

REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

REPORT RELATING TO DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

The Remuneration Tribunal ('the Tribunal') is responsible in terms of Section 14 of the *Remuneration Act 1990* ("the Act"), for determining the remuneration payable to the following statutory office holders:

- the Auditor General
- the Electoral Commissioner
- the Deputy Electoral Commissioner
- the Employee Ombudsman
- the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.

2. ANNUAL REVIEW

2.1 In accordance with the provisions of the Act, on 4 October 2013, the Remuneration Tribunal wrote inviting the Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Employee Ombudsman and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner to make submissions for the purposes of the Tribunal's annual review of the remuneration payable to those offices. The Tribunal also invited the Premier as Minister responsible for the Act to make submissions in the public interest.

2.2 The Tribunal published a notice in *The Advertiser* on 5 October 2013, advising that the Tribunal was to conduct a review of the determination incorporating the salaries payable to Statutory Officer Holders. The notice invited interested persons, organisations and associations to submit in writing any views they considered should be taken into account in the review. Public submissions were required to be lodged by the close of business on 25 October 2013.

3. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

3.1 The Tribunal received written submissions from the Auditor-General and the Premier, and a letter from the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.

3.2 A hearing was convened on 14 November 2013, to consider submissions.

Auditor-General

3.3 The Auditor-General conveyed his view of "*the need for continuation of the exercise of salary constraint due to the tight budgetary conditions being experienced by the South Australian public sector and its workforce*". The Auditor-General concluded that that "*there should be no alteration to my remuneration*".

Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner

3.4 The Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner wrote to inform the Tribunal that he did not intend to make a submission but would be pleased to attend a hearing should any member of the Tribunal have questions to put to him.

The Premier

3.5 The Premier noted the Tribunal's past approach to setting the remuneration for the relevant statutory office holders.

3.6 The Premier submitted that the Tribunal should have regard to the following economic factors in its review of remuneration:

- The economic indices published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the South Australian Labour Price Index (which indicated that wages and salary costs for employees had increased by 3.3% in the year to 30 June 2013) and the Consumer Price Index for Adelaide (which showed an increase of 2.0% for the year to 30 September 2013);
- The Underlying Inflation rate for September 2013, which showed the measure of 'underlying' inflation in Australia at an annual growth of 2.3% (weighted mean);
- The national and global economic climate of uncertainty and its impact on South Australia's finances;
- Enterprise bargaining salary increases provided in the current public sector enterprise agreements in 2012 and 2013 averaging 3% per annum.

3.7 The Premier submitted that it is in the public interest that the increases in salaries for the relevant statutory office holders have regard to, and not significantly differ from increases applicable to other public sector positions.

3.8 The Tribunal notes that on 16 December 2013, the Government granted a 2.5% adjustment to members of the South Australian Executive Service with effect from 1 July 2013.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Having noted recent salary adjustments in the public sector, recent trends in the level of remuneration adjustments both nationally and within the state, comments and submissions from the statutory office holders and the Premier, the Tribunal has determined that a salary increase of 2.5% is appropriate.

4.2 The Tribunal has therefore determined that the salary for the:

- Auditor-General be \$303,972 per annum
- Electoral Commissioner be \$190,457 per annum
- Deputy Electoral Commissioner be \$138,514 per annum
- Employee Ombudsman be \$143,381 per annum
- Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner be \$224,009 per annum.

5. OPERATIVE DATE

Salaries determined in Clause 4 will operate with effect from 1 July 2013.



Deane Prior
PRESIDENT

2 January 2014