



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM
HELD ON 22 JUNE 2022**

1. Opening

The Public Forum commenced at 5.33pm.

2. Presentations relating to listed Items on the Council Agenda

The following presenters were heard:

	Name	Item no	Item description	For/Against
1	Hanna Utzinger	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
2	Dr Marcus Chacos	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
3	Greg Kerans	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
4	Stina Kerans	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
5	Garry Kerans	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
6	Michael Wrathall (via Zoom)	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	Against

The following written presentations were received:

	Name	Item no	Item description	For/Against
1	Garry Kerans	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
2	Stina Kerans	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	For
3	Michael Wrathall	9.1	Development Application DA.2021.1259 - Four Torrens Title Lots, Construction of Three Two Storey Dwelling Houses - 2G Phillip Avenue, Queanbeyan East	Against

3. Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

4. 'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to 15 June 2022 were provided and tabled at the meeting (see attached for responses):

nos	Received from	In relation to:
1-5	Peter Mitchell	Councillor Remuneration

5. Presentations by Invitation from the CEO

There were no presentations.

6. Closure

As there were no further matters, the Public Forum closed at 5.54pm.



ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM HELD ON 22 June 2022

‘Questions on Notice’ from the Public

Responses to the following ‘Questions on Notice’ received up to *Wednesday 15 June 2022* were provided and tabled at the meeting.

Questions submitted by: Peter Mitchell

1. Has QPRC Councillors had pay rise or was it an allowance increase?

Response: Organisation Capability

Councillors receive a fee (or remuneration). It is neither an allowance, salary, pay or a wage.

The councillor fees increase each year as at 1 July 2022, and the increase consists of two components:

i) Annual indexation

NSW Councillor fees are determined annually by an independent body. The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal reports annually to the Minister for Local Government on its determination of categories of councils and the minimum and maximum fees to be paid to mayors, councillors and chairpersons and members of county councils.

Over the last three years the Tribunal has awarded the following fee increases to councillors:

2020 – 0%

2021 – 2%

2022 – 2%

ii) New category of Council

In 2020, the Tribunal also created a new category called “Regional Centre” and made a decision that the councillor fees for the Regional Centre category should be somewhere between the council categories of “Regional Strategic Area” and “Regional Rural”. The Tribunal’s report sets out the detailed reasons for a higher fee to councillors responsible for Regional Centres like QPRC.

<https://www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/local-government/current-lgrr-determinations>

The category change meant that the councillor fee range rose by 20% and the Mayoral fee rose by 36% - with those fees still being 26% less than the next council category.

The new category fee range and the 2% fee increase has resulted in an increase in the fees payable to QPRC councillors and mayor for 2022/23 and beyond.

2. What is the difference between income payment and allowances given to Councillors?

Response: Organisation Capability

The amount paid to the mayor and councillors is referred to as a fee or remuneration, not a wage, income payment or allowance.

Fees paid in accordance with Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determinations aim to:

- allow communities to attract and retain individuals with skills and experience,
- compensate councillors for the time they spend performing their duties, and
- provide adequate compensation to allow councillors to take time away from their primary employment so that people from both wealthy and poor backgrounds can be attracted into councillor roles.

Councillors don't receive additional allowances however are reimbursed for council business expenses they incur including travel and training. The Local Government Act was amended in 2021 and all councillors in NSW are paid superannuation as at 1 July 2022.

Mayor Winchester has elected not to use the QPRC fleet vehicle allocated to him for his Council business, thereby reducing the upfront cost of purchasing a separate car for mayoral use.

3. Has there been a change in the range of allowance or payment increase to Councillors from previous years and why?

Response: Organisation Capability

As per the response to Q1, the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the level of remuneration and the category for QPRC councillors. In 2020, the Tribunal determined that a new category should be established for Regional Centres, and this resulted in an increase in the fee payable to councillors in QPRC.

4. Is monies for such Councillor allowances and or income payments drawn from the same budgets used to pay for local road grading, footpaths and or bus shelters etc?

Response: Organisation Capability

No, Council retains a separate budget for councillor fees and expenses.

5. How will any increase in allowances and or pay to Councillors impact on road works like grading, infrastructures like bus shelters and footpaths?

Response: Organisation Capability

As per the response to Q4, Council already has a separate budget for councillor fees and expenses. The recommended and approved increase in councillor fees will not impact any planned roadworks or infrastructure projects.