



No. 6 of 2023

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2023 Review of Reimbursement of Expenses Applicable to the Electorate of Mawson – Travel to and from Kangaroo Island by Ferry and Aircraft

INTRODUCTION

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 8 of 2019, which allows the member for the Electorate of Mawson to claim reimbursements up to \$3,380 per annum in respect of expenses necessarily incurred travelling by ferry or aircraft between Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula for electoral purposes.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined to increase the amount to \$4,100.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

3. On 26 September 2023, and in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (Act)*, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 30 October 2023 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 in the public interest
 - b. members of Parliament
 - c. the Treasurer
 - d. the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
4. The Tribunal also advertised its intention to review this, and other determinations applicable to Members of Parliament, on its website from 26 September 2023. Submissions were also invited by 30 October 2023.
5. On 26 September 2023, the ICAC confirmed that no submission would be made.
6. On 3 October 2023, the Member for Mawson provided a written submission. The Member submits that the allowance to travel to and from Kangaroo Island is at times insufficient to adequately service the residents of the Island. Given the restricted transport timetables and need to travel by ferry or plane, the local Member of Parliament often has to spend the night paying for accommodation. This challenge is not faced by any other Member of Parliament.
7. In previous years, the Member submits he has spent more than 50 days on Kangaroo Island, which costs significantly more than the travel allowance and every year he fully

expends the electorate allowance on accommodation and other costs of being a local Member of Parliament.

8. In terms of the process, he advises the current allowance is paid on receipt of invoices that prove the travel has been undertaken for electoral business.
9. On 26 October 2023, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made. No other submissions were received in respect of this review.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

10. In reviewing this entitlement, the Tribunal has had due regard to the necessary statutory considerations under section 4(2)(a) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* (**PR Act**). That section of the PR Act provides that the Tribunal must, in determining electorate allowances and other remuneration for Members of Parliament, have regard not only to their parliamentary duties, but also to:
 - a. their duty to be actively involved in community affairs; and
 - b. their duty to represent and assist their constituents in dealings with governmental and other public agencies and authorities.
11. The Tribunal has also given due regard to the cost of journeys between the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. From the information available to the Tribunal, the cost of travel on the SeaLink Kangaroo Island Ferry Service appears to have been fairly stable from 2015-21. The Tribunal notes that the ferry fares increased in 2022 by 12.24% and by a further 7.27% from 1 September 2023.
12. As a result, the Tribunal considers it necessary to increase the reimbursable allowance amount to enable the Member for Mawson to be actively involved in community affairs and represent and assist their constituents.
13. The Tribunal recognises that the Member for Mawson is in a unique situation, which warrants a separate allowance to be payable for travel to and from Kangaroo Island. Notwithstanding this, the Member for Mawson may also, at their own discretion, use their electorate allowance for the same purpose.
14. The Tribunal notes that the allowance is paid upon the provision of a receipt, evidencing the travel expenses being claimed. This process will continue to apply.
15. An accompanying Determination will be issued increasing the amount to \$4,100 and will operate from 1 December 2023.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Deborah Black
MEMBER



Peter de Cure AM
MEMBER

Dated: 13 November 2023