



No. 7 of 2026

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2026 Review of Electorate Allowances for Members of the Parliament of South Australia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 17 of 2022 which sets Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined to retain the current allocation of Electorate Allowances and Determination 17 of 2022.
3. The Tribunal notes that the Electorate Allowance applicable to the Electorate of Giles appears to be inconsistent with the characteristics of the electorate in comparison with other electorates and may be reduced at the next review.

BACKGROUND

4. Sections 3A(2) and 4(1)(c) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* (SA) (**PR Act**) in conjunction with section 14 of the *Remuneration Act 1990* (SA) (**Act**) provide that the Tribunal has jurisdiction to set Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament.
5. The Tribunal has used this jurisdiction to consider Electorate Allowances for Members of Parliament which were last increased by Determination 17 of 2022.
6. The Electorate Allowances are intended to compensate Members of Parliament for the expenses they necessarily incur in the performance of their duties representing their electorates.
7. The Tribunal understands that until the early 2000s, the major component of the Electorate Allowances reflected car and travel costs. In 2004 the Government established an administrative scheme which provides a motor vehicle to each Member of Parliament for a fixed cost contribution of \$7,000 (plus any additional costs for optional accessories) (**Motor Vehicle Scheme**). The contribution for the Motor Vehicle Scheme is then deducted from the Electorate Allowance of the Member of Parliament. That scheme has not changed since it was established.
8. Since at least 2022, the Tribunal has held concerns about the basis of the Electorate Allowances because the Tribunal did not have current data on how Members spend the remainder of the Electorate Allowance.
9. Accordingly, the Tribunal conducted an extensive review of these issues in 2023 (Report 16 of 2023). The Tribunal noted that, although the costs of the Motor Vehicle Scheme were

met from Electorate Allowances, these costs had not been reviewed and were outside the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

10. In terms of the residual amounts, the Tribunal noted that information to clarify the continuing relevance of the categories of expenditure which had been considered in the last substantive consideration of this allowance was not available. Those categories are accommodation and travel, donations, subscriptions, telephone, stationery, and postage.
11. In 2023 the Tribunal surveyed Members of Parliament about their expenditure of the Electorate Allowance. This survey did not yield useful results as only one Member participated.
12. Consequently, in Report 16 of 2023, the Tribunal confirmed its position that the absence of appropriate information about how the Electorate Allowances were used meant that no basis for an increase had been established.
13. Similarly, in its 2024 and 2025 reviews of the Electorate Allowances, the Tribunal again observed that there was no information available to it to warrant a change. Each report invited Members of Parliament to make submissions providing information with sufficient detail to enable suitable consideration of the Electorate Allowance at the next review.
14. The Tribunal would usually conduct reviews of the Electorate Allowances in November of each year, on the anniversary of its previous reviews, as required by section 8 of the Act.
15. On 15 April 2026, after the Tribunal published its 2025 review and upon the conclusion of the 2026 State Election, the Tribunal received correspondence from the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Member for Stuart seeking a review of the Electorate Allowance for the Electorate of Stuart in the context of the changes made to the electorate's boundaries by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission in 2024. These changes came into effect at the 2026 State Election (**2024 Redistribution**). As the issues raised in this letter were significantly expanded upon in the Hon Mr Brock's submissions to this Review, the Tribunal has not summarised them here to avoid repetition.
16. Because of the request from the Hon Mr Brock, the Tribunal exercised its discretion under section 8 of the Act to bring forward the annual review of the Electorate Allowances to consider the impact of the 2024 Redistribution as it changed the boundaries of multiple electorates.
17. Because of the potential for those changes to impact on other Members of Parliament, and in consideration of the issues raised by the Hon Mr Brock, the Tribunal decided there should be an opportunity for all Members of Parliament to provide submissions.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

18. On 29 April 2026, the Tribunal wrote to the Hon Mr Brock advising him that because of his request for a review, an invitation for submissions would be issued to all Members of Parliament that day.
19. On 29 April 2026, and in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 30 July 2026 in respect of this review from:
 - a) The Honourable Premier of South Australia – as the Minister responsible for the Act who may make submissions or introduce evidence on any question relevant to the public interest;
 - b) All Members of Parliament;
 - c) The Treasurer; and
 - d) The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.

20. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 29 April 2026 inviting submissions from affected persons by 30 July 2026.
21. Each invitation and the notice on the Tribunal's website included a detailed guide setting out the matters on which the Tribunal sought information. These included:
- The Electorate Allowance is provided for expenses associated with discharging parliamentary, electoral or community duties (but not party-political) in the electoral district the Member represents. Any items that are covered by any other allowance or reimbursement are not Electorate Allowance expenses. For example, items that are covered by the Global Allowance.
 - The quantum of Electorate Allowances varies and the exact basis for these variations cannot be easily determined. However, they can largely be traced back to the arrangements that operated to recognise travel costs within different sized electorates prior to the introduction of the Motor Vehicle Scheme. Consequently, if the geographic size of an electorate or other differentiating factors are relied on as the basis for a change to any Electorate Allowance, the Tribunal requested advice of the basis for additional (or reduced) costs.
 - Other travel costs, or accommodation costs, separate from vehicles, that Members of Parliament wished the Tribunal to consider.
 - The Tribunal is also cognisant that Electorate Allowances may be used for sundry expenses related to community events and that precise records of those expenditures may not be available.
 - Subscriptions, telephone, stationery and postage, together with other administrative expenses that may be relevant to this review.
 - Other relevant expenses could also be drawn to the Tribunal's attention.
 - Where the Tribunal's attention is directed to potential anomalies in the quantum of Electorate Allowances, those submissions were requested to be founded on what costs the Electorate Allowance should cover, rather than simply a comparative assessment made in the absence of expenditure evidence.
22. On 6 May 2026, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption confirmed that no submission would be made.
23. On 20 July 2026, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made.
24. On 21 July 2026, the Tribunal received the Hon Mr Brock's submission which sought an increase to the Electorate Allowance for Stuart to recognise Stuart's significant expansion because of the 2024 Redistribution. This submission sought recognition of the electorate's geographic size, remoteness, and the increased travel requirements and representation costs caused by the 2024 Redistribution. The Hon Mr Brock later expanded on this submission by providing a summary of expenditures allocated to the Stuart Electorate Allowance. The Tribunal notes this submission is the only current information it has received regarding the expenditure of Electorate Allowances.
25. No other submissions were received.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

26. In reviewing the Electorate Allowances, the Tribunal has had regard to the necessary statutory considerations provided for by section 4(2) of the PR Act which provides as follows:

The Remuneration Tribunal must, in determining electorate allowances and other remuneration for members of Parliament—

- (a) have regard not only to their parliamentary duties but also to—
 - (i) their duty to be actively involved in community affairs; and
 - (ii) their duty to represent and assist their constituents in dealings with governmental and other public agencies and authorities; and
- (b) must not reduce an amount payable merely because there has been a change in basic salary.

27. In addition to reviewing Electorate Allowances generally, the Tribunal has specifically reviewed the Electorate Allowance applicable to the Electorate of Stuart, taking into account the submissions and information provided by the Hon Mr Brock.

28. Those submissions advised that the 2024 Redistribution substantially increased the size, remoteness, travel requirements and representation obligations associated with the electorate of Stuart, resulting in materially higher costs for the Member of Parliament. In particular:

- The geographic area of Stuart increased by approximately 97% from 323,131 km² to 636,489 km²;
- Stuart now covers approximately 65 per cent of South Australia's land mass and is one of the largest parliamentary electorates in Australia;
- The 2024 Redistribution added numerous towns and communities to Stuart, including the APY Lands, Andamooka, Burra, Coober Pedy, Jamestown, Oodnadatta, Roxby Downs, Spalding, part of the Regional Council of Goyder and the remainder of the Northern Areas Council, while removing the remainder of the Port Augusta City Council;
- The 2024 Redistribution has significantly increased the number of communities, towns and localities requiring representation by 120, from 157 to 277;
- As well as adding over 100 community organisations, sporting clubs, volunteer groups and local associations which regularly seek assistance, advocacy and engagement from their local Member of Parliament;
- The 2024 Redistribution has also increased the cost of servicing remote communities, which has resulted in greater travel requirements, more overnight stays, increased engagement over a broader geographic area and greater reliance on air travel to reach remote communities.
- Access to communities such as those in the APY Lands frequently requires chartered air travel, with individual flights costing several thousand dollars. For example, a recent charter flight from Leigh Creek to Mungerannie cost approximately \$5,400. This consumed more than half of what the Hon Mr Brock described as the \$10,000 Charter Flight allocation.

29. The Tribunal has also had regard to the Hon Mr Brock's submissions about abnormalities within the Electorate Allowance framework. The Tribunal was grateful to the Hon Mr Brock for the details provided in his submission. The Tribunal noted the Hon Mr Brock's submission was focused on a desire to ensure that future aspirants to the position of MP

for Stuart would not be discouraged by what may be regarded as insufficient Electoral Allowances.

Electorate Allowances Generally

30. Electorate Allowances form one of a series of allowances payable to Members of Parliament. As the Tribunal recognised in its 2023 Report, there is considerable flexibility available to Members of Parliament to allocate expenditures to these different allowances.
31. The Electorate Allowances for metropolitan electorates are currently set at \$17,815.
32. The table below sets out the Electorate Allowance Amounts for each non-metropolitan electorate, as well as the geographic area and number of electors as applicable because of the 2024 Redistribution:

Group	Electorate	Electorate Allowance Amount ¹	Geographic Size (km²)²	Electors³
B	Heysen	\$24,989	927.6	29,298
	Kavel	\$24,989	288.5	26,817
	Taylor	\$24,989	242.2	25,616
C	Finniss	\$29,202	1,396	28,080
	Ngadjuri (formerly Frome)	\$29,202	6,386	26,530
	Mount Gambier	\$29,202	1,936	26,134
	Schubert	\$29,202	2,181	28,681
D	Chaffey	\$37,735	30,124	26,068
	Hammond	\$37,735	3,340	27,923
	Mawson	\$37,735	5,360	28,322
	Narungga	\$37,735	11,381	27,427
E	MacKillop	\$42,674	34,138	27,601
F	Flinders	\$49,013	221,669	26,001
G	Giles	\$54,416	28,690	26,954
	Stuart	\$54,416	636,489	28,043

33. The Tribunal has noted that the publicly available information on expenditures allocated to Global Allowances suggests divergent approaches to the allocation of expenses. This reflects the discretion available to Members.
34. The Tribunal accepts that the quantum of the Electorate Allowance applicable to each electorate is impacted by the electorate's geographic size. This clearly reflects the historical vehicle travel arrangements. However, absent any data to demonstrate a current direct link between the electorate's geographic size and increased costs, the Tribunal is not able to discern the direct monetary impact of additional travel, accommodation and associated costs that relate to the larger distances involved.

¹ Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 17 of 2022.

² Electoral district areas (km²) are derived from Electoral Commission of South Australia district profiles and are calculated by reference to the electoral district boundaries established by the 2024 Redistribution. Electoral Commission of South Australia, 'Electoral District Profiles', *Electoral Commission of South Australia* (Web Page) <<https://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/electoral-districts/electoral-district-profiles>>; Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (SA), *Report of the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission 2024* (Final Report, 12 December 2024).

³ Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (SA), *Report of the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission 2024* (Final Report, 12 December 2024) Appendix 11.

35. If the Electorate Allowances are contrasted with each other on the basis of geographic areas, the quantum of the Electorate Allowance for Giles appears most inconsistent.
36. Given the numbers of electors within each electorate are required to be approximately the same,⁴ the numbers of electors within each electorate do not provide a sustainable basis for determining differential Electorate Allowance amounts.
37. The available information about the characteristics and dispersion of electors and/or population within the electorates generally does not explain the differences in the current Electorate Allowances. This information may provide a basis for establishing revised allowance amounts, however absent information about the ways in which the Electorate Allowances are applied, a basis for review is difficult.
38. The Tribunal acknowledges that electorate differences, including travel costs, may have a substantial impact on the utilisation of the Electorate Allowance. Some Members may operate two Electorate Offices resulting in overnight accommodation and meal costs to service the office further away from their home, and some Members may travel more frequently within their electorates resulting in additional overnight accommodation and meal costs. The Tribunal has accepted that the Electorate Allowance is used by Members of Parliament to offset the costs of representing their electorates, and particularly the costs of travelling within their electorate.
39. The Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission made changes to electorate boundaries in 2020. These changes took effect at the 2022 State Election (**2020 Redistribution**).
40. The Tribunal has looked at the effects of the 2020 Redistribution and the 2024 Redistribution since the Electorate Allowances were last re-allocated in 2019. In short, electorate boundaries and areas can change substantially between elections. This compounds the difficulty in assessing Electorate Allowances in the absence of better and more extensive information provided from a significant representation of Members of Parliament with regards as to how the Electorate Allowances are spent and how they interact with other allowances payable to Members of Parliament.
41. The information provided for the electorate of Stuart demonstrates expenditures that may be funded from other allowances available to Members of Parliament, such as the Global Allowance.
42. Further categories of expenditure are of a discretionary nature and cannot be exclusively linked to a particular electorate. Collectively, these do not represent a basis for an increase to the Electorate Allowance in this instance.
43. No other basis for broad adjustments to Electoral Allowances has been provided to the Tribunal. Absent a sustainable basis for these payments the Tribunal does not consider that an increase to them can be substantiated.
44. Notwithstanding this concern, the Tribunal is unable to identify any basis for the retention of the current quantum of the Electoral Allowance for Giles. Population and area considerations indicate that this Electorate Allowance should be reduced to be comparable with that applicable to the electorate of Chaffey.
45. The Tribunal is sympathetic to the matters raised in the submission from the Member for Stuart and if it could obtain more extensive and detailed responses from other Members of Parliament for future reviews, then this may assist the development of a sustainable model that underpins the setting of Electoral Allowances.

⁴ *Constitution Act 1934 (SA)* s 77.

46. Because it may be the case that there are characteristics unique to the Electorate of Giles which substantiate the Electorate Allowance Amount, the Tribunal has not implemented a reduction in this Review. However, without information that supports the retention of the current amount, the Tribunal is likely to implement this reduction at the next review.
47. That review will again provide an opportunity for submissions to be made addressing the basis of the Electorate Allowances.
48. Apart from the submissions provided by the Hon Mr Brock, there is no additional information available to the Tribunal which would form the basis for a general increase, or a decrease in the current Electorate Allowances.
49. Consequently, the Tribunal has not altered allowances generally and has considered the allowance applicable to the Electorate of Stuart on the information available to it.

The Electorate of Stuart

50. Both Stuart and Giles currently receive Electorate Allowances of \$54,416 but their geographic sizes are markedly different. Giles is 28,690 km², whereas Stuart is now more than 22 times larger than Giles at 636,489 km². The Hon Mr Brock does not suggest that the Electorate Allowance for Stuart should be increased at the expense of Giles.
51. The Tribunal has noted that when the allocation of Electorate Allowances was last considered by the Tribunal, Giles was 497,005 km² and Stuart 330,656 km². The 2020 Redistribution made them approximately comparable at 335,187 km² and 323,131 km² respectively. However, the 2024 Redistribution adjusted the electorates to their current sizes.
52. The electorate of Flinders was also increased in size from 58,901 km² for the 2018 State Election, and then to over 221,000 km² from the 2022 State Election onwards.
53. If the basis for the calculation of the Electoral Allowance was the geographic size of the electorate, the disparate sizes of Stuart and Giles could be characterised as an anomaly. However, as noted above, that anomaly would focus attention on the extent to which the Electorate Allowance applicable to Giles appears inconsistent with the allowances applicable to other country electorates rather than forming a basis to increase the allowance for Stuart.
54. The Hon Mr Brock's details of his expenditure of the Stuart Electorate Allowance demonstrate that expenditures on travel related matters for himself and his staff are substantial, but well within the Electorate Allowance amount.
55. Notwithstanding the Hon Mr Brock's preference to travel by car, he has confirmed to the Tribunal that chartered air travel is also necessary.
56. Since 1978 there has been an allowance for chartered air travel available for the Members for Giles and Stuart for travel within their electorates (**Air Charter Allowance**). The Air Charter Allowance is currently \$10,000 per annum. This amount does not accumulate from year to year. The Air Charter Allowance has not altered since 2001 and is paid by the House of Assembly on the presentation of an invoice. The Tribunal understands that the conditions and quantum of the Air Charter Allowance are set by the Government. The Air Charter Allowance is completely separate from the Electorate Allowance and is outside the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.
57. Consequently, to the extent that the Hon Mr Brock has concerns about the quantum of the Air Charter Allowance, the Tribunal considers these concerns are best directed to the Government.

58. The information provided by the Hon Mr Brock confirms a significant level of discretionary expenditure. There is no suggestion that this expenditure is inappropriate or unjustified with regards the obligations associated with representing or serving the electorate of Stuart.
59. However, the nature and quantum of the expenditure is such that it is problematic using this as a basis for an increase to the Electorate Allowance absent more extensive information relative to other electorates. If that information was available to the Tribunal a different position may have been adopted.
60. The Tribunal may consider adopting a different approach to the setting of future Electorate Allowances if, for future reviews, there is better and more extensive information provided from a significant representation of Members of Parliament with regards as to how the Electorate Allowances are spent and how they interact with other allowances payable to Members of Parliament
61. Accordingly, Determination 17 of 2022 will continue in operation.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 8 October 2026