

STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICES REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

REPORT AND DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(2) OF THE STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICES REMUNERATION ACT 1975

Request for determination

1. The Attorney-General (the Minister) and the Premier jointly administer the *Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal Act 1975* (SOOR Act). Pursuant to section 14 of the SOOR Act, the Minister has directed the Tribunal to make a special determination regarding the remuneration for the office of the Independent Review Officer (IRO).
2. In giving this direction, the Minister has asked that the Tribunal give consideration to information prepared by the Department of Customer Service. This has been provided to the Tribunal under separate letterhead from the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, the Hon. Victor Dominello (Minister Dominello).

The Independent Review Officer

3. Minister Dominello, writing in his capacity as Minister responsible for the Personal Injury Commission (PIC) has requested the Tribunal determine the appropriate remuneration for the IRO. The IRO was established under the *Personal Injury Commission Act 2020* (PIC Act). Minister Dominello has requested this determination be made by 26 August 2022, and that it take effect from 1 March 2021.
4. The PIC became operational from 1 March 2021, consolidating functions performed by a number of now defunct bodies¹. Relevantly, the PIC Act amended the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998*, abolishing the office of the Workers Compensation Independent Review Officer (WIRO) and establishing the office of the IRO in its place. Amendments to the SOOR Act at the time omitted to remove the office of WIRO and insert the new office of IRO, hence the requirement to backdate the effective date of the determination to 1 March 2021.

¹ Bodies that were abolished when the PIC was created include the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC), the Dispute Resolution Services (DRS), the Motor Accidents Medical Assessment Service (MAS) and the Motor Accidents Claims Assessment and Resolution Service (CARS).

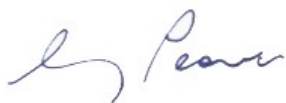
5. Under the PIC Act, the statutory functions of the IRO include:
- to deal with complaints made to the Independent Review Officer under the enabling legislation
 - to inquire into and report to the Minister on any matters arising in connection with the operation of this Act or the enabling legislation as the Independent Review Officer considers appropriate or as may be referred to the Independent Review Officer for inquiry and report by the Minister
 - to encourage the establishment by insurers and employers of complaint resolution processes for complaints arising under the enabling legislation
 - to manage and administer Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service (ILARS), including by issuing ILARS guidelines
 - any other functions as may be conferred under enabling legislation.
6. Minister Dominello has proposed the annual salary for the IRO be \$386,889.
7. In accordance with Minister Dominello's recommendation the Tribunal determines the annual salary of the IRO as \$386,889. In assessing this proposal, the Tribunal has had regard to the roles and responsibilities of the IRO, the provided job evaluation, salary relativities with other relevant NSW public office holders, and the provided additional supporting information.

Determination

Pursuant to section 14(2) of the SOOR Act, the Tribunal determines the annual salary for the Independent Review Officer shall be as follows, with effect from 1 March 2021.

Office	Salary per annum
Independent Review Officer	\$386,889

Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon. Greg Pearce

23 August 2022