

Report 12.298
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File WRS/09/08/01

Committee Council
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Strategy Office

Wellington Regional Strategy Committee - remuneration of non-local government members

1. Purpose

To propose a change to the remuneration of non-local government members on the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Committee.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Consideration by Committee

The subject matter of this report was considered by the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee at its meeting on 15 August 2012, and the recommendations contained in this report are those made by the Committee.

4. Remuneration of non-local government members

Non-local government members on the previous WRS Committee received an annual honorarium of \$15,000. The Chairperson of the Committee received an annual honorarium of \$20,000.

On 27 June 2012 the Council re-established the WRS Committee. As the WRS activity is being re-started and non-local government members need to be appointed, it is an appropriate time to reassess their remuneration.

The expectation of members is to attend five to six WRS Committee meetings a year, some additional workshops, and be adequately prepared for all meetings and workshops. The local government members do not receive any payments from Greater Wellington.

Different options for the remuneration of non-local government members of the Committee have been assessed, based on current Greater Wellington practice. These include:

- The status quo of an annual remuneration of \$15,000 for non-local government appointees, and \$20,000 for the Chairperson (current remuneration of WRS Committee members). This is inclusive of travel costs and preparation time.
- A meeting fee of \$195 per meeting. This meeting fee is consistent with the remuneration paid to appointed members of Greater Wellington's committees (excluding Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee). In addition to the meeting fee, appointed members are also entitled to receive payment for travel costs. The fee includes meeting preparation time.
- A mix of annual remuneration and meeting fees. An annual honorarium of \$5,000 for an appointed member and the member is entitled to a meeting fee of \$500 per meeting attended. The meeting fee is inclusive of travel costs and preparation time. The Chairperson would receive an additional \$5,000 per year to receive an annual honorarium of \$10,000 and a meeting fee of \$500 per meeting attended.

This approach is similar to the remuneration arrangements for the non-councillor co-chair and members of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee. For that Committee, all non-councillor members, including the non-councillor co-chair, are entitled to an all inclusive daily meeting fee of \$500 per meeting. In addition, the non-councillor co-chair receives an annual honorarium of \$5,000 reflecting the work that is required outside of meetings and workshops.

The option of \$195 per meeting is considered to be inadequate and would not enable the Committee to engage members of a high enough standard to sit on the Committee.

The option of an honorarium of \$5,000 a year plus an additional \$500 per meeting (and an additional \$5,000 per year for the Chairperson) is considered the fairest option.

This remuneration level for the Chairperson reflects the additional time spent by the Chairperson relating to meeting agendas, the media and attending public functions representing the Committee.

5. Communication

No specific communications are required.

6. Recommendations

That Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Approves an annual honorarium of \$10,000 for the Chairperson of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.***
4. ***Approves an annual honorarium of \$5,000 for all other non-local government members of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.***
5. ***Approves the payment of an all inclusive daily meeting fee of \$500 per day for each non-local government member's attendance at Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meetings and workshops, and at any meetings and workshops of any subcommittee established by the Committee for which that person is a member.***

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