



No. 10 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2025 Review of Conveyance Allowances – Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 2 of 2025 which provides for a Conveyance Allowance for Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers. Determination 2 of 2025 progressively implemented a restriction to the effect that if a Judge, Court Officer or Statutory Officer covered by the determination selects a vehicle which attracts a lower cost, the remnant component of the Conveyance Allowance remains unspent and is not payable to them.
2. That Determination also reaffirmed the increase in Conveyance Allowance set out in Determination 15 of 2024.
3. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined not to change the terms, or the rates of the Conveyance Allowance as set out in Determination 2 of 2025.
4. Accordingly, the Tribunal has determined that Determination 2 of 2025 will continue to apply.
5. The Tribunal has also considered the other issues it flagged in Report 2 of 2025 and has decided not to change the existing conveyance arrangements at this time.

BACKGROUND

6. The *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**Act**) provides that the Tribunal has jurisdiction to set the remuneration payable to the members of the judiciary and other office holders listed in section 13 of the Act, and the remuneration payable to other office holders as conferred under section 14 of the Act.
7. The Tribunal has used this jurisdiction to provide conveyance allowance arrangements for Judges and Court Officers, as well as the following Statutory Officers:
 - a. The Auditor-General;
 - b. The Electoral Commissioner;
 - c. The Deputy Electoral Commissioner; and
 - a. The Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.
8. As required by section 8 of the Act, the Tribunal has conducted an annual review of its current Determination on the Conveyance Allowance.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

9. On 23 July 2025, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 20 September 2025 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. The Judicial Remuneration Coordinating Committee (**JRCC**);
 - c. The Auditor-General;
 - d. The Electoral Commissioner; and
 - e. The Interim Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.
10. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 24 July 2025 inviting submissions from affected persons by 20 September 2025.
11. On 30 July, the Premier’s representative confirmed that the Premier did not intend to make a submission on the rate of the Conveyance Allowance but reserved his right to make submissions on broadening the Conveyance Allowance to include private leasing arrangements after the Tribunal has handed down its determination.
12. On 20 August and 19 September, the JRCC provided submissions on behalf of:
 - a. The Chief Justice, the President of the Court of Appeal, Judges of Appeal, Judges and Associates Justices of the Supreme Court;
 - b. The Chief Judge, Judges and Associate Judges of the District Court;
 - c. The Chief Magistrate and the Magistrates of the Magistrates Court;
 - d. The State Coroner and Deputy State Coroners;
 - e. The Senior Judge and Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court;
 - f. The President and Deputy Presidents of the South Australian Employment Tribunal; and
 - g. The Judge of the Youth Court.
13. The JRCC submitted that the Tribunal should review the amount of the Conveyance Allowance in the usual way and otherwise make a determination that reflects the terms of Determination 2 of 2025.
14. The JRCC submitted that there is no need for the Tribunal to extend the scope of the Conveyance Allowance to include private leasing arrangements.
15. On 22 August the Electoral Commissioner confirmed that no submission would be made.
16. No further submissions were received.
17. The Tribunal has received significant information and assistance from the South Australian Financing Authority (**SAFA**), the vehicle provider under the scheme, as part of this review. The Tribunal thanks the SAFA for their assistance.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

The Conveyance Allowance

18. Determination 15 of 2024 set the rates of the Conveyance Allowances which are payable on a fortnightly basis, based on an annual amount of \$19,356, \$18,659, or \$17,247 (depending on the office holder). These rates have applied since 1 January 2025 and Determination 15 of 2024 increased the amounts by 4.75% on the previous year.

19. In this regard, the Tribunal has considered the approach adopted in previous years where regard has been given to fluctuations in prices set by the SAFA for Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers to access vehicles as part of this scheme and the range of vehicles available to them within the specified Conveyance Allowance. When vehicles which attract higher costs are selected, these are met by the Judge or Officer concerned.
20. On this occasion, the Tribunal noted the large variation in prices for vehicles available from the SAFA. The Tribunal has considered the prices of like for like vehicles across the past two years. The changes in prices vary from reductions of over 14% to increases over 101%.
21. Broadly, the SAFA has advised that the reductions are because the Federal Government has maintained its Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) exemption on fully electric vehicles. As is explained below, this exemption has had a significant impact on the prices of vehicles available from the SAFA under the scheme. However, the Tribunal has noted that some petrol and diesel vehicles have also experienced price reductions, ranging from 0.5% to 1.8%.
22. The vehicles which experienced the largest price increases are plug-in petrol/electric hybrids. The SAFA has advised that since the Tribunal last reviewed the Conveyance Allowance, the Federal Government has removed the FBT exemption from plug-in petrol/electric hybrids, resulting in price increases for them under the scheme. The increases range from 76% to over 101%. The Tribunal is advised that this is because the Federal Government is using the FBT exemption to encourage the take up of fully electric vehicles.
23. As the only price increases for vehicles under the scheme occur because of the Federal Government's decision to remove the FBT exemption from plug-in petrol/electric hybrids, the Tribunal does not consider it is appropriate to increase the Conveyance Allowance to a level which offsets the Federal Government's taxation decision.
24. The Tribunal has also had regard to the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal's decision *Remuneration Tribunal (Judicial and Related Offices—Remuneration and Allowances) Determination 2025* in which the Commonwealth Tribunal declined to increase the Vehicle Allowance for members of the Federal Judiciary.
25. In arriving at its determination not to increase the Conveyance Allowance, the Tribunal has had regard to the range of vehicles available to Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers from the SAFA without excess charges. The Tribunal considers that the range of vehicles remains appropriate without increasing the Conveyance Allowance.
26. Accordingly, the Tribunal has determined that the Conveyance Allowance rates within Determination 2 of 2025 continue to apply.

Alternative conveyance arrangements for the future

27. The Tribunal noted in Report 2 of 2025 that this review would consider reviewing clause 3 of the Determination relative to the range of vehicles available for official and private use through leasing arrangements with the SAFA and the possible application of private leasing arrangements.
28. The Tribunal did not receive any submissions on a change to the range of vehicles and has determined that the current arrangements should continue.
29. The Tribunal has had regard to the JRCC's submission that there was no need to extend the scope of the Conveyance Allowance to permit private leasing arrangements.

30. The Tribunal has determined that the range of vehicles which are currently available are appropriate and has not changed the SAFA leasing arrangement.
31. However, the Tribunal does invite future submissions on the arrangements that should apply in the event that a Judge, Court Officer, or Statutory Officer covered by the Determination is unable to access a vehicle in accordance with the Determination due to factors including disability and / or medical condition/s that may affect their ability to drive a motor vehicle. The Tribunal will also invite submissions on the arrangements that should apply if those covered by the Determination do not wish to access a vehicle in accordance with the Determination.
32. Accordingly, Determination 2 of 2025 will continue in operation.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 2 December 2025