

	M405 COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS	Version No:	5
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		Next Review:	Dec 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The City of Mount Gambier (“Council”) will ensure that the payment of Council Members’ allowances, the reimbursement of expenses and the provision of benefits by the Council is accountable and transparent and in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* (“the Local Government Act”) and the *Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010* (“the Allowances Regulations”).
- 1.2 This Policy sets out the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations in respect of Council Member allowances, expenses, and support. This Policy is also provided in accordance with Section 77(1)(b) of the Local Government Act by specifying the types of expenses that will be reimbursed without the need for specific approval of Council every time a claim is made.
- 1.3 Council Members are paid an allowance for performing and discharging their functions and duties on Council. Section 59 of the Local Government Act provides that the role of a Council Member, as a member of the governing body of the Council, is:
- (i) to act with integrity;
 - (ii) to ensure positive and constructive working relationships within the council;
 - (iii) to recognise and support the role of the principal member under the Local Government Act;
 - (iv) to develop skills relevant to the role of a member of the council and the functions of the council as a body;
 - (v) to participate in the deliberations and activities of the council;
 - (vi) to keep the council’s objectives and policies under review to ensure that they are appropriate and effective; and
 - (vii) to keep the council’s resource allocation, expenditure and activities, and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery, under review;
 - (viii) to ensure, as far as is practicable, that the principles set out in section 8 of the Local Government Act are observed;
 - (ix) to participate in the oversight of the chief executive officer’s performance under the council’s contract with the chief executive officer; and
 - (x) to serve the overall public interest.
- 1.4 Section 58 of the Local Government Act specifies the role of the Principal Member as leader of the Council is to:
- (a) to provide leadership and guidance to the council; and
 - (b) to lead the promotion of positive and constructive working relationships among members of the council; and

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- (c) to provide guidance to council members on the performance of their role, including on the exercise and performance of their official functions and duties; and
- (d) to support council members' understanding of the separation of responsibilities between elected representatives and employees of the council; and
- (e) to preside at meetings of the council; and
- (f) to liaise with the chief executive officer between council meetings on the implementation of a decision of the council; and
- (g) to act as the principal spokesperson of the council; and
- (h) to exercise other functions of the council as the council determines; and
- (i) to carry out the civic and ceremonial duties of the office of principal member.

1.5 This Policy also explains the information that must be recorded within the Council's Register of Allowances and Benefits to ensure compliance with section 79 of the Local Government Act.

1.6 This Policy, in its entirety, will automatically lapse at the next general election of this Council.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

2.1 To ensure Council Member allowances, the reimbursement of expenses, and the provision of benefits, facilities, and support by the Council are in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act and the Allowances Regulations.

3. SCOPE & RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 This Policy applies to all Council Members, who each have an obligation to abide by this Policy.

3.2 The Council's Chief Executive Officer has the duty to:

- (a) maintain the Register of Allowances and Benefits;
- (b) adjust allowances paid to Council Members (on the first, second and third anniversaries of the relevant periodic elections to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI")); and
- (c) ensure copies of this Policy are published on a website and able to be provided in printed form on request and on payment of a fee (if any) fixed by the Council.

3.3 In addition, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- (a) implementing and monitoring expense reimbursement procedures in accordance with the Local Government Act, the Allowances Regulations, this Policy and any associated procedure; and

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- (b) ensuring a copy of this Policy is provided to all Council Members.

4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

4.1 This Policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- (a) Council Members should not be out-of-pocket as a result of performing and discharging their Council functions and duties.
- (b) To assist Council Members in performing or discharging their official functions and duties they are entitled to be provided with a range of necessary facilities and support and to be reimbursed for expenses as specified in this policy.
- (c) Facilities and support provided to Council Members will be provided on a uniform basis (other than facilities or services specifically provided for the benefit of the Mayor).
- (d) Any reimbursements claimed by Council Members must be for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in performing and discharging official Council functions and duties, which will be assessed according to the role of a Council Member under the Local Government Act.
- (e) Council encourages continued professional training and development for Council Members. This is seen as being necessary in terms of good governance and to the improved performance of their functions and duties.
- (f) The accountability of the Council to its community for the use of public monies.

5. ALLOWANCES

5.1 Council Member allowances are determined by the Remuneration Tribunal on a four-yearly basis with each determination required to be made 14 days before the close of nominations for each set of periodic elections held under the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999.

5.2 The relevant determination for the Council term commencing in November 2022 is Determination No. 2 of 2022 – Allowances for Members of Local Government Councils.

5.3 The allowance determined by the Remuneration Tribunal will be payable for the period:

- commencing on the conclusion of the 2022 periodic election; and
- concluding at the time the last result of the 2026 periodic election is certified by the Electoral Commissioner under the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.

5.4 The annual allowance for a Council Member is determined according to the relevant Council Group. There are six Council Groups which are each explained within the Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal.

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5.5 The City of Mount Gambier has been identified as falling within Group 2 in the current Remuneration Tribunal Determination, with an initial council member annual allowance of \$19,110.

5.6 The annual allowance for:

- principal members, is equal to four times the annual allowances for council members;
- deputy mayor or deputy chairperson or a council member who is the presiding member of one or more prescribed committees is equal to one and a quarter (1.25) times the annual allowance for council members;

An additional allowance in the form of a sitting fee is also payable for council members who are presiding members of other committees (who are not deputy mayors, deputy chairpersons or presiding members of prescribed committees).

5.7 Council Member allowances are to be adjusted on the first, second, and third anniversaries of the relevant periodic elections to reflect changes in the CPI (All groups index for Adelaide). Adjustments will occur on 10 November 2023, 10 November 2024, and 10 November 2025. The change in the Consumer Price Index to be applied will be the most recently available annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index as at the date of adjustment (which will likely be the most recent relevant September quarter figure).

5.8 In accordance with regulation 4 of the Allowances Regulations (and for the purposes of section 76 of the Local Government Act), an allowance may be paid in instalments up to 3 months in advance or 3 months in arrears of each month in respect of which an instalment is payable.

5.9 City of Mount Gambier Council Member Allowances will be paid two weeks in arrears/two weeks in advance by electronic funds transfer to a nominated bank account.

5.10 A statement of earnings will be provided to Council Members at the conclusion of each financial year.

6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE - COUNCIL MEMBER CONTESTING ELECTION

6.1 If a Council Member stands as a candidate for election as a member of State Parliament, section 55A of the Local Government Act automatically grants a leave of absence from the date on which nominations for the relevant election close until the result of the election is publicly declared.

6.2 During the leave of absence period the Council Member:

- is not entitled to receive any Council Member allowance or reimbursement of expenses; and
- must not use any facility, service or other form of support provided by the Council; and

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- must not carry out any function or duty as a Council Member.

6.3 A maximum penalty of \$15,000 applies for a breach of this section of the Local Government Act.

7. MANDATORY REIMBURSEMENTS – TRAVEL (SECTION 77(1)(A))

- 7.1. Council Members are entitled to receive reimbursement for travelling expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the Council Member for travel within the Council area and associated with attendance at a “prescribed meeting” (section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act).
- 7.2. A “prescribed meeting” is defined under the Allowances Regulations to mean a meeting of the Council or Council committee, or an information or briefing session, discussion, workshop, training course or similar activity which is directly or closely related to the performance or discharge of the roles or duties of the Member:
- 7.3. Reimbursement for travel expenses is restricted to “eligible journeys” (as defined in Regulation 3) provided the journey is by the shortest or most practicable route and to the part of the journey within the Council area ie any travelling outside the Council area in order to attend Council or Council committee meetings is not reimbursable under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act. For reimbursement for travel outside the Council area refer to Prescribed and Approved Reimbursements below.
- 7.4. An “eligible journey” means a journey (in either direction) between the principal place of residence, or a place of work, of a Council Member, and the place of a prescribed meeting.
- 7.5. Where a Council Member travels by private motor vehicle, the rate of reimbursement is at a rate equal to the appropriate rate per kilometre (determined according to the engine capacity of the vehicle) prescribed for the purposes of calculating deductions for car expenses under section 28.25 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* of the Commonwealth¹.
- 7.6. Travelling by taxi, bus or other means of public transport is reimbursed on the basis of expenses “actually and necessarily incurred” but is still limited to “eligible journeys” by the shortest or most practicable route and to the part of the journey that is within the Council area.
- 7.7. The Council may aggregate claims for reimbursement of expenses that relate to journeys that do not exceed 20 kilometres and then pay them on either a quarterly or monthly basis.

¹ Section 28.25 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cwth) relates to the ‘cents per kilometre’ method. The Commissioner for Taxation may, by legislative instrument, determine rates of cents per kilometre for cars for an income year. Refer to ato.gov.au for cents per kilometre rates.

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8. MANDATORY REIMBURSEMENTS – CHILD/DEPENDANT CARE (SECTION 77(1)(A))

- 8.1. Council Members are entitled to reimbursement for child/dependant care expenses actually or necessarily incurred by the Council Member as a consequence of the Council Member's attendance at a prescribed meeting.
- 8.2. Child/dependant care is not reimbursed if the care is provided by a person who ordinarily resides with the Council Member.

9. ADDITIONAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS (SECTION 77(1)(B))

9.1. There may be additional expenses incurred by Council Members (not included in the mandatory reimbursements outlined above) that can be reimbursed by the Council. Section 77(1)(b) of the Local Government Act provides that the Council may approve the reimbursement of additional expenses incurred by Council Members, as provided for in the Allowances Regulations, either on a case-by-case basis or under a policy adopted by Council.

9.2. Regulation 6 sets out the additional expenses that may be reimbursed under section 77(1)(b) with the approval of the Council as follows:

- (a) an expense incurred in the use of a telephone or other telecommunications device, or in the use of a form of electronic communication, on the business of the Council;
- (b) travelling expenses incurred by the Council Member as a consequence of the Member's attendance at a function or activity on the business of the Council (other than for which the member is reimbursed under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act);
- (c) travelling expenses incurred by the Member in undertaking an eligible journey to the extent that those expenses are attributable to travel outside the area of the Council;
- (d) expenses for the care of:
 - a child of the Member; or
 - a dependant of the Member requiring full-time care

incurred by the Member as a consequence of the Member's attendance at a function or activity on the business of the Council (other than for which the member is reimbursed under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act); and

- (e) expenses incurred by the Member as a consequence of the Member's attendance at a conference, seminar, training course, or other similar activity which is directly or closely related to the performance or discharge of the roles and duties of a Council Member (other than for which the member is reimbursed under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act).

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9.3. For the purposes of this Policy, and pursuant to section 77(1)(b) of the Local Government Act, the Council approves the reimbursement of additional expenses of Council Members as described below.

9.3.1. Travel

In relation to expenses which are incurred by a Council Member in travelling:

- to a function or activity on the business of the Council; and
- in undertaking an eligible journey to the extent those expenses are attributable to travel outside the area of the Council.

Council will reimburse the following types of expenses:

(a) Travel related to attendance at a Council or Council committee meeting being an “eligible journey” (as defined in Regulation 3), as it is attributable to travel outside the Council area.

Expenses incurred in travelling to a function or activity on Council business.

The following conditions apply to these expenses:

- travel both within and outside the Council area must be incurred by the Council Member as a consequence of attendance at a function or activity on the business of Council. A “function or activity on the business of the Council” includes official Council functions including Mayoral receptions, opening ceremonies, dinners, citizenship ceremonies and official visits etc.; inspection of sites within the Council area which relate to Council or Committee agenda items; meetings of community groups and organisations as a Council endorsed representative; but not to attend meetings of community groups or organisations when fulfilling the role as a Member of the Board of any such community group or organisation (excepting Board appointments made by virtue of the position of the Mayor e.g. LCLGA, LGA).
- reimbursement is restricted to the shortest or most practicable route.
- where a Council Member travels by private motor vehicle, the rate of reimbursement is at a rate equal to the appropriate rate per kilometre (determined according to the engine capacity of the vehicle) prescribed for the purposes of calculating deductions for car expenses under section 28.25 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 of the Commonwealth.
- car parking fees will be reimbursed (where they are a consequence of a Council Member attending a function or activity on the business of the Council).
- travel by taxi, bus, plane (specify in what circumstances), or other means of public transport will be reimbursed on the basis of being expenses where they are incurred as a consequence of the Member’s attendance at a function or activity on the business of the Council however such travel must still be by the shortest or most practicable route.

From time to time Council Members may seek to attend other activities for which the reimbursement of costs is not specifically covered by this Policy. The reimbursement of such costs should be approved by Council resolution in advance of attendance and in accordance with any relevant provisions or restrictions/prohibitions in the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010.

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The administration is unable to arrange or incur such expenses until resolved by Council.

9.3.2. Care and other expenses

The following Care expenses incurred by a Council Member are eligible for reimbursement:

- o Expenses incurred for the care of a child of a Council Member or a dependant of the Council Member requiring full-time care as a consequence of the Council Member’s attendance at a function or activity on the business of Council (other than expenses for which the Member is reimbursed under section 77 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act).

The following conditions apply to discretionary care expenses:

- Care expenses will not be reimbursed if the care is provided by a person who ordinarily resides with the Member
- The Chief Executive Officer shall be limited to reimbursing discretionary care expenses pursuant to Section 77(1)(b) up to the following annual values:
 - o Mayor - \$4,000
 - o Councillors - \$500 (per Member)

Where a Member presents has a reimbursement claim exceeding the relevant limit the Chief Executive Officer shall present the claim to Council for consideration.

9.3.3. Conference, seminar, training course and similar activity expenses

The following conference, seminar, training course and similar activity expenses incurred by a Council Member are eligible for reimbursement:

- o Expenses incurred by the Council Member as a consequence of the Council Member’s attendance at a conference, seminar, training course or other similar activity that is directly or closely related to the performance or discharge of the roles or duties of the Council Member (other than expenses for which the Member is reimbursed under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act).

Expenses will only be reimbursed for attendance at conferences, seminars, etc which have been approved specifically by Council resolution or under delegation/policy, eg under Council’s ‘Members Training and Development Policy’.

Where attendance at the conference, seminar etc is approved, the following types of expenses can be reimbursed: airfares, registration fees, accommodation, meals, taxi fares, car parking and incidentals up to a daily maximum of \$20.00.

9.3.4. Use of (Tele/Electronic) Communication Devices

The following expenses incurred by a Council Member in the use of tele/electronic communication on Council business are eligible for reimbursement:

- o Expenses incurred in the use of private mobile or fixed telephone, internet, or other computing or communication device to access Council’s wireless local area network and Extranet on the business of the Council (e.g. fixed or mobile internet/ , data/telecommunication plans t) up to a maximum limit of:

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- \$600 per Member per annum

Any expense incurred by Members that exceeds the maximum reimbursement limit is the responsibility of the Member.

Computing/communication devices used by the Member must have internet security software installed as approved and/or provided by Council from time to time for access to Council network and Extranet services for the protection of Council documents and information.

When accessing Council documents and information Members must comply with relevant provisions of Council's Records Management Policy and internal procedures including 'Computer Network / Software Use' procedure, 'Mobile Device Use' procedure, and to sign and comply with any associated acknowledgement/agreement documentation as required from time to time in order to maintain access.

Members should also note their responsibility to ensure all documents/records created or communicated (sent or received) in their capacity as an Elected Member are captured in Council's Electronic Document Records Management System ('EDRMS') in accordance with Council Policy and the State Records Act. Council provides the following email address for the forwarding of any Elected Member documents/records for registration in Council's EDRMS: EMRecords@mountgambier.sa.gov.au.

10. FACILITIES AND SUPPORT

- 10.1. In addition to allowances and the reimbursement of expenses, the Local Government Act provides that the Council can provide facilities and forms of support for use by its Council Members to assist them to perform or discharge their official functions and duties (section 78).
- 10.2. The Council must consider and specifically approve the particular facility and support as necessary or expedient to the performance or discharge of all Council Members' official functions or duties. In approving the provision of facilities and support, section 78 requires that any such services and facilities must be made available to all Council Members on a uniform basis, other than those facilities or support specifically provided to the Principal Member set out below (if any).
- 10.3. Pursuant to section 78 of the Local Government Act, Council has considered and is satisfied that the following facilities and support are necessary or expedient for all Council Members to assist them in performing or discharging their official functions and duties:
 - Administrative support for business directly associated with prescribed meetings and information and briefing sessions, other official Council functions and activities, and otherwise only as approved by Council (i.e. for coordination of travel arrangements as an endorsed representative of Council); and,
 - Business cards (one box of 500 per term of Council); and,
 - Wearable name tag (one per Member upon initial election); and,
 - City of Mount Gambier Lapel Pin (one per Member upon initial election); and,
 - Ceremonial pen (upon making of Declaration of Office); and,
 - Chamber name tags; and,
 - Mandatory Training in accordance with the Mandatory Training Standards; and,

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- Discretionary Training approved under delegation in accordance with Council's Member Training and Development Policy, or otherwise only as approved by resolution of Council; and,
- A secure access Member Extranet as the primary channel for communicating Elected Member information, and a Councillor email address/server; and,
- Upon request, use of a mobile computing device as determined by the Chief Executive Officer (in accordance with Council's ordinary IT procurement/leasing arrangements from time to time) containing such software and internet connectivity for access to the secure access Member Extranet and Councillor email address/server.
- Occasional IT training/support in accessing and use of Council Extranet and Council provided Applications/Software; and,
- Other printed material that may be made available to Members on a case by case basis at the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Catering in the form of light refreshments as an adjunct to ordinary Council meetings, or otherwise for other official Council activities to which all Members are invited at the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

10.4. The provision of these facilities and support are made available to all Council Members (including the Principal Member) under the Local Government Act on the following basis:

- they are necessary or expedient for the Council member to perform or discharge his/her official functions or duties;
- the facilities remain the Council's property regardless of whether they are used off site or not; and
- they are not to be used for a private purpose or any other purpose unrelated to official Council functions, and duties, unless such usage has been specifically pre-approved by the Council and the Council Member has agreed to reimburse the Council for any additional cost or expenses associated with that usage.

10.5. In addition to the above, Council has resolved to make available to the Principal Member the following additional facilities and support to assist them in performing and discharging their official functions and duties:

- A mobile phone with an included data/telecommunication mobile plan;
- Office space adjacent the Council Chamber with fixed telephone line and desktop computing device with connectivity to internet and Council's local area network for access to Council Extranet, email and Member/Mayoral documents;
- Access to administrative support to manage civic diary and associated arrangements;
- A hardcopy of relevant meeting agenda for the purpose of presiding over Council and Committee meetings; and,

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- Catering for official Civic and ceremonial activities as determined appropriate by the Mayor; and,
- A fully serviced and maintained motor vehicle to a maximum purchase price of
- \$50,000 (GST exclusive) replaced in accordance with Council's Fleet Policy and a Council approved fuel card. Private use of the Mayoral vehicle is to be reimbursed at the ATO per kilometre rate as applicable at the time of the private use.

10.6. In addition, although not required by the Local Government Act, the Council has determined that the provision of the above facilities and support are made available to Council Members on the following terms:

- each Council Member is solely responsible for those facilities released into their care and/or control for the duration of their term in office;
- all facilities must be returned to the Council at the end of each term in office, upon the office of a Member of a Council becoming vacant, or earlier at the request of the Chief Executive Officer;
- if the facilities provided to the Council Member are damaged or lost, the Council Member must lodge a written report with the Council officer responsible for this Policy;
- The use of Council facilities, support and/or services by Council Members for campaign or election purposes is not permitted under any circumstances on the basis it is not necessary or expedient to the performance or discharge of a Council Member's official functions or duties under the Local Government Act. The use of such facilities for electoral purposes during the election period would be a breach of section 78(3) of the Local Government Act.

10.7. Transitional Provisions

Where a Council Member has been provided with a reimbursement for the purchase of a telecommunication device and/or associated hardware, software, peripherals, consumables, installation or support ("Asset/s") under any policy provisions that applied between November 2018 and October 2024, the following transitional provisions shall apply, whatever the purchase price:

- Within one month, or such reasonable additional period, each Council Member that received reimbursement for an Asset covered by these transitional arrangements must complete a Nomination to Purchase Residual Value of Telecommunication/Electronic Device indicating to the Chief Executive Officer the manner in which they intend to deal with the Asset/s at, or prior to the end, the end of their current term in office.
- A Council Member will not be bound by the election made, however any final allowance payable to the Council Member at the end of the current term in office shall be withheld until the Asset/s are returned to Council.
- Such Asset/s shall remain the property of Council, whatever their initial purchase price, in accordance with section 78(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1999, unless or until the Council Member 'buys out' the (proportionate) residual value of the Asset/s prior to conclusion of their current term in office.
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- Council Members are authorised to use the Asset/s for any personal use unrelated to the performance or discharge of official functions and duties, provided there is no additional cost to the Council of that use.
- A Council Member may elect to 'buy out' the (proportionate) residual value of Asset/s at any time prior to conclusion of their current term in office, provided such election is for all Asset/s purchased and reimbursed by Council.
- Such Asset/s must be returned to Council prior to being 'bought out', and in any event prior to the date of the scrutiny and count of the next City of Mount Gambier general election held after the November 2022 local government elections, irrespective of whether the Council Member intends to 'buy it out'.
- Where a Council Member elects to 'buy out' the (proportionate) residual value of Asset/s the Council Member must accept that any software provided (including software purchased or funded in part or full by Council) must be removed before Asset/s are disposed of/returned to the Council Member.
- The (proportionate) residual value shall be determined in a manner at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer at the relevant time with a view to ensuring Council receives fair value, taking into account the initial purchase price, relative proportion, and the cost and efficiency of assessing value in the circumstances. In the absence of a more efficient method of determining value a depreciated value shall be applied based on the category of Asset/s.
- Once 'bought out' and returned to the Council Member (with any software removed) the Asset/s shall become the Council Member's property.
- Where a Council Member elects not to 'buy out' a returned Asset/s, Council may use and/or dispose of it as it deems fit in accordance with any Policy.
- The option to 'buy out' the (proportionate) residual value shall apply only to Asset/s within the scope of these transitional provisions and not to a mobile computing device provided by Council under clause shall 10.3 of this policy.
- On and from the date of adoption of these transitional policy provisions 15 October 2024 no further reimbursements shall be payable to Council Members under former policy provisions relating to the purchase (or lease) of any telecommunication devices or associated hardware, software, peripherals, consumables, installation or support.
- If a Council Member fails, without good reason, to return an Asset/s that fall within the scope of these transitional provisions, then the Council may pursue an amount up to the full reimbursed value of the Asset/s as a debt under the Local Government Act 1999. For clarity, loss or partial or total damage of an Asset/s under these transitional provisions shall constitute a 'good reason' provided the Council Member has provided written confirmation to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as they become aware of the loss or damage, and return any remnant parts to the Council for disposal.
- For clarity, whilst these transitional provisions are intended to apply to Council Members and Asset/s purchased in the 2018-2022 Council term, it is acknowledged that no or very low residual value is anticipated with respect to such items that are still held by continuing Council Members. Further, that no action is proposed with regard to seeking the return or 'buy out' of items from the 2018-2022 Council term or any former Councillor that is no longer an elected Council Member.

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11. CLAIMING REIMBURSEMENTS

- 11.1. To receive reimbursement for expenses, each Council Member is required to submit to the Chief Executive Officer (using the Councillor Support Officer email - CrSupport@mountgambier.sa.gov.au) a completed *Council Member Expense Reimbursement Claim* form including adequate evidence (e.g. details of kilometres travelled and/or evidence of expenses incurred) to support the claims made.

For the purposes of administrative efficiency, Council Members are requested to aggregate any claims and submit reimbursement claims on a quarterly basis.

- 11.2. Tax invoices or receipts confirming the expenditure has been incurred must be provided with any claim made for reimbursement to ensure accountability in the use of public funds.

12. REGISTER OF ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS

- 12.1. Pursuant to section 79(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act, the Chief Executive Officer must maintain a Register in which he or she shall ensure that a record is kept of—

- a) the annual allowance payable to a Council Member (in the case of section 79(1)(a)); and
- b) any expenses reimbursed under section 77(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (in the case of section 79(1)(b)); and
- c) other benefits paid or provided for the benefit of the Member by the Council (in the case of section 79(1)(c)); or
- d) to make a record of the provision of a reimbursement or benefit not previously recorded in the Register (in the case of section 79(2)(b)),

on a quarterly basis (see regulation 7 of the Allowances Regulations).

- 12.2. Reimbursements paid under section 77(1)(a) of the Local Government Act are not required to be recorded in the Register.

13. REVIEW & EVALUATION

- 13.1. Parts 9 (only) of This Policy will lapse at the next general election in accordance with section 77(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 at which time the newly elected Council will be required to adopt new policy provisions dealing with discretionary Member reimbursements under section 77(1)(b) of the Local Government Act.

- 13.2. The remainder of this policy including the Facilities and Support provisions in Part 10 shall have continued application until reviewed and replaced by Council within 6 months of the end of a general election.

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14. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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File Reference:	AF18/51
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1999 sections 76-79 Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010</i>
Reference: Strategic Plan – Beyond 2015	
Related Policies:	Member Training and Development Policy
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia Determination 2 and 5 of 2022

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	Manager Governance and Property
Version:	5.0
Last revised date:	15 October 2024
Effective date:	15 October 2024
Minute reference:	15 October 2024, Item 18.11, Resolution OCM 2024.161
Next review date:	December, 2026
<u>Document History</u>	
First Adopted By Council:	25 November, 2014
Reviewed/Amended:	21 April 2015, 22 November 2018, 29 November 2022, 15 October 2024

City of Mount Gambier

COUNCIL MEMBER EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM

(Relating to expenses claimed under S.76 & 77 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the *Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010* and detailed in the Council Members' Allowances and Benefits Policy)

This form must be completed by Council Members when claiming the reimbursement of expenses.

Name:	
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TRAVEL EXPENSES AND TRAVEL TIME PAYMENT (if applicable)

Personal Vehicle

Date	Council function or business purpose for travel*	Km
	TOTAL KILOMETRES CLAIMED:	
Office Use Only:		Kilometres @ ¢/km = \$

Motor Vehicle Details (where applicable):

Model and make	
Engine size	

Bus and/or Taxi Costs (where applicable):

Date	Council function or business purpose for travel	Cost
	TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMED:	

Please attach copies of all receipts

*NOTE: Travel claims must relate to expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the Member in travelling to or from a prescribed meeting provided the journey is an eligible journey and is by the shortest or most practicable route. For the purposes of this form the term "**eligible journey**" means a journey between the principal place of residence, or a place of work, of a Member of the Council, and the place of a prescribed meeting (in either direction), in accordance with the *Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010*.

NOTE: Travel Time Payment shall be payable to Council Members (excluding Principal Members) of non-metropolitan Councils in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal SA Determination – Allowances for Members of Local Government Councils* whose usual place of residence is within the relevant Council area and is located at least 30km but less than 50km, 50km, or 100km or more distance from the Council's principal office via the nearest route by road.

CARE EXPENSES

Date	Prescribed meeting attending requiring care**	Hrs care provided	Cost
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMED:			

Please attach copies of all receipts

NOTE: A “prescribed meeting**” means a meeting of the Council or Council committee, or an information or briefing session, discussion, workshop, training course or similar activity which is directly or closely related to the performance or discharge of the roles or duties of the Member.

TELEPHONE / OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION EXPENSES

(fixed or mobile internet / data / telecommunication plans only)

Claim period start	Claim period end	Details of expense being claimed	Cost
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMED:			

Please attach copies of all receipts

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR/TRAINING COURSE EXPENSES

Date	Conference/Seminar/Training Course details	Cost
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMED:		

Please attach copies of all receipts

If not provided previously or your details have changed, please complete your details below:

BSB:	
Bank and Branch:	
Account No:	
Account Name:	

Please remember to attach all paperwork supporting your claim otherwise payment will be delayed.

I confirm that the above claims for reimbursement are true and accurate, have been actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of my official duties as a Council Member with the City of Mount Gambier and are made in accordance with section 77(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulation 5 of the *Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010*.

Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by: _____ **Date:** _____
Processed by: _____ **Date:** _____