (1) (a) of the IR Act, the current government policy on wages is expressed in the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2014 (IR Regulation). The IR Regulation provides that public sector wages cannot increase by more than 3 per cent per annum and the tribunal therefore has the discretion to determine an increase of up to 3 per cent per annum.
80. Four (4) submissions received addressed the issue of the fees quantum increase. These submissions sought an increase of 2.5% or greater.
81. The LGNSW submission requested that the Tribunal increase fees by the maximum 3 per cent, but further argued that the maximum increase is *“inadequate and does not address the historic undervaluation of work performed by elected representatives and the substantial responsibility associated with local government.”*
82. LGNSW used economic and wage data to support their argument, that included:
  - Consumer Price Index (CPI)
  - National and State Wage cases
  - Market comparability

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83. LGNSW in their meeting with The Tribunal and Assessors, further emphasised that remuneration for Councillors and Mayors has been reduced in real terms due to impacts of inflation and capping of remuneration increases.
84. The Tribunal received a late submission from the USU, advocating for the maximum increase to be applied. The USU argued that all work carried out in local government needed to be fairly remunerated and reflect the rise in cost of living.
85. Whilst only five of the eighteen submissions received addressed the issue of quantum increase of fees, more than half of the submissions provided commentary on a range of remuneration issues.
86. Submissions suggested that the current remuneration structure is inadequate and requires further review. It has been suggested that the current remuneration structure does not adequately reflect:
- Role, responsibilities, and commitment required to perform functions successfully
  - Workloads
  - Complexity of role
  - Commitment and skills required
  - Fairness
87. Furthermore, it has been suggested that the low level of remuneration is a barrier to encouraging participation and diversity of candidates that reflects communities.


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88. Associate Professor Jakimow of the Australian National University provided a detailed submission outlining the negative impacts of inadequate remuneration. The substance of the submission is that current remuneration levels do not adequately reflect the hours and complexity of work. Furthermore, low remuneration is a barrier to participation and diversity.

89. Associate Professor Jakimow argues that:

*"inadequate pay has significant negative consequences: low quality local democracy, an unacceptable burden on councillors and their families, and poor councillor diversity."*

90. A number of submissions provided comparison data to demonstrate that the current remuneration principles and structure are not reflective of time, skills and competencies required to effectively perform the roles of councillor and mayor.
91. Comparisons were made to State and Federal parliamentary members, councillors and mayors in the Queensland and Victorian local government jurisdictions, average remuneration of a chairperson of a board, not for profit organisations and national minimum wage. The basis of the argument is that NSW mayor and councillors are paid below these organisations.
92. One submission noted that legislative change would be required to change remuneration model.
93. The Tribunal acknowledges issues raised in submissions regarding remuneration principles, structure and potential impacts. Many of these issues are worth serious consideration, they are however not currently






within the Tribunal's remit. The Tribunal concludes these matters should be given further investigation and consideration.

94. The Tribunal has considered key economic indicators, including the Consumer Price Index and Wage Price Index, and has determined that the full 3 per cent increase will apply to the minimum and maximum fees applicable to existing categories.
95. As an initial determination, the ranges for new categories are not subject to the wages policy. Future increases in those categories, as is the case for existing categories, will be subject to wages policy in accordance with section 242A(4) of the LG Act.
96. The minimum and maximum fees for the new categories have been determined having regard to the relativities of existing categories


## Time for Fresh Thinking

97. Submissions made to the 2023 review and the Tribunal's own conclusions from evidence it has examined, suggest that there are significant issues underlying the concerns raised about mayor and councillor remuneration. It is apparent to the Tribunal that those issues which include a lack of diversity in representation, changing nature of work required to be undertaken and changed community expectations cannot be easily resolved under the existing framework. In the Tribunal's view, there would be merit in a comprehensive review of the framework for mayor and councillor remuneration.
98. The criteria under which the Tribunal makes these determinations has




been in existence since 1994 and at that time NSW had 177 Councils.  
Much has changed over the past 30 years, but the criteria has not.

99. As noted earlier in this determination the Tribunal and Assessors met with two Joint Organisation member representatives. While much of what was discussed has been dealt with in this determination it is worthy for the record to restate the view of LGNSW of the *“need for major reform”*.
100. Key themes and issues raised during discussions by mayors, councillors and general managers with the Tribunal and Assessors include:
- Changes to ways of working including expectations of increased use of social media and online platforms (“always on” expectations from constituents)
  - Impacts of future development
  - Impact of changes to legislation and regulation on workload
  - Serving constituents in regional centres, country areas regional areas, rural and remote areas
  - Remuneration principles
  - Natural Disasters including floods, fires, mice, locusts and tragedies generally
  - Confusion in roles and responsibilities – need for compulsory and consistent training of candidates prior to election and induction of those elected

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- Popularly elected mayors and two-year mayoral terms and the role of the Deputy Mayor when a mayor is absent, as distinct from temporarily unavailable
  - Questioning whether the guidelines by the Office of Local Government for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for mayors and councillors that were issued in 2009 are still fit for purpose. There appears to be significant variation in the interpretation of the guidelines and subsequent council policies
  - The optional payment of superannuation being used for political purposes
  - Paid parental leave for councillors
  - Is remuneration holding back quality candidates or are behavioural issues – both in and out of meeting environment
  - Parity in the payment differential in existing categories between councillors and mayors
  - A possible alignment in categories of councillor to resident and ratepayer ratios and rateable property ratios
  - Clarity in the payment of fees for chairpersons and voting members of Joint Organisations for additional workloads

101. Diversity was a strong theme heard by the Tribunal, both diversity of communities served and diversity of representation. We heard that




younger people, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities among others, are underrepresented in many councils.

102. The Tribunal acknowledges that it is not within its authority to address many of the issues that were raised in submissions.
103. The Tribunal is not suggesting a fundamental review of the role of councillors and notes that people enter local government representation from a sense of civic service rather than for remuneration.

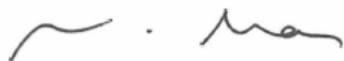
## Conclusion

104. The Tribunal is of the view that a broader consideration is required of the matters raised in this determination. If the Minister decided to refer these matters under section 238 (2) of the LG Act the Tribunal would be willing to assist noting that it would require considerable consultation with the sector and access to suitable resources from Government.
105. The Tribunal's determinations have been made with the assistance of the Assessors Ms Kylie Yates, Gail Connolly PSM (in her role as Acting Deputy Secretary) and Mr Brett Whitworth.
106. It is the requirement of the Tribunal that in the future all submissions have council endorsement.
107. Determination 1 outlines the allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act.
108. Determination 2 outlines the maximum and minimum fees paid to



councillors and mayors and members and chairpersons of county councils  
as per section 241 of the LG Act.

109. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks the secretariat for their excellent  
research and support in completing the 2023 determination.



Viv May PSM

**Local Government Remuneration Tribunal**

Dated 27 April 2023

# Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 1 – Allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act effective 1 July 2023

## General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

### Principal CBD (1)

- Sydney

### Major CBD (1)

- Parramatta

### Metropolitan Major (2)

- Blacktown
- Canterbury-Bankstown

### Metropolitan Large (10)

- Bayside
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
- Inner West
- Liverpool
- Northern Beaches
- Penrith
- Ryde
- Sutherland
- The Hills

### Metropolitan Medium (8)

- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Georges River
- Hornsby
- Ku-ring-gai
- North Sydney
- Randwick
- Willoughby

### Metropolitan Small (8)

- Burwood
- Canada Bay
- Hunters Hill
- Lane Cove
- Mosman
- Strathfield
- Waverley
- Woollahra

## General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

### Major Regional City (2)

- Newcastle
- Wollongong

### Major Strategic Area (1)

- Central Coast

### Regional Centre (23)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Eurobodella
- Hawkesbury

### Regional Strategic Area(4)

- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Shoalhaven
- Tweed

- Lismore
- Mid-Coast
- Orange
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Port Stephens
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shellharbour
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

**Regional Rural (12)**

- Bega
- Broken Hill
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Griffith
- Kempsey
- Kiama
- Lithgow
- Mid-Western
- Nambucca
- Richmond Valleys
- Singleton
- Snowy Monaro

**Rural Large (18)**

- Bellingen
- Cabonne
- Cootamundra-Gundagai
- Cowra
- Federation
- Greater Hume
- Gunnedah
- Hilltops
- Inverell
- Leeton
- Moree Plains
- Murray River
- Muswellbrook
- Narrabri
- Parkes
- Snowy Valleys
- Upper Hunter
- Yass

**Rural (38)**

- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Carrathool
- Central Darling
- Cobar
- Coolamon
- Coonamble
- Dungog
- Edward River
- Forbes
- Gilgandra



- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hay
- Junee
- Kyogle
- Lachlan
- Liverpool Plains
- Lockhart
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Temora
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Uralla
- Walcha
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle
- Weddin
- Wentworth

## County Councils

### Water (4)

- Central Tablelands
- Goldenfields Water
- Riverina Water
- Rous

### Other (6)

- Castlereagh-Macquarie
- Central Murray
- Hawkesbury River
- New England Tablelands
- Upper Hunter
- Upper Macquarie

## Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2023

The annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2023 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

### Table 4: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

#### General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

##### Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	29,610	43,440
Major CBD	19,760	36,590
Metropolitan Major	19,760	34,590
Metropolitan Large	19,760	32,590
Metropolitan Medium	14,810	27,650
Metropolitan Small	9,850	21,730

##### Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee\* (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	181,210	238,450
Major CBD	41,960	118,210
Metropolitan Major	41,960	106,960
Metropolitan Large	41,960	94,950
Metropolitan Medium	31,470	73,440
Metropolitan Small	20,980	47,390

## General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

### Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	19,760	34,330
Major Strategic Area	19,760	34,330
Regional Strategic Area	19,760	32,590
Regional Centre	14,810	26,070
Regional Rural	9,850	21,730
Rural Large	9,850	17,680
Rural	9,850	13,030

### Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee\* (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	41,960	106,960
Major Strategic Area	41,960	106,960
Regional Strategic Area	41,960	94,950
Regional Centre	30,820	64,390
Regional Rural	20,980	47,420
Rural Large	15,735	37,925
Rural	10,490	28,430

## County Councils

### Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	1,960	10,870
Other	1,960	6,490

### Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee\* (\$) effective 1 July 2023

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	4,200	17,850
Other	4,200	11,860

\*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2))



Viv May PSM

**Local Government Remuneration Tribunal**

Dated 27 April 2023

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories

### Principal CBD

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.



## Major CBD

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As a secondary CBD to metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety have been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

## Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major will typically have a minimum residential population of 400,000.

Councils may also be categorised Metropolitan Major if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 400,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$300M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Major will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

## Metropolitan Large

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum residential population of 200,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Large if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$200M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.





## Metropolitan Medium

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Medium if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large councils.

## **Metropolitan Small**

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other metropolitan councils include:


- total operating revenue less than \$150M per annum.

While these councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium councils.

## **Major Regional City**

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Major Regional City. These councils:

- are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas
- typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development


- 
- provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region
  - have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas
  - have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment
  - typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the council.

### **Major Strategic Area**

Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 300,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum

- 
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
  - a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.


Currently, only Central Coast Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Major Strategic Area. Its population, predicted population growth, and scale of the Council's operations warrant that it be differentiated from other non-metropolitan councils. Central Coast Council is also a significant contributor to the regional economy associated with proximity to and connections with Sydney and the Hunter Region.

### **Regional Strategic Area**

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from councils in the Regional Centre category on the basis of their significant population and will typically have a residential population above 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum

- 
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
  - a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.


Currently, only Lake Macquarie Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Regional Strategic Area. Its population and overall scale of council operations will be greater than Regional Centre councils.

### **Regional Centre**

Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment
- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW

- 
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
  - a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.


Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

### **Regional Rural**

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages
- health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community
- a broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services
- large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.



Councils in the category of Regional Rural provide a degree of regional servicing below that of a Regional Centre.

### **Rural Large**

Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

- one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils
- local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.



## **Rural**

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000.

## **County Councils - Water**

County councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems.

## **County Councils - Other**

County councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015.



**Attachment 2 - Circular 23-03 - 2023-24 Determination of The LG Remuneration Tribunal - OLG**

Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	Circular No 23-03 / 10 May 2023 / A859646
<b>Previous Circular</b>	22-14 2022/23 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Council to implement

### 2023/24 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

#### What's new or changing

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2023-24 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2023.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years under section 239 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Tribunal undertook a review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination.
- The Tribunal has determined the creation of two (2) new remuneration categories, 'Metropolitan Major' and 'Rural Large'.
- The Tribunal has also varied the criteria of several existing categories.
- As a result of the creation of the two new categories and changes to the criteria of some of the existing categories, the Tribunal has re-categorised twenty-six (26) councils into a higher existing category or into a new category.
- In its determination, the Tribunal has acknowledged the issues raised in submissions about the remuneration received by mayors and councillors, including a lack of diversity in representation, the changing nature of work required to be undertaken and changed community expectations. The Tribunal has suggested there would be merit in a comprehensive review of the framework for mayor and councillor remuneration. This will be considered as part of the Government's examination of the broader issues facing local government.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Sections 248 and 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2023 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2023-24 financial year.

#### Key points

- The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in.
- A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.
- If a council does not fix a fee, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

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**Where to go for further information**

- The Tribunal's report and determination is available [here](#).
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

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**Deputy Secretary, Local Government**

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### **9.3. DRAFT 2023-24 COMBINED DELIVERY PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL PLAN, BUDGET and FEES & CHARGES - FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION - ATTACHMENTS**

#### Attachment Titles:

1. Draft 2023-2024 Combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan (including budget)
2. Draft 2023-2024 Fees & Charges
3. Draft 2023-2024 Revenue Policy
4. Draft 2023-2024 Long Term Financial Plan