

**ANNUAL REPORT AND DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL
ENTITLEMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF
NEW SOUTH WALES**

by the

PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

pursuant to the

Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989

13 July 2006

PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION ACT 1989
REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(1) OF THE ACT

INTRODUCTION

Section 11 of the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989 ("the Act") prescribes that the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal ("the Tribunal") shall make an annual Determination as to the additional entitlements for Members and Recognised Office Holders (as defined under the Act) on or before 1 June in each year or on such later date as the President of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales determines. On this occasion the President directed that the Determination shall be made on or before 14 July 2006.

Section 13 (1) of the Act requires that the Tribunal makes a report to the President of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales for each Determination made by the Tribunal. The President is then required, as soon as practicable after receipt of the report, to forward it to the Minister (see section 13(2)).

The Tribunal commenced proceedings in relation to the annual Determination required for the year 2006 by writing to all Members on 14 February 2006 and inviting submissions. In addition to submissions on additional entitlements, the Tribunal informed Members that it intended to review staffing levels available to Members and invited submissions on this matter. The Tribunal received submissions from the major political parties, individual Members and the Presiding Officers.

Part One of this Report will outline general matters raised as part of the annual review and any adjustments to additional entitlements. In regard to the general review, the Tribunal has made changes that are considered minor or of an administrative nature to the Determination without the need for detailed separate reasons being provided. The submissions have, however, also raised a number of substantive issues which, in the Tribunal's view, merit further consideration.

Part Two of the Report will deal with the specific review of staffing levels for Members in electorate offices and Parliament House.

A summary of the 2006 Determination appears in Part Three of the Report and Part Four is the Tribunal's response to the Treasury Secretary's submission on the financial implications of the Determination.

PART ONE

1. GENERAL MATTERS RAISED

Electoral Redistribution:

1. Section 27(1)(c) of the Constitution Act 1902 requires that a redistribution of electoral boundaries take place after two elections have been conducted using the same electoral boundaries. Electoral redistributions are undertaken pursuant to the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912 (PE&E Act). Section 15 of the PE&E Act provides:

(1) The commissioners shall report to the Governor the names and boundaries of the electoral districts determined by them under any provision of this Part.

(2) The Governor shall thereupon cause a proclamation setting out the names of such electoral districts and the boundaries thereof to be published in the Gazette.

(3) Upon publication of a proclamation under subsection (2), the electoral districts specified in the proclamation shall, until altered by a further distribution under the Constitution Act 1902, be the electoral districts of New South Wales.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), the electoral districts existing immediately before the publication of a proclamation under subsection (2) shall, for the purposes of any by-election to be held before the dissolution or expiry of the Assembly next succeeding that publication, be the electoral districts of New South Wales.

In accordance with section 15(3) of the PE&E Act the new electorates came into existence at the time of gazettal. The 2004 Redistribution Proclamation was published on 21 December 2004. Therefore, the new electorates came into existence from that date.

While the new electorates come into effect from that date, pursuant to section 15(4) of the PE&E Act the "former" electorates remain in place for the purposes of any by-elections that may occur prior to the general election. Members remain the elected representatives of those electorates until the time of the next State general election, ie, 24 March 2007.

Many of the additional entitlements determined by the Tribunal, pursuant to section 10 of the Act are based on electoral groupings also determined by the Tribunal. The Tribunal reviews electorates prior to the general election and has done so again on this occasion.

The Tribunal has examined the changes to the Electorates and grouped them accordingly. The Tribunal has had regard to historical factors in grouping the electorates. The Tribunal has again grouped the electorates for allowance purposes by using a range of factors including electorate size, distance from Sydney, transport links and the number of urban centres in the electorate.

As previously stated by the Tribunal, the distance from Sydney, and the time spent travelling to and from Sydney, are key factors in establishing eligibility for the Sydney Allowance. Since the last review the Tribunal has noted that opening of expressways in the Sydney metropolitan area has significantly reduced travel times between the outer metropolitan area and the city. This is particularly the case with the opening of the M5 and M7.

As a result of these changes the Tribunal has decided that on and from the date of the next election the electorates of Campbelltown and Camden will be re-categorised into Group 1 for Electorate Allowance purposes. The Tribunal has also had regard to the changes made to Londonderry and considers that, on balance, this electorate should also be re-categorised into Group 1.

The Tribunal has also noted the significant increase in the size of the electorate of Barwon, which has nearly doubled in size as a result of the redistribution and is now almost equal in size to the electorate of Murray Darling. As a result of these changes the Tribunal considers that the Electorates of Barwon and Murray Darling should receive identical levels of Electorate Allowance and other additional entitlements.

The Tribunal will not determine, as part of this review an additional electorate office for the Member for Barwon but would welcome submissions on this matter as part of the 2007 annual review when the requirements of the Member, in servicing the electorate, become clearer.

Additional entitlements for the new electorates will take effect on and from the date of the State General Election to be held on 24 March 2007. As this annual determination takes effect on and from 1 July 2006 it will be necessary for the Tribunal to make two determinations as part of this review. The first will apply from 1 July 2006 to 23 March 2007 (inclusive). The second determination will apply on and from 24 March 2007 until 30 June 2007.

Sydney Allowance

The Tribunal reviewed this Allowance as part of the 2005 annual review. Submissions have been received seeking clarification of certain matters pertaining to the entitlement when the Member does not rent commercial accommodation but has arranged for a lease or is repaying a mortgage on the property.

Details of the history of the Sydney Allowance were provided in the 2005 review and need not be repeated here other than to state the broad principles upon which this entitlement was established, viz., where Members from non metropolitan electorates are required to incur additional costs for coming to and staying in Sydney to attend sittings of Parliament or attend to parliamentary duties. The Sydney Allowance was established to assist Members meet those additional expenses.

The rate of the Sydney Allowance has always been set at a lower level than that of the public sector daily allowance rate for Sydney because that rate is meant to cover one-off travel arrangements to Sydney where it is necessary to incur a commercial overnight rate. Members, on the other hand, once elected would know that parliamentary duties would require them to be in Sydney for regular periods in each of the four years for which they were elected.

It was for this reason that the Tribunal encouraged Members to make longer-term accommodation arrangements where Members could, if they chose, lease accommodation at cheaper rates than commercial accommodation or, if they chose, could purchase property for this purpose. It is understood that there is a mix of these kinds of accommodation arrangements currently in place.

The Tribunal, in its 2005 determination, provided for an annual and daily rate of Sydney Allowance. Up to the maximum number of overnight stays determined by the Tribunal the Member can receive the daily rate without the production of receipts.

Where a Member exceeds the maximum number of overnight stays in a year, then for each occasion this occurs the Member must substantiate the reason for each such occasion (ie, certify that it was for parliamentary business) and may be reimbursed an amount up to the daily maximum upon production of receipts.

The Tribunal reaffirms that only receipts for actual expenditure up to the daily maximum will be considered for reimbursement.

The Tribunal has also reviewed the annual Sydney Allowance entitlement and notes the significant administrative problems associated with reconciling the annual amount at the end of each financial year.

The Tribunal is mindful of these problems and is minded to abolish the annual entitlement, retaining only the daily rate for all Members. The Tribunal will not do so at this time as it may cause hardship to those who have made particular arrangements and require the cash flow provided by the annual rate.

The Tribunal intends to remove this entitlement as part of the 2008 annual review unless there are compelling reasons why this should not be the case. The Tribunal is prepared to receive submissions on this matter from those Members that may be affected.

In light of the electoral redistribution the Tribunal has also reassessed electorates which qualify for the Sydney Allowance.

Electorate to Sydney Travel Warrants

In 2005 the Tribunal noted the following matter had been raised concerning the Electorate to Sydney Travel.

"...Approval has been sought to extend the use of travel warrants to travel to adjoining electorates to connect to flights to and from Sydney where such services are more frequent. In doing so, Members have sought to extend the value of the warrant to include the cost of travel to and from the airport. For example, one warrant would be used to fund hire car costs for travel from the Members home to the airport and the price of a commercial flight to Sydney.

Under current arrangements Members are provided with warrants to travel to and from Sydney and their electorate/principal place of residence. The warrant covers the cost of air travel or the equivalent private/rental vehicle costs. If a Member is required to travel to an airport some distance from their home, any additional costs ie hire car/taxi/car parking must be paid from either the Members' LSA or Electoral Allowance. It has also been suggested that Members in receipt of the Charter Transport Allowance use this allowance to pay for these additional costs.

At this time the Tribunal considers it appropriate that Members continue to use either their LSA or Electoral Allowance to fund any additional costs associated with electorate to Sydney travel. The Tribunal would be interested in receiving further information in regard to this issue for the 2006 annual review."

The Tribunal has received further submissions on this matter seeking again to extend the value of the Electorate to Sydney travel warrant to meet the cost of additional travel expenses getting to and from

the airport. Also, Members have sought flexibility in the use of the Electorate to Sydney travel entitlement so that they may break journeys along the way to conduct parliamentary business.

The Tribunal has considered this matter carefully but is of the view the existing arrangements are adequate. The Electorate to Sydney travel warrants are for exactly that purpose – travel to and from Sydney. Each warrant has a value based on the cost of the airline ticket from the airport nearest the Member's home to Sydney. Members have the additional flexibility of using whatever means they wish to travel to Sydney provided the cost does not exceed the value of the warrant. Any extra travel required is to be met from the LSA or the Members' electorate allowance.

List of Approved Items in the Logistic Support Allocation (LSA)

Each year the Presiding Officers and/or Members write to the Tribunal seeking to add to the list of items for which the LSA may be used. This is unnecessary. Members should have the flexibility to use their LSA in a manner that best suits the Member. Provided the Member certifies that he or she is expending funds from the LSA for the purpose of undertaking parliamentary duties and provided the Member has sufficient funds in the LSA then he or she should be able to expend funds from the LSA for that purpose.

This is particularly the case with improvements in technology. Members may now be able to obtain cheaper mobile telephones and mobile telephone packages than the Parliament can provide. Other Members may require another laptop computer; still other Members may need additional equipment at home.

In these circumstances, and provided the basic conditions of this entitlement are adhered to, then the Tribunal sees no reason why Members should not be able to use their LSA for such purposes. The Tribunal would, however, add that in purchasing equipment Members must abide by the Treasury rules regarding disclosure of assets and if any maintenance agreements are required then the Member must ensure that he or she has the approval of the Presiding Officer.

As to the broader question of the list, unless it is convinced otherwise, the Tribunal intends to remove the list of items for which the LSA may be used as part of its next determination. This will allow Members and/or the Presiding Officers to make submissions on this matter for the Tribunal's consideration.

Guidelines and Conditions

Additional entitlements are made available to assist Members in the performance of their parliamentary duties. Following a request for a Ruling from the Presiding Officers, the guidelines have been expanded to *exclude* costs associated with pre-selection activities. Pre-selection activities are considered party political activities and should be funded by the candidate from his or her own private resources or by the relevant party.

2. REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS

Electoral Allowance

The Tribunal has received a number of submissions seeking adjustments to the Electoral Allowance in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) having particular regard to the high cost of fuel. The submissions sought an increase beyond the general CPI for this purpose.

The Tribunal recognises that fuel costs, particularly for Members in country electorates, are becoming a significant expense for such Members. Of course, that is also the case for people generally, living in rural and regional New South Wales (as well as the City, for that matter). It would not be appropriate, in the Tribunal's opinion, to provide relief for Members of Parliament in respect of the rising cost of fuel when their constituents will have no relief. Moreover, to provide an additional allowance to compensate for the increased cost of fuel would amount to double counting, given that the CPI already has a fuel component.

For this review the Tribunal has adopted its standard approach and increased the electoral allowance by 3.0 per cent.

Sydney Allowance

The Tribunal has reviewed the Sydney Allowance in accordance with its standard methodology and provided an increase of 3.0 per cent in the daily rate. In addition, following a request for a Ruling from the Presiding Officers, the conditions of use for this entitlement have been clarified. Eligible Members may only receive actual expenses for "in transit" travel to and from Sydney and their home when the Member is travelling to Sydney and will be staying overnight in Sydney or travelling home from Sydney following an overnight stay.

Logistic Support Allocation (LSA)

The Tribunal has reviewed the Logistic Support Allocation in accordance with its standard methodology and provided an increase of 3.0 per cent in the daily rate.

Committee Allowance

The purpose of this Allowance is to remunerate Members serving as Chairpersons on Committees for the extra time and effort required to carry out this role. In previous Determinations this allowance has been increased in line with Members' salary increases.

Since these rates were last adjusted in the 2005 annual review, Members' salaries were increased from 1 July 2005 by 4.12 per cent and a further 7 per cent from 1 July 2006. In accordance with normal practice, therefore, the Committee Allowance will be increased by 11 per cent.

Electorate Mail-out Account (EMA)

The EMA has been adjusted to reflect enrolment statistics for the period 1 July 2006 to 23 March 2007. These rates are based on the enrolment statistics as of 8 May 2006 and are outlined in Appendix 4 of the Determination.

Appendix 4A of the Determination outlines the EMA for the period 24 March 2007 to 30 June 2007. The enrolment statistics for this period are based on predicted electors as noted in the 2004 Electoral Districts Commissioners Report, pp. XIV-XV.

In addition, the Tribunal's determination of 18 May 2006 has broadened the use of this entitlement following electoral redistributions. The conditions for this entitlement have been expanded to provide for this additional application.

Reimbursement of Expenses for Charter Transport for Members of the Legislative Assembly

Electorate charter transport allowances for Members of the Legislative Assembly were last adjusted in 2004 when the Tribunal provided for an increase of 8 per cent. No further increase was provided following the 2005 review.

As part of the 2006 review the Tribunal has considered the cost of charter transport and the use of this entitlement. Whilst a survey of fees charged by air charter transport operators indicates that there has been a modest increase in the cost of these services, based on actual usage, the current rates provided by the Tribunal appear to be sufficient. Over the past two years Members have not utilised the full allowance, with actual reimbursements to Members leaving some of the allowance unspent.

Having regard to the above, the Tribunal has determined that there will be no increase in the maximum amount reimbursable for charter transport for members of the Legislative Assembly. Actual amounts and conditions applying in respect of charter transport allowances are specified in the annual Determination.

Travelling Allowances for Recognised Office Holders

The Tribunal has undertaken a review of the travelling allowances paid to Recognised Office Holders. The Tribunal's Determination is based on those rates provided to NSW Public Servants and those deemed "reasonable" by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In both the NSW Public Sector and ATO guidelines, travel allowances are differentiated on the basis of destination and salary level of officer. The Tribunal has adjusted the membership of each Group to better reflect salary levels.

PART TWO

STAFFING LEVELS FOR MEMBERS

Background to Staff Entitlements

Prior to the 1998 amendments to the Act the Tribunal made recommendations to the Premier of the day on matters such as electorate office staffing. It was a matter for the Premier of the day to consider and approve recommendations made by the Tribunal. While the Premier approved the recommendations, matters such as staffing for Members was the responsibility of the Presiding Officers.

Members of the Legislative Assembly have been entitled to an office and secretary, effective from 1 July 1975, in either their electorate or in Sydney's CBD. This was approved by the Premier and to be administered by the Speaker. This followed a pilot scheme which utilised government accommodation to provide office space to a number of Members.

The 1966 *Matthews Report* had highlighted the use of Court Houses by Members on an *ad hoc* basis for meeting constituents and recommended utilising other government offices in addition to Court Houses for these purposes. The 1971 *Goodsell Report* indicated that many Members maintained an office and part-time secretary in their electorate at their own expense, compared to Members in the Commonwealth Parliament, who were provided with an office and full-time secretary in their electorate. Much of the discussion on secretarial/research assistance in these reports focused on provision within Parliament rather than in Members' electorates.

From 1 February 1985 Members were entitled to an additional staff member in their electoral office, designated as an Electorate Assistant. This was approved by the Premier and to be administered by the Speaker.

In 1991 the Premier approved Independent Members being provided with an additional electorate staff member. Members of the Legislative Council from the same date were also entitled to a Secretary/Research Assistant, with Cross Bench Members entitled to an additional staff member.

The 1998 amendments to the Act provide for the Tribunal to make determinations on staffing. Since then the Tribunal has maintained the status quo in its annual Determinations but now considers some

changes are required to meet the changing circumstances of Members in meeting the needs of the electorate.

It is noted the Member for Murray-Darling has been entitled to a second electoral office since 31 December 2000.

Submissions received

Most submissions from the Legislative Assembly have noted the increase in constituent participation in electorate matters and, therefore, a consequent increase in workload. This workload manifests itself in electorate staff working through their lunch hours and working longer hours.

Many of the submissions pointed out that when Parliament is sitting Members need to bring one electorate officer to Sydney and this creates an occupational health and safety issue for the officer remaining in the electorate office.

The submission from the Presiding Officers included the results of a survey undertaken by the Occupational Health and Safety representative of electorate office staff. The issues raised by the survey were consistent with the submissions received by the Tribunal ie, work load and safety.

In summary the submission from the Speaker made the following recommendations:

1. Provide each member of the Legislative Assembly with a third staff member;
2. Provide for an overtime budget for existing staff;
3. Provide an office budget for additional casual staff.

In addition, the Tribunal has received submissions from Members seeking a determination in relation to additional administrative assistance to be provided to the Government and Opposition Party Whips.

Current Entitlements

Electorate Office	Legislative Assembly	
	Government/Opposition	2 electorate office staff
	Independent Members	2 electorate office staff plus 1 Research Officer

Parliament House Legislative Assembly

6 stenographers available to all Members and allocate as follows:

Government	2 Stenographers
Opposition	3 Stenographers
Independents	1 Stenographer

Parliament House Legislative Council

Government/Opposition Parties	1 staff member
Cross bench Members	2 staff members

Whips

Government Whips are provided with administrative support from the allocation of the Leader of the House's Ministerial Office.

Non Government Whips (Liberal and National Party) by way of an informal arrangement are each provided with one of the stenographers.

In both cases the arrangements are informal and need to be addressed to provide certainty in entitlements for these office holders.

Electorate Offices

In respect of workload, the Tribunal has been advised that since 1975 the average number of electorate voters has nearly doubled, as has the average population per electorate. The Tribunal also notes that in 1991 the number of electorates was reduced from 109 to 99 and that since 1999 there have been 93 electorates.

The Tribunal accepts that since 1991 the reduction in the number of electorates can only mean that each of the remaining electorates became larger in terms of constituents. This, of course, has resulted in an increased workload for the Member.

The question for the Tribunal to consider is whether the level of increase in workload has been uniform across electorates and whether the amount of increase warrants a third, full time staff member.

The Tribunal considers that the increase in the population of electorates and the number of voters in those electorates must have translated into some increase in workload for the electorate offices. There are, for instance, more people to communicate with and more people who potentially require assistance from their local Member. The increases in population, etc., have not, however, necessarily translated into a uniform increase in workload for all electorate offices and this was borne out by the Tribunal's inspection of offices during May 2006. Some offices have experienced only a slight rise in workload whilst others, especially those associated with Shadow Ministers, have experienced a notable increase in workload. Workload may depend on just how active the Member is in the electorate or the overall political awareness of a particular electorate.

Another matter that became apparent on the Tribunal's inspection was that workloads will vary, not only from electorate office to electorate office but within an office over the year. In other words, electorate offices will experience peak (and low) periods of activity. This may depend, for example, on whether an issue arises in an electorate that provokes significant community interest.

Another matter that has been brought to the Tribunal's attention is the practice by some Members to bring one electorate officer into Parliament at times when Parliament is sitting. This practice is not restricted to non-metropolitan Members but also Sydney based Members and, in particular, Shadow Ministers.

As a result of this practice it was pointed out to the Tribunal that leaving one electorate officer in the electorate office on such occasions can pose occupational health and safety risks for the officer in the electorate office.

The Tribunal has been advised that Members bring an electorate officer into Parliament on sitting days to provide continuity with electorate office work and to assist the Member with his/her electorate workload on these occasions.

In respect of Shadow Ministers it was pointed out to the Tribunal that the electorate officer is used as a research assistant for the Shadow Minister for the shadow portfolio duties.

Parliament House

While electorate office staff are exclusively employed to assist Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament House, Members' staff are predominantly employed to assist members of the Legislative Council. This group of employees is located in Parliament House and are provided on the following basis:

- Each cross bench Member of the Legislative Council who was elected as a cross bench Member is entitled to two staff members;
- Each other Member of the Legislative Council ie, Labor, Liberal or National Party Member, is entitled to one staff member.

In addition, the Speaker also employs six stenographers who are required to provide general secretarial support to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The allocation of these stenographers is a matter for the Presiding Officer. The Tribunal understands that when Parliament is sitting their workload is at its peak but declines significantly when Parliament is not sitting. This arrangement is further complicated because, over time, the stenographers have gravitated to working exclusively for one Party or another and there is a reluctance by Members to allocate work to stenographers working for different Parties. This can result in uneven distribution of workloads.

To overcome this the Tribunal would recommend that the existing group of stenographers work in a pool arrangement where their services can be utilised equally by all Members and any association with a particular Party be severed. The stenographers were, after all, employed to provide stenographic support for all Members and were not to be assigned to Parties. The Tribunal also suggests that the scope of work of a person required to perform only stenographic duties may be unnecessarily limited both from the individual's point of view and that of Members. Again, whilst it is a matter for the Presiding Officer how best to utilise these officers it would seem to the Tribunal that Members would be better served by expanding the role of the stenographers.

Should training be needed to enable the stenographers to undertake a broader role then this should be provided.

Safety

As earlier noted, the Tribunal has been informed of the safety concerns for staff. In particular, in those instances when only one electorate officer is on duty in the electorate office. This may occur when the other officer is required to accompany the Member to Parliament House on sitting days, or travel, or attend meetings either with or on behalf of the Member.

This issue has been raised with the Tribunal on a number of occasions in the past. On such occasions the Tribunal has noted that the Presiding Officer, as the employer of electorate office staff, is required to comply with the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*.

The Tribunal has also been informed that whilst the Presiding Officer is the employer, the direction of electorate office staff in their day-to-day duties is left to the discretion of individual Members.

The Tribunal acknowledges that the safety concerns in respect of electorate office staff have not been ignored. Advice from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is that security reviews of electorate offices are undertaken as and when required by the Parliamentary Security Service and recommendations arising from these reviews are implemented where practicable following discussions between the Clerk, the Member and the electorate officers concerned. Measures introduced include security screens, duress buttons, safe rooms and rear exits.

The final matter that needs to be noted is that like the workload issue not all members bring electorate staff into Parliament when it is sitting. Individual circumstances dictate the needs of the Member.

Whips

The Australian Parliament House website defines the duties of the Whip as:

"...a party manager in Parliament who is responsible for organising members of his or her party to take part in debates and votes, and who assists in arranging the business of a house of Parliament."

The Parliamentary Education Office website provides some additional detail:

"...Parties in both Houses of Parliament have a whip. The whip is a Member of Parliament who acts as an administrative officer. At the beginning of each sitting day, the whips meet to discuss the business proposed for that day in the chamber. The whip also arranges who is going to speak in debates, organises party meetings and makes sure that members of their party are in the chambers when a division or quorum is called.

The term "whip" was originally an English hunting term. It referred to the person responsible for preventing the hunting dogs straying from the pack."

It is clear that the Whip performs an important function for his or her Party. There is a significantly higher administrative and managerial burden placed on this Member and in recognition of these additional duties and responsibilities Whips in both Houses receive remuneration as noted in Schedule 1 of the Act.

The Whips do not, however, receive additional support for undertaking these responsibilities and the Tribunal has been informed that this has been recognised informally by the Presiding Officers by allocating support staff to the Whips to provide the necessary administrative assistance.

The Tribunal considers that this arrangement should be formalised and will be making a determination providing that the Whip of each recognised political party of not less than 10 members to each be provided with one dedicated support staff.

Conclusion

As part of the review of staff matters, the Tribunal visited Parliament House and a number of electorate offices to inform itself on the issues affecting electorate office staff. The Tribunal has examined the material put before it and considers that, overall, there has been an increase in the workload of electorate officers to warrant additional support. The Tribunal is not satisfied, however, that the workload is such in all electorate offices as to justify the salary, on cost and the additional cost of refitting electorate offices for a third full time electorate officer at this stage.

The Tribunal proposes, therefore, to determine that additional funding be provided to each Member who is currently allocated two electorate officers (Independent members are already provided with three electorate office staff) so that they may employ casual relief staff equivalent to the (average) number of days that Parliament is sitting. The average number of days the Legislative Assembly sat since 2000 is 61 days.

The entitlement will provide a budget specific for recruitment of temporary staff. The budget is to be equivalent to the salary of an electorate officer Grade 2 for a period of 61 days per annum. This will allow those members who bring staff into Parliament to employ a person at the electorate office. The funds are to be used for no other purpose.

In respect of Shadow Ministers, the Tribunal does not consider the casual relief it has provided for in this Determination is sufficient to meet the needs of those Members. In order to undertake their electorate work and their role as a Shadow Minister it is undoubtedly the case that a third full time staff member is required. It is wholly inequitable, for instance, that Independents are entitled to three staff and Shadow Ministers are limited to two, given the latter's role and responsibilities in the Parliament. In the Tribunal's opinion, the absence of a third full time staff member for Shadow Ministers is untenable.

It would appear to be the case that the Act does not enable the Tribunal to make the necessary determination to provide Shadow Ministers with an additional staff member (or additional funding for that purpose) they not being Recognised Office Holders. Instead, the Tribunal has been restricted to making recommendations in this respect, which have been consistently rejected. The Tribunal makes a further strong recommendation that an additional staff member be provided to Shadow Ministers. If such recommendation is not acted upon on this occasion the Tribunal does not propose in future determinations to make any further recommendations, it being obviously futile.

In relation to the issue of overtime budgets for electorate staff raised by the Speaker, the Tribunal would observe that the payment of overtime is a matter better managed through the appropriate industrial instrument rather than the provision of a budget determined by the Tribunal for this purpose. If staff work overtime then it should be paid for in accordance with the relevant Award or Agreement that applies.

In respect of the Whips, the Tribunal will make a determination that each Government and non Government Whip be provided with an additional staff member.

PART THREE

SUMMARY OF 2006 DETERMINATION

Electoral Allowance	3.0 per cent increase
Sydney Allowance	3.0 per cent increase
Logistic Support Allocation	3.0 per cent increase
Electorate Mailout Account	No increase
Committee Allowance	11.0 per cent increase
Electorate Charter Allowance	No increase
Travel Allowances	Increase generally to public sector rates

Dated this 13th day of July 2006

The Honourable Justice R Boland

THE PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

PART FOUR

RESPONSE TO ACTING SECRETARY'S SUBMISSION

Pursuant to s 12A of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989*, the Tribunal is required to have regard to the financial implications of its determination for the State. Further, the Tribunal is required to invite the Secretary of the Treasury to make submissions to the Tribunal about those financial implications and to take any submission so made into account before making the determination.

Following the issuing of an invitation to the Treasury Secretary on 27 June 2006 the Acting Secretary made a submission on 10 July 2006. A copy of the submission is annexed to the determination as required by s 12A(3) of the Act.

The submission notes that the increase in total minimum expenditure of Part 1 of the Tribunal's determination would be \$224,015 or an increase of 1.3 per cent. The submission also notes that the principal basis for the increase, namely the Consumer Price Index, is forecast to increase by 2¾ per cent in 2006-07 and not 3 per cent, which was the estimate relied upon by the Tribunal for the purpose of adjusting the allowances in Part 1.

In addition to pointing out the forecast increase of 2¾ per cent in the CPI, the Acting Secretary also noted in relation to Part 1 of the determination the Committee Allowance was to increase by 11 per cent. It was submitted the increase to this Allowance should be limited to 4.12 per cent, that is an increase equivalent to the increase in Members' salaries for 2005-06 and that the most recent increase in salaries of 7 per cent should be disregarded for the purpose of adjusting the Committee Allowance.

In relation to the Tribunal's intention to enable Members of the Legislative Assembly (other than Independents) to employ an additional staff member for 61 days that Parliament sits, the submission indicated that the additional cost would be \$1.154 million per annum. In relation to the Tribunal's recommendation that Shadow Ministers be allocated an additional staff member the cost was estimated to be \$1.686 million.

The submission proposed that the Tribunal might wish to consider its determination in light of the fact that the increase in electorate office staff will worsen the Budget position in circumstances where the State is currently budgeting for a deficit of \$696 million in 2006-07. Given this it was submitted, "and the need to direct expenditures into high priority areas, it is important that all other

costs are minimised wherever practical". The submission referred to staffing arrangements in the Victorian and Commonwealth Parliaments.

The increases in entitlements under Part I of the determination could only be described as minimalist and the adjustments are consistent with the practice that has been adopted by the Tribunal in past determinations. The cost of the increases according to the Acting Secretary's submission was estimated to be \$224,015, or an increase of 1.3 per cent.

It may be noted that as a result of this determination the Chairpersons of Committees' daily rate has increased from \$145.00 per day to \$160.00 per day and the annual rate for Members of the Public Accounts Committee has increased from \$3,295 per annum to \$3,660 per annum i.e., an increase of \$365 per annum per Member.

The Chairpersons' rate has historically been adjusted according to movements in base salaries. This Tribunal has no role in respect of base salaries, which have recently increased. Any increase in the base salaries of Members of the New South Wales Parliament depend on determinations of the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal. These increases flow virtually automatically (see s 4 of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act*). Whilst the Acting Secretary has taken issue with the very modest cost increase arising from the adjustments to committee allowances because of the financial implications, it may be observed that the 7 per cent increase in base salaries is not subject to any scrutiny in respect of the financial implications. Moreover, as this Tribunal has no role in respect of base salaries it is unable, as part of its deliberations, to make an overall assessment of the financial implications of its determination because it will often not be aware of what increases in base salaries are being considered by the Commonwealth Tribunal.

The submission referred to the Tribunal's recommendation regarding additional staff for Shadow Ministers. The cost of providing extra staff is, in the Tribunal's opinion, relatively modest and its financial implications do not outweigh what has been a clear need for a number of years. In past years the Government has chosen not to implement the Tribunal's recommendation regarding additional staff for Shadow Ministers. It is a matter for the Government whether it will implement the Tribunal's recommendation although the Tribunal's view is that it should do so.

It is apparent from the Acting Secretary's submission that the principal concern regarding the cost implications of the Tribunal's determination is the Tribunal's intention to provide additional staffing for Members of the Legislative Assembly. There are a number of matters regarding the Tribunal's

determination that need to be expanded upon in light of the Acting Secretary's submission that the Tribunal should reconsider its determination in this respect.

First, the decision to grant additional staff was arrived at following a proper process of notification and investigation:

- The Tribunal foreshadowed a review of electorate and Parliament House staffing levels in its 2005 annual review.
- Letters were sent to all Members, including Ministers and other recognised office holders, in February 2006 inviting submissions on additional entitlements, including staffing levels for Members.
- Nearly all submissions on staffing levels supported an increase in electorate office staffing. Submissions were received from all the major parties, Independents as well as the Speaker.
- The Tribunal met with representatives of the major political parties to discuss their submissions and the Tribunal visited both Parliament House and a number of Electorate Offices in city and country electorates to satisfy itself there was a proper foundation for the claims regarding Electorate Office staffing levels.

Secondly, in respect of the staffing review the Tribunal, as noted in its Report, found that overall there had been an increase in the workload of Members. As noted in the Report, the workload increase was not uniform for all Members.

The Tribunal was also made aware of the practice of some Members, where they bring to Sydney one of their Electorate Office staff to work from Parliament House on parliamentary duties, while leaving the other officer alone to maintain a two-person office. There was concern voiced about the safety of one officer manning an electorate office and that officer being exposed to the pressures of working alone, including having to deal with angry or volatile constituents.

Given the extra workload and, in particular, the occupational health and safety concerns, which the Tribunal accepts as real concerns, the Tribunal made its determination for additional staffing support in the electorate office to be available if needed only while Parliament is sitting. Those Members

who do not bring an electorate officer to Parliament House would not be eligible to receive this additional staffing assistance as determined by the Tribunal. The determination in respect of staff levels is considerably less than what was sought by the major parties.

The Acting Secretary's submission has drawn attention to the budget deficit of \$696 million and the need to direct expenditures into "high priority areas". The Tribunal accepts that submission as being uncontroversial. However, the Tribunal does not understand the submission to contend that the State is experiencing such difficult economic or financial conditions that the increases in entitlements for Members of Parliament are financially unsustainable. The Tribunal notes the evidence of a senior Treasury official in the recent State Wage Case before the Full Bench of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales where the State Government supported an increase of \$20 in minimum award wages:

NSW economic activity is expected to strengthen in 2006-07, with a larger contribution from net exports. Business investment will continue to grow and will remain at record levels. The unemployment rate will be steady. Inflation will be stable. The NSW economy has expanded at a more moderate rate than the national average for several years. But the growth gap between New South Wales and the rest of Australia should narrow in 2006-07.

The cyclical extremes of 2005-06 will start to unwind in 2006-07 as the economy moves closer to longer-term trend growth rates. The dwelling sector downturn of the past two years will come nearer to an end. But prospects of a near-term turnaround in the dwelling cycle were put on hold by the interest rate rise announced on 3 May 2006. After several years of very strong expansion, business investment growth is predicted to moderate in 2006-07, although it will remain historically high in level terms and as a share of state final demand.

The Full Bench in the State Wage Case decision ([2006] NSWIRComm 204) found that the economic fundamentals of the New South Wales economy were "strong and positive". Nothing that has been put in the Acting Secretary's submission leads the Tribunal to make any amendment to its determination because of financial implications.

Finally, the Tribunal takes the opportunity to make some observations regarding s 12A of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act*. The Tribunal is required to make what, in effect, is a draft

determination, which is then to be submitted to the Treasury Secretary for him to assess the financial implications and make a submission about the affordability of what is proposed by the Tribunal. This arrangement has the potential to undermine the integrity and independence of the Tribunal, particularly where the Treasury Secretary in his submission intrudes into the merits of the reasons for the determination as he has done on this occasion as distinct from the financial implications.

The Tribunal knows of no other circumstance where a party with an interest in the outcome of a judicially constituted Tribunal's deliberations has the opportunity to see the proposed outcome before it is published, make comment on or critique the outcome without any other party having had a chance to do likewise and then have the comment or critique published together with the final determination.

The Tribunal is of the opinion a case may exist for amending s 12A of the Act.

The Tribunal has had regard to the financial implications of its determination for the State and has taken into account the submission of the Acting Secretary about those financial implications. Having done so the Tribunal considers that no case exists for amending its determination because of financial implications.

Dated this 13th day of July 2006

The Honourable Justice R Boland

THE PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

THE DETERMINATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

THE DETERMINATION

Pursuant to section 10(2) and 11(1) of the Parliamentary Remuneration Act, 1989 ("the Act"), the Tribunal makes the Determination appearing hereunder.

With effect on and from 1 July 2006, and pursuant to section 10(6) of the Act, all previous Determinations of the Tribunal are revoked. This Determination shall constitute the annual Determination and shall operate on and from 1 July 2006.

DEFINITIONS

"Member" or "Members" refers to a duly elected Member or Members of the Parliament of New South Wales (referred to hereinafter in this Determination as "the Parliament").

In this Determination the expression "additional entitlements" is to be understood in the sense used in Part 3 of the Act.

"Parliamentary duties" has the meaning attributed to it by section 3 of the Act,

"Electoral groups" are the groups of electorates specified in Schedule 1.

For the purpose of the Additional Entitlements Account for Members of the Legislative Council, "Zones" shall be those areas described in Schedule 2A.

"Approved relative" is a person who meets one of the following criteria:

- Wife or husband of the member. If a member has a spouse no other person may be nominated to use this entitlement.
- De facto spouse or partner who is living with a member in a bona fide domestic relationship. If a member has a de facto spouse or partner no other person may be nominated to use this entitlement.
- Single or widowed members may nominate a member of their immediate family (parents, siblings, children who are not minors i.e. below 16 years of age) as an approved relative.

Under special circumstances a member may apply through the Presiding Officers to the Tribunal for an exception to the criteria. This will need to be based on the ability of the member to meet their parliamentary duties and individual circumstances that apply at the time.

GUIDELINES AND GENERAL CONDITIONS REGARDING ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS FOR MEMBERS IN CONNECTION WITH PARLIAMENTARY DUTIES

1. Guidelines

Every class of "additional entitlements" described in this Determination is provided pursuant to section 10(1)(a) of the Act "for the purpose of facilitating the efficient performance of the Parliamentary duties of Members." The following guidelines shall apply to the receipt, use and operation of additional entitlements.

1. **Circumstances upon which the additional entitlements may be used for Parliamentary Duties.**
 - 1.1 **Additional entitlements are provided to facilitate the efficient performance of the following particular Parliamentary duties of Members as follows:**
 - 1.1.1 **Activities undertaken in representing the interests of constituents, but excluding activities of a direct electioneering or political campaigning nature.**
 - 1.1.2 **Performing electorate work for a Member's electorate and participation in official and community activities to which the Member is invited because of the Member's status as a Parliamentary representative.**
 - 1.1.3 **Attending and participating in sessions of Parliament.**
 - 1.1.4 **Participation in the activities of Parliamentary committees.**
 - 1.1.5 **Attending Vice-Regal, Parliamentary and State ceremonial functions.**
 - 1.1.6 **Attending State, Commonwealth and Local Government functions.**
 - 1.1.7 **Attending official functions to which a Member is invited because of the Member's status as a Parliamentary representative, eg., receptions and other community gatherings hosted by members of the diplomatic corps, educational and religious institutions, community and service organisations, business associations, sporting bodies or other special interest groups.**
 - 1.1.8 **Participation in the activities of recognised political parties, including participation in national, State and regional conferences, branch meetings, electorate council meetings, executive meetings, committee meetings, and**

meetings of the Members of the Parliamentary political party, its executive and committees.

- 1.1.9 For a Member elected to the Parliament as an independent, participation in activities that are reasonable alternatives to participation in the activities of recognised political parties.
- 1.1.10 A Member who is elected to the Parliament as a representative of a recognised political party and who subsequently resigns from that party membership and thereafter sits as an independent Member, howsoever described, shall continue to receive the same entitlements as they received as a Member of the party prior to resignation and not the additional entitlements provided to elected independents. The Member is also not entitled to the benefit of the rule in Clause 1.1.9 above.
- 1.1.11 Participation within Australia in the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as well as activities outside Australia organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provided such activities arise directly from Membership of the New South Wales Branch and officially endorsed by the Branch (exclusive of air travel).
- 1.1.12 Participation in a Parliamentary Group such as the Asia Pacific Friendship Group; provided that, such group is approved in writing by the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Such written approval shall be forwarded to the Tribunal.

2. Where any additional entitlement fixed by this Determination is to be used for the purpose of facilitating Members' participation in the activities of recognised political parties, the Tribunal sets out the following guidelines as to the use of that additional entitlement:

- 2.1 Parties registered under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act* 1912, and included in the register of parties maintained by the Electoral Commissioner, are to be treated as recognised political parties.
- 2.2 Additional entitlements should not be used to fund:
 - 2.2.1 activities such as those associated with party Membership drives;
 - 2.2.2 mail distributions for non-electorate or non-Parliamentary activities;
 - 2.2.3 costs associated with election campaigning for an individual Member;

- 2.2.4 fund raising for other party political Members (such as the purchase of raffle tickets, raffle prizes or tickets to attend functions, etc); and
- 2.2.5 costs previously borne by political parties which are not principally related to a Member's Parliamentary or electorate duties;
- 2.2.6 costs associated with pre-selection activities.

2.3 The electorate office provided for a Member of the Legislative Assembly is not to be used as an election campaign office.

3. The Tribunal sets out the following additional and general guidelines:

- 3.1 Some intermingling of a Member's Parliamentary duties and private activities is, in practical terms, not always easily avoided, but the onus is always on the Member to show that any expenditure or any claim for reimbursement relates to Parliamentary duties, or to the Parliamentary duties component of costs incurred for intermingled Parliamentary duties and private purposes.
- 3.2 In the case of electorate work, any activities within the electorate, and in respect of which a Member's involvement may reasonably be regarded as deriving from the Member's status as the Parliamentary representative for the electorate, should be treated as Parliamentary duties.
- 3.3 In the case of Parliamentary work, any activities in which a Member's involvement may reasonably be regarded as deriving from the Member's responsibilities as a Parliamentary representative should be treated as Parliamentary duties.
- 3.4 In the case of a Member's activities within the broader community outside the Member's electorate, activities that may reasonably be regarded as deriving from the Member's status as a Parliamentary representative should be treated as Parliamentary duties.

2. Conditions

The following general conditions will apply to all additional entitlements determined hereunder. These conditions are in addition to any special conditions attaching to the provision of allowances or other benefits (as specified later in this Determination):

1. All procurement by Members will be in accordance with the Parliament's purchasing policies.
2. Members must ensure that they have sufficient funds to meet the costs associated with their Parliamentary duties.
3. Each Member shall have, in addition to payments of the Electoral and Sydney Allowance, an account entitled the 'Logistic Support Allocation' which shall cover expenditure in the areas of transport (excepting for electorate to Sydney travel), communications, printing and stationery and office supplies.
4. The Logistic Support Allocation shall be established and maintained by the Clerks of the Parliament. Members should be advised by the Clerks each month as to the balance of their Logistic Support Allocation.
5. The funds in the Logistic Support Allocation shall only be used by the Member to carry out the purpose for which the allowance is established, but otherwise may, subject to these conditions, manage the funds as he/she thinks appropriate.
6. Nothing shall prevent the use of the Electoral Allowance for legitimate electorate expenses which might also fall within the categories of expenses covered by the Logistic Support Allocation.
7. All accounts and Members' claims must be submitted to the Legislature for payment within 60 days of receipt or occurrence of the expense.
8. All Members' additional entitlements in the nature of fixed allocations and Sydney allowance provided to Members shall be audited annually for compliance. In addition to any internal audit conducted by the Parliament, Members' additional entitlements in the nature of fixed allocations and the Sydney allowance provided to Members shall be the subject of an external audit conducted by the Auditor-General of NSW. The cost of any audit shall be met by the Parliament. Members should ensure they maintain appropriate records of expenditure for the purpose of any audit.

9. Expenditure is only to be incurred in connection with the Parliamentary duties of Members (and in this respect the Member should refer to the guidelines in this Determination).

10. The various allowances determined here, as well as the Logistic Support Allocation are for the sole use of the Member and are not to be transferred to other persons or organisations including Members. The Member may use his/her entitlements to meet official costs of the approved relative and/or staff employed by the Parliament when that expenditure is in connection with official Parliamentary duties.

11. Benefits accrued by a Member by way of loyalty/incentive schemes such as frequent flyers, as a consequence of the Member using his or her additional entitlements, are to be used only for Parliamentary duties and not for private purposes. Any outstanding benefits of this nature, when the Member ceases to be a Member, are to be forfeited.

ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS IN THE NATURE OF ALLOWANCES

1. Electoral Allowance

Purpose and Operation of the Provision

The allowance is based upon those factors which have historically been taken into account in assessing the quantum of the allowance (including the additional costs associated with the performance by Members of their Parliamentary duties in their electorates) and such other factors as may be determined from time to time as appropriate to be taken into account by the Tribunal under the Act.

Entitlement

The allowances shall be paid as follows:

- a. Each Member of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council shall receive an electoral allowance. The quantum of that allowance shall be fixed in accordance with the electoral grouping for the electorate of the Member.
- b. The allowance payable per annum for each electorate group shall be as follows:

Electorate Group	Electorate Allowance	Electorate Allowance
Group 1	\$36,635	\$36,635
Group 2	\$42,905	\$42,905
Group 3	\$50,565	\$50,565
Group 4	\$55,200	\$55,200
Group 5	\$58,715	\$58,715
Group 6	\$64,370	\$64,370
Group 7	\$67,585	\$75,285
Group 8	\$75,285	n/a

- c. The electoral allowance for each Member of the Legislative Council for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 shall be \$42,905 per annum.

2. Sydney Allowance

Purpose and Operation of the Provisions

The Sydney allowance is provided to Members who reside in non-metropolitan electorates to compensate for the additional costs including commercial accommodation, meals and incidental costs associated with staying in Sydney to attend sessions of Parliament, meetings of Parliamentary committees or other Parliamentary business.

For the purpose of this allowance the non-metropolitan electorates (Electorate Groups 2-8) have been divided into two categories based on distance from Sydney. Members whose principal place of residence is in either Category 1 or Category 2 electorates, as specified in Schedule 2, are eligible to receive the Sydney allowance.

The Tribunal considers the Member's principal place of residence to be that residence where the Member would normally return and reside when not attending Sydney on parliamentary duties.

To establish the principal place of residence each Member will be required to complete the Parliament's checklist and certify that the residence nominated is the principal place of residence.

Entitlement

The daily rate (including the number of overnight stays) for the Sydney allowance for Categories 1 and 2 shall be in accordance with Table 1 below. Where a Member elects for a daily rate, he/she shall be entitled to the daily rate for the number of overnight stays per annum specified in that Table, except as provided in conditions 5.

TABLE 1

Office	Principal Place of Residence	Overnight Stays p.a.	Overnight in Sydney where accommodation costs are incurred	In transit to and from Sydney where no overnight stay is involved
Minister, Speaker, President, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Assembly and Council), Leader of Third Party in Assembly with not less than 10 Members.	Category 1 or 2	180	\$206	Actual reasonable expenses for meals and incidentals up to a maximum of \$74.35 per day
Deputy Speaker, Chairman of Committees (Assembly and Council), Whip and Deputy Whip (Assembly and Council), Parliamentary Secretary, Deputy Leader of Third Party in Assembly with not less than 10 Members.	Category 1 or 2	140	\$206	As above
Chairs of Standing/Select Committees	Category 1 or 2	140	\$206	As above
Legislative Council Members	Category 2	135	\$206	As above
	Category 1	105	\$206	As above
Legislative Assembly Members	Category 2	135	\$206	As above
	Category 1	105	\$206	As above

The following conditions apply to the Sydney allowance:

1. A Member can choose to receive the Sydney allowance as either an annual fixed allowance or a daily rate. The election is to be made at the commencement of each financial year.
2. If a Member chooses to receive the annual fixed allowance the Financial Controller of the Legislature will calculate the annual entitlement by multiplying the number of overnight stays for the particular Member or Recognised Office Holder by the daily rate.
3. In order to receive the Allowance each Member must certify to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly or the Parliaments, as the case may be, their principal place of residence.
4. Where a Member chooses to receive the daily rate of allowance the Member shall receive the overnight daily rate as specified in Table 1. The Member is entitled to the number of overnight stays per annum specified in Table 1 without the need to substantiate to the Parliament expenses up to the daily rate.

5. Where a Member chooses to receive the daily rate of allowance and the Member exceeds the number of overnight stays Members will be reimbursed actual costs, up to the daily maximum upon the production of tax invoices/receipts for each such occasion.
6. Members in receipt of the Sydney Allowance when travelling to Sydney for parliamentary business or home from Sydney and where there is no overnight stay required will be entitled to reasonable actual expenses to the maximum provided in the "In transit..." Column of Table 1 above. This rate is only applied when the Member is travelling to Sydney and will be staying overnight in Sydney or travelling home from Sydney following an overnight stay.
7. When in receipt of the annual allowance Members are required to certify at the end of the financial year the number of occasions they stayed in Sydney and that on each occasion the stay was for Parliamentary business. Members who nominate to receive the annual allowance cannot claim for additional overnight stays in excess of those specified in Table 1.
8. Members will need to maintain records or other relevant evidence that clearly document the occasions they stayed in Sydney in connection with their Parliamentary duties. Members will need to sign in and out of the Parliamentary Register as proof of being in Sydney on parliamentary business when Parliament is not sitting. On those occasions where Members are in Sydney on parliamentary business but are not required to attend Parliament House eg, attending a function, then the Member must provide sufficient proof to the Clerks to substantiate each such occasion. It will be sufficient for Ministers to provide evidence from their diaries or other forms of documentary evidence acceptable to the Clerks to certify as evidence of their attendance in Sydney.
9. Members in receipt of the annual amount will be required to return to Parliament the unspent portion of the Allowance for re-credit of the Consolidated Fund.
10. Members are not to claim the Sydney Allowance if they stay in Government owned or funded accommodation including Parliament House.

3. Committee Allowances

Purpose and Operation of the Provision

Committee Allowances are paid to Chairpersons of Joint, Select and Standing Committees in recognition of the additional responsibilities of the office. Because of the statutory nature of the Public Accounts Committee and its role in Government activities, an annual rate of allowance is payable to Members of the Public Accounts Committee.

Entitlement

The allowances shall be paid as follows:

Members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly serving as Chairpersons of Joint Committees, Select Committees and Standing Committees shall be paid the sum of \$160.00 for each day upon which they attend a meeting or an official visit of inspection if that day is one upon which the Legislative Council (so far as a Member of the Council is concerned) or the Legislative Assembly (so far as a Member of the Assembly is concerned) is not sitting. This allowance is not payable to Chairpersons in receipt of a salary of office as specified in Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989.

Members of the Public Accounts Committee, other than the Chairperson, shall each receive a committee allowance of \$3,660 per annum.

ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENTS IN THE NATURE OF FIXED ALLOCATIONS

1. Electorate to Sydney Travel

Purpose and Operation of the Provisions

Members of the Legislative Assembly who reside in electorate groups 2 to 8 and Members of the Legislative Council who reside in zones 2 or 3 qualify for return air travel warrants between their electorates/zones and Sydney.

These entitlements are provided for the performance of Parliamentary duties.

All eligible Members shall receive one hundred and four (104) single economy class journeys per annum between electorate/zone and Sydney.

Where eligible, each of the below mentioned recognised office holders shall be entitled to the following additional electorate to Sydney travel entitlements per annum.

Entitlement

Office holder	Electorate to Sydney travel entitlement
Minister of the Crown	32 single journey entitlements
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly	32 single journey entitlements
President of the Legislative Council	32 single journey entitlements
Leader of the Opposition Assembly and Council	32 single journey entitlements
Leader of Party (not less than 10 Members in the Legislative Assembly)	32 single journey entitlements
Chairman of Committees Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council	32 single journey entitlements.
Deputy Speaker	32 single journey entitlements
Deputy Leader of the Opposition Assembly and Council	16 single journey entitlements
Deputy Leader of Party (not less than 10 Members in the Legislative Assembly)	16 single journey entitlements

Conditions

1. All electorate to Sydney travel and return is restricted to economy class.
2. Warrants may be used to meet the cost of using a private motor vehicle or rental vehicle in lieu of electorate to Sydney air travel. The amount to be reimbursed for this purpose is not to exceed the commercial airfare for an equivalent distance flight.
3. A minimum of one warrant is required to be surrendered for each single journey; a return trip will require the surrender of at least two warrants.
4. Warrants are not transferable between Members, or approved relatives, or Members' staff.
5. Where the Determination refers to warrants, the expression is intended to include a reference to the existing system for electorate to Sydney travel used for the Legislative Council.
6. Members may use electorate to Sydney warrants to defray part of the cost of intrastate and interstate Parliamentary travel when such travel is via Sydney.
7. Members may charter a plane in lieu of travelling on commercial flights provided that travel is for electorate and/or Parliamentary business and that sufficient warrants based on the equivalent commercial cost of each person travelling are surrendered. The cost of Member's approved relative travelling on the charter is to be met from the Member's Logistic Support Allocation. It is a condition of all air transport charters that the Member responsible for organising the charter obtain a passenger manifest from the charter operator and attach it to the invoice when it is sent for payment.
8. A Member's air transport bookings for Parliamentary duties are to be made through the booking agent nominated in the NSW government travel contract, for all types of transport covered by the contract. Should the official NSW government travel booking agent not offer a booking service required by a Member for Parliamentary duties, the Member's transport bookings for that service may be made directly with the transport provider.

9. Members will need to maintain records or other relevant evidence that clearly document the occasions they travelled to Sydney in connection with their Parliamentary duties. A copy of this documentation is to be supplied to the Parliament's administration. When travelling by commercial air flights, copies of airline boarding passes are to be supplied to the Parliament when issued for arrival and departure from Sydney.

2. Logistic Support Allocation

Purpose and Operation of the Provision

The Clerks of the Parliament will establish a Logistic Support Allocation Account for each Member. Each Member's Logistic Support Allocation Account may be applied for the following purposes:

- All interstate and intrastate transport for Parliamentary business (any mode) excepting electorate to Sydney travel unless that entitlement is exhausted
- Taxi travel
- Staff travel costs (training excluded)
- Airport parking
- Transport expenses for Members' approved relative
- Home telephone, facsimile and internet call charges for official business
- Home telephone rental costs
- Internet access fees for official business
- Broadband access fees for official business
- Mobile telephone call charges and network access fees
- Mail distribution and postal delivery services
- Post Office box rental
- Fax Post, Express Post and Lettergram services
- Postage stamps
- All stationery costs
- Courier and freight charges for delivery of stationery or equipment to electorate or home office
- Costs associated with photocopying
- Printing (both Parliament House and external providers)
- Publication services at Parliament House

- Developing and hosting a web page for individual Member
- Office equipment purchases up to \$2,500 (excluding GST)
- Any maintenance charges relating to minor equipment purchases
- Computer software
- Computer hardware and peripheral devices not exceeding \$4,999

It is intended that the above list be used as a guide as to the types of items Members can spend against their Logistic Support Allocation. The Presiding Officers may exercise their discretion in permitting expenditure for items not on the "List". There must be sufficient funds in the Member's Logistic Support Allocation, the items must not duplicate services already provided to Members by the Parliament and the expenditure must be consistent with the guidelines and general conditions in this Determination.

Entitlement

Each Member and Recognised Office Holder of the Legislative Assembly who resides in one of the following electorate groups will be entitled to an annual allocation for the Logistic Support Allocation as follows:

Electorate Group	LSA	LSA
	(1 July 2006 to 23 March 2007)	(24 March 2007 to 30 June 2007)
Group 1	\$28,775	\$28,775
Group 2	\$32,200	\$32,200
Group 3	\$34,445	\$34,445
Group 4	\$34,445	\$34,445
Group 5	\$34,445	\$34,445
Group 6	\$34,445	\$34,445
Group 7*	\$36,690	\$36,690
Group 8*	\$36,690	n/a

Each Member and Recognised Office Holder of the Legislative Council who resides in one of the following zones will be entitled to an annual allocation for the Logistic Support Allocation as follows:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Zone 1 Electorates	\$19,515
Zone 2 Electorates	\$20,100
Zone 3 Electorates	\$29,775

Recognised Office Holders are entitled to further additional entitlements as specified in Schedule 3.

General Conditions

The following general conditions shall apply to the Logistic Support Allocation Account:

1. Subject to these conditions, each Member shall determine at his/her own discretion the use of the funds within this Account for the purpose and operations specified above.
2. It is the primary responsibility of Members to ensure that they manage their Logistic Support Allocation Account to ensure that they do not over-expend their budget. No supplementation of this Allocation will be allowed by the Tribunal. However, the Logistic Support Allocation is not intended to restrict the proper use of the electoral allowance, which may be used to meet any expense referred to in the 'purpose and operations' section of this clause.
3. Members may not use their Logistic Support Allocation to procure goods or services to be used for direct electioneering purposes or political campaigning.
4. Any unused funds remaining in the Member's account at the end of the financial year within the four year Parliamentary term shall be carried over to the following financial year. At the end of each 4 year Parliamentary term or the earlier dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, any balance remaining in the Member's account is to be relinquished to the Consolidated Fund.
5. Accounts will be paid either directly by the Parliament and debited to a Member's account or paid in the first instance by the Member who would then seek reimbursement from the Parliament.

6. Members must personally authorise expenditure from their Logistic Support Allocation. Whilst, subject to the further conditions, Members may determine at their discretion the use of the funds available for any purpose and operation specified in this clause, the following table outlines the basis upon which the Tribunal has established the quantum of the account for future assessment. The table shall be used for the future assessment of the Allocation and for particular purposes such as the calculation of additional entitlements for Recognised Office Holders.

Electorate Group or Zone	Transport	Communication –electronic	Communication –non- electronic	Printing and Stationery and Office Supplies	Total Logistic Support Allowance
Legislative Assembly					
Group 1	\$4,490	\$3,925	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$28,775
Group 2	\$6,740	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$32,200
Group 3	\$8,985	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$34,445
Group 4	\$8,985	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$34,445
Group 5	\$8,985	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$34,445
Group 6	\$8,985	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$34,445
Group 7*	\$11,230	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$36,690
Group 8*	\$11,230	\$5,100	\$13,220	\$7,140	\$36,690
* With effect from 24 March 2007 Group 8 will be abolished.					
Legislative Council					
Zone 1 Electorates	\$4,490	\$4,515	\$3,370	\$7,140	\$19,515
Zone 2 Electorates	\$4,490	\$5,100	\$3,370	\$7,140	\$20,100
Zone 3 Electorates	\$11,230	\$8,035	\$3,370	\$7,140	\$29,775

Particular Conditions.

Transport (Other than Electorate or Electorate to Sydney transport)

1. A Member may use any form of transport within Australia subject to the requirement that the transport was used for Parliamentary or electorate duties and that the cost was reasonable.
2. A Member may travel to any place in Australia, subject to the requirement that all such travel must be for Parliamentary duties and that there must be, at the time of the making of the

relevant reservation, sufficient funds in that Member's Account to pay for the expenses involved.

3. All transport costs associated with approved relative or Members' staff travel (excluding travel costs associated with staff training) are to be provided from the Logistic Support Allocation Account. Staff training costs are to be met by the Legislature.
4. Members and their approved relatives, when travelling in connection with their Parliamentary duties, may claim reasonable actual accommodation and meal expenses from the Members' Logistic Support Allocation. The reimbursement of these expenses may not exceed the travel allowance rates as determined for Group 2 in Table 2 hereunder. Staff employed by the Parliament who travel with their Member or separately for Parliamentary business purposes may be paid travel allowances in accordance with appropriate Public Service Award conditions.
5. A Member and his or her approved relative may travel together or separately in connection with attendance at a function in the course of Parliamentary duties.
6. A Member, his or her approved relative and staff employed by the Parliament may use taxis or hire cars for Parliamentary duties.
7. A Member's air transport bookings for Parliamentary duties are to be made through the booking agent nominated in the NSW government travel contract, for all types of transport covered by the contract. Should the official NSW government travel booking agent not offer a booking service required by a Member for Parliamentary duties, the Member's transport bookings for that service may be made directly with the transport provider.
8. Members should ensure that records are maintained that clearly document the occasions that staff employed by the Parliament stayed in Sydney or other locations when travelling in connection with the Member's Parliamentary duties. Such documentation may include airline boarding passes for arrival and departure or other documentary evidence of having travelled and stayed in accommodation.
9. A Member may use charter transport in connection with Parliamentary duties, but only within the limits of the Member's individual Logistic Support Allocation. No passenger, except the

Member's approved relative and staff employed by the Parliament accompanying the Member on Parliamentary duties, may be carried at the cost of the Member's Logistic Support Allocation entitlement. Where more than one Member is travelling on the air charter, the total air charter costs should be shared equally between the Members travelling.

10. It is a condition of all air transport charters that the Member responsible for organising the charter obtain a passenger manifest from the charter operator and attach it to the invoice when it is submitted for payment to the Legislature.
11. Members together with their approved relative will need to maintain records or other relevant evidence that clearly document the occasions they travelled in connection with their Parliamentary duties. A copy of this documentation is to be supplied to the Parliament's administration. When travelling by commercial air flights, copies of boarding passes are also to be supplied.

Communication – electronic

1. The Tribunal accepts that there will be some private usage in connection with mobile telephones supplied by the Parliament and electronic communication equipment installed at public expense in a Member's principal place of residence. To ensure the Legislature does not pay Fringe Benefits Tax for the private usage of electronic equipment, the Financial Controller will undertake a survey over an appropriate period of time to ascertain public/private percentage use of Members' home telecommunication services. Once established, Members will be reimbursed the Parliamentary business cost of each home telecommunication call or usage account and an adjustment shall be made to previous accounts reimbursed from the effective date of this Determination on or from the date of election, whichever is the later.
2. Members may utilise any telecommunication services or network features with the exception of overseas calls, charged information/service calls, reverse charge calls, home-link calls and telecard calls.
3. The following Recognised Office Holders shall be entitled to 100 per cent reimbursement for electronic-communication costs including overseas calls for Parliamentary business.

- **Ministers**
 - **Presiding Officers**
 - **Leader of the Opposition (Assembly and Council)**
 - **Leader of a Party not less than 10 Members in the Legislative Assembly**
 - **Chairman of Committees (Assembly and Council)**
 - **Deputy Speaker**
 - **Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Assembly and Council)**
 - **Deputy Leader of a Party with not less than 10 Members in the Legislative Assembly**
 - **Parliamentary Secretaries (Assembly and Council)**
 - **Government and Opposition Whips (Assembly and Council)**
 - **Whip of a third party with not less than 10 Members (Legislative Assembly)**
 - **Deputy Whips (Legislative Assembly).**
4. **A fax line installed at Legislative Council Members' home offices continue to be reimbursed at the rate of 100 per cent.**
 5. **Call charges pertaining to a data line installed at Legislative Council Members' home offices be reimbursed at the rate of 100 per cent where Members do not have a broadband service connected, subject to the line being used for Parliamentary duties.**
 6. **Members will be required to meet the cost of all overseas calls, other charged information/service calls, reverse charge calls and home-link and Telecard calls.**
 7. **Accounts will be paid either directly by the Parliament and debited to a Member's account or paid in the first instance by the Member who would then seek reimbursement from the Parliament.**

Communication - non-electronic

Members are permitted to purchase postage stamps or other mail distribution and delivery services and make arrangements for payment direct by the Parliament or obtain reimbursement by providing substantiation in accordance with the requirements of the Parliament's administration.

Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies

1. Members may only use the printing, stationery and office supplies entitlement for Parliamentary duties.
2. The entitlement may be used to purchase printing, stationery and office supplies from the Parliament or other providers and in accordance with Parliamentary procurement policies and practices.
3. A Member may not use their printing, stationery and office supplies allowances to procure goods or services to be used for direct electioneering purposes or political campaigning.
4. The purchase of computer software from the Logistic Support Allocation is subject to the following conditions:
 - The software will not be supported by the Parliament's I.T. Section.
 - The software is required to be removed from the computers supplied by the Parliament if there is any conflict with the Parliament's computer network.
 - The software is not to be used for political campaigning or electioneering purposes.

3. Electorate Mailout Account

Each Member of the Legislative Assembly will be provided with an amount as specified in the attached Schedule for the following specific purposes:

- A) For preparing and distributing letters/newsletters to each constituent in his/her electorate. Members are provided with an annual amount based on the cost of issuing two newsletters/letters per enrolled voter per annum. Members may issue additional newsletters/letters subject to available funds in their Electorate Mail-Out Account and the Legislative Assembly's administrative guidelines.

- B) Upon the gazettal of new electoral districts following an electoral redistribution (undertaken pursuant to s 27(1)(c) of the Constitution Act 1902), Members may use their Electorate Mailout Account to communicate with prospective constituents from neighbouring electorates who at the time of the next election following the gazettal of the new electoral districts will become constituents of the Member's electorate.

Conditions

- 1. The Electorate Mailout Account shall be established and maintained by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Members should be advised by the Clerk each month as to the balance of their Account.

- 2. Members are to fund the cost of preparing, printing and distributing letters/Newsletters to each constituent in his/her electorate and for no other purpose.

- 3. All procurement by Members will be in accordance with the Parliament's purchasing policies.

- 4. No supplementation to the allocation will be considered. Any additional costs are to be met from the Member's Logistic Support Allocation.

- 5. Unused funds are to be returned to the Consolidated Fund at the end of each financial year.

- 6. All accounts must be submitted to the Legislature for payment within 60 days of receipt.

- 7. Printing and distribution of newsletters/letters from the Electorate Mail-Out Account is to be in accordance with the Parliament's administrative guidelines.

- 8. Communication with prospective constituents following gazettal of electoral districts will be limited only to those electors who will transfer from adjoining electorates to the new

electorate. Each Member is to receive the details of the prospective constituents from the State Electoral Office

- 9. Communications with constituents/prospective constituents will be limited to matters affecting the Member's electorate.**

4. Electorate Charter Transport for Members of the Legislative Assembly

Purpose and operation of the provision

Members of the largest electorates (Electoral Groups 5-8) shall be provided with an allowance from which is met charter transport costs incurred within their electorates. For the purposes of this allowance "charter transport" means charter transport used with and for the service of the Member's electorate and includes charter aircraft, drive yourself vehicles and any other mode of charter transport that may be deemed appropriate in the circumstances by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Entitlement

For the period 1 July 2006 to 23 March 2007 (inclusive) Members of the Legislative Assembly in the following Electorate Groups shall be entitled to Charter Transport Allowance up to the maximum amount shown below:

<u>Electorates</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Group 5	\$6,980
Group 6	\$11,400
Group 7	\$13,980
Group 8	\$21,080

For the period 24 March 2007 to 30 June 2007 (inclusive) Members of the Legislative Assembly in the following Electorate Groups shall be entitled to Charter Transport Allowance up to the maximum amount shown below:

<u>Electorates</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Group 5	\$6,980
Group 6	\$11,400
Group 7	\$21,080

Conditions

The following conditions shall apply in respect of Charter Transport Allowance:

1. This Allowance shall only be used in connection with Parliamentary duties within the Member's electorate and shall not be used during election campaigns or for other electioneering or party political activities.
2. Only the cost of the Member's approved relative or Member of staff accompanying the Member may be met from this Allowance.
3. It is a condition of all air transport charters that the Member responsible for organising the charter obtain a passenger manifest from the charter operator and attach it to the invoice when it is submitted for payment to the Legislature.
4. Members are to meet the cost of the air charter and seek reimbursement from the Financial Controller with appropriate certification as to the purpose of the charter.
5. The charter transport shall only be used within and for the service of the Member's electorate. Where the closest source of available charter transport to the Member's electorate, electorate office or principal place of residence is outside the boundaries of the electorate, the reasonable additional expenses consequently incurred may be included in the reimbursement available under this Determination.
6. Members may use their Charter Transport Allowance to fly to an airfield located outside their electorate in circumstances where there is no suitable airfield located in the part of the electorate being visited by the Member. In these circumstances the Member would fly to the relevant airfield outside his/her electorate and then drive back to the electorate to conduct electorate business.
7. Members may also use the Charter Transport Allowance to attend regional or other meetings within an adjoining electorate relating to matters affecting their electorate. Members should first seek approval to use this Allowance in such a manner from the Presiding Officers. Members should be able to satisfy the Presiding Officers that the purpose of the journey relates to electorate business.

8. These additional entitlements shall be audited annually for compliance. In addition to any internal audit conducted by the Parliament, Members' additional entitlements shall be the subject of an external audit conducted by the Auditor-General of NSW. The cost of any auditing shall be met by the Parliament. Members should ensure they maintain appropriate records of expenditure.

2. Travelling Allowances for Recognised Office Holders

Table 2 – Indicative Upper Limits for Travel Expenditure

Office Holders	Capital Cities		Other Areas	Where no overnight stay is required
	Melbourne	Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Perth		
Group 1	\$401.75	\$331.75	\$282.75	Actual reasonable meal expenses
Group 2	\$282.75	\$263.00	\$185.50	Actual reasonable meal expenses

Recognised Office Holders are classified into one of the following two groups.

Group 1

Premier,

Deputy Premier,

Senior and Other Ministers,

President of the Legislative Council and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,

Chairman of Committees (Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council),

Chairman of Select, Joint Standing, Standing and Public Accounts Committees,

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council,

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly,

Deputy Speaker in the Legislative Assembly.

Group 2

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council,

Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council (other than the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Opposition) of a recognised political party not fewer than 9 members of which are members of the Legislative Council and of which no member is a Minister,

Leader and Deputy Leader of a Recognised Political Party of which not less than ten Members are Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Government and Opposition Whips,

Deputy Government and Deputy Opposition Whips,

Parliamentary Secretary,

Whip in the Legislative Assembly of a recognised political party, not fewer than 10 members of whom are members of the Legislative Assembly,

**Deputy Whip in the Legislative Assembly of a recognised political party, not fewer than 40 members of which are members of the Legislative Assembly,
Members of Select, Joint Standing, Standing and Public Accounts Committees.**

The following conditions shall apply in respect of this allowance:

- 1. Recognised Office Holders are eligible to claim reasonable actual travelling expenses for overnight absences from Sydney or their electorate/principal home residence. Where no overnight absence is involved Recognised Office Holders may claim reasonable actual meal expenses. Indicative upper limits for travel expenditure are outlined in Table 2.**
- 2. The payment of actual travelling expenses will be paid subject to the production of tax invoices/receipts relating to accommodation, meal and other incidental expenses by the Recognised Office Holder concerned.**
- 3. A Recognised Office Holder whose approved relative accompanies him or her to a State or other official function and who consequently incurs expenses in respect of meals and accommodation exceeding the allowance to which he or she is entitled, shall be entitled to be reimbursed the additional expenses associated with the approved relative.**
- 4. Those Recognised Office Holders for whom non-Parliamentary funded budgets are provided are to meet travel allowance costs from those budgets and not from the Parliament.**

6. Equipment, Services and Facilities

Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council shall be provided by the Parliament with the equipment, services and facilities necessary to perform their Parliamentary duties as follows:

1. All Members shall receive at Parliament House, Sydney, a fitted out, equipped and maintained office, and secretarial services.
2. Each Member of the Legislative Assembly shall receive a fitted out, equipped and maintained Electorate Office to an appropriate standard. The Member for Murray-Darling is to be provided with an additional electorate office.
3. Each Member shall be supplied equipment and ancillary services in the Member's private residence (or if the Member has more than one private residence then in the Member's principal private residence) including a telephone and a facsimile machine, for the performance by the Member of Parliamentary duties.
4. Each Member shall receive portable equipment to supplement the provision of equipment as referred to in clauses 1, 2 and 3 above, except where such equipment is already provided by the Executive Government. This portable equipment shall include, but is not limited to, a mobile telephone and a notebook computer.
5. Each Member of the Legislative Council shall have a separate facsimile line installed in their home. A separate data line shall also be installed to provide access to the Parliament's secure computer network unless Members elect to connect to a broadband service.
6. The Presiding Officers are to provide administrative support to each Member in accordance with the following:
 - i. Subject to (ii), each Member of the Legislative Assembly shall have two staff Members employed at each electoral office.
 - ii. Each Member of the Legislative Assembly elected as an Independent shall have an additional staff Member employed at his/her electoral office.

- iii. Each Member of the Legislative Assembly, not elected as an Independent, shall be provided with a budget specific for the recruitment of temporary staff. The budget is to provide for additional staffing in the electorate office when the Member brings one of his or her electorate staff to Parliament House on sitting days only. The budget is to be the equivalent of the salary of an electorate officer grade 2 for a period of 61 days per annum. Funds from this budget are not to be used for any other purpose.
- iv. Each Member of the Legislative Council, who is not a Minister, shall be entitled to one staff Member. When the staff Member is on annual recreation leave or other extended period of leave, a relief staff member may be employed for the period of absence.
- v. Each Member of the Legislative Council, who is not a Minister, and who is elected as a cross bench Member shall be entitled to two staff members.
- vi. Ministers shall receive a reasonable allocation of staff members.
- vii. The Government and Opposition Whips, and the Whip of each recognised political party of not less than 10 members to each be provided with one member of staff.
- viii. This provision specifies the minimum staffing required in electorate offices. Nothing in this Determination removes from the employer of staff the obligations arising under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000.

Dated this 13th day of July 2006

The Honourable Justice R Boland

THE PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

SCHEDULES 1, 2, 2A, 3 AND 4 WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 1 JULY 2006 UNTIL 23 MARCH 2007 (inclusive).

SCHEDULES 1A, 2AA, 2AAA, 3 AND 4A WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 24 MARCH 2007 UNTIL 30 JUNE 2007 (inclusive).

ELECTORAL GROUPS

SCHEDULE 1

Group 1 Electorates		
1. Auburn	17. Granville	33. North Shore
2. Bankstown	18. Heffron	34. Parramatta
3. Baulkham Hills	19. Hornsby	35. Penrith
4. Blacktown	20. Kogarah	36. Pittwater
5. Bligh	21. Ku-ring- gai	37. Port Jackson
6. Cabramatta	22. Lakemba	38. Riverstone
7. Campbelltown	23. Lane Cove	39. Rockdale
8. Canterbury	24. Liverpool	40. Ryde
9. Coogee	25. Macquarie Fields	41. Smithfield
10. Cronulla	26. Manly	42. Strathfield
11. Davidson	27. Maroubra	43. The Hills
12. Drummoyne	28. Marrickville	44. Vacluse
13. East Hills	29. Menai	45. Wakehurst
14. Epping	30. Miranda	46. Wentworthville
15. Fairfield	31. Mount Druitt	47. Willoughby
16. Georges River	32. Mulgoa	
Group 2 Electorates		
1. Blue Mountains	7. Illawarra	13. Peats
2. Camden	8. Keira	14. Swansea
3. Charlestown	9. Kiama	15. The Entrance
4. Gosford	10. Lake Macquarie	16. Wallsend
5. Hawkesbury	11. Londonderry	17. Wollongong
6. Heathcote	12. Newcastle	18. Wyong

SCHEDULE 1

Group 3 Electorates		
1. Ballina	5. Myall Lakes	8. South Coast
2. Cessnock	6. Port Macquarie	9. Southern Highlands
3. Coffs Harbour	7. Port Stephens	10. Tweed
4. Maitland		
Group 4 Electorates		
1. Albury	4. Dubbo	7. Oxley
2. Bathurst	5. Lismore	8. Tamworth
3. Bega	6. Orange	9. Wagga Wagga
Group 5 Electorates		
1. Burrinjuck		
2. Clarence		
3. Monaro		
4. Northern Tablelands		
Group 6 Electorates		
1. Lachlan		
2. Murrumbidgee		
3. Upper Hunter		
Group 7 Electorates		
Barwon		
Group 8 Electorates		
Murray-Darling		

SYDNEY ALLOWANCE GROUPINGS**SCHEDULE 2**

Category 1		
1. Blue Mountains	7. Heathcote	13. Newcastle
2. Camden	8. Illawarra	14. Peats
3. Campbelltown	9. Keira	15. Swansea
4. Charlestown	10. Kiama	16. The Entrance
5. Gosford	11. Lake Macquarie	17. Wallsend
6. Hawkesbury	12. Londonderry	18. Wollongong
		19. Wyong

Category 2		
1. Albury	11. Lachlan	20. Oxley
2. Ballina	12. Lismore	21. Port Macquarie
3. Barwon	13. Maitland	22. Port Stephens
4. Bathurst	14. Monaro	23. South Coast
5. Burrinjuck	15. Murray-Darling	24. Southern
6. Bega	16. Murrumbidgee	Highlands
7. Cessnock	17. Myall Lakes	25. Tamworth
8. Clarence	18. Northern	26. Tweed
9. Coffs Harbour	Tablelands	27. Upper Hunter
10. Dubbo	19. Orange	28. Wagga Wagga

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ZONES**SCHEDULE 2A**

Zone 1 Electorates		
1. Auburn	17. Granville	33. North Shore
2. Bankstown	18. Heffron	34. Parramatta
3. Baulkham Hills	19. Hornsby	35. Penrith
4. Blacktown	20. Kogarah	36. Pittwater
5. Bligh	21. Ku-ring- gai	37. Port Jackson
6. Cabramatta	22. Lakemba	38. Riverstone
7. Campbelltown	23. Lane Cove	39. Rockdale
8. Canterbury	24. Liverpool	40. Ryde
9. Coogee	25. Macquarie Fields	41. Smithfield
10. Cronulla	26. Manly	42. Strathfield
11. Davidson	27. Maroubra	43. The Hills
12. Drummoyne	28. Marrickville	44. Vacluse
13. East Hills	29. Menai	45. Wakehurst
14. Epping	30. Miranda	46. Wentworthville
15. Fairfield	31. Mount Druitt	47. Willoughby
16. Georges River	32. Mulgoa	
Zone 2 Electorates		
1. Blue Mountains	7. Illawarra	13. Peats
2. Camden	8. Keira	14. Swansea
3. Charlestown	9. Kiama	15. The Entrance
4. Gosford	10. Lake Macquarie	16. Wallsend
5. Hawkesbury	11. Londonderry	17. Wollongong
6. Heathcote	12. Newcastle	18. Wyong

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ZONES**SCHEDULE 2A**

Zone 3 Electorates		
1. Albury	11. Lachlan	21. Port Macquarie
2. Ballina	12. Lismore	22. Port Stephens
3. Barwon	13. Maitland	23. South Coast
4. Bathurst	14. Monaro	24. Southern Highlands
5. Bega	15. Murrumbidgee	25. Tamworth
6. Berrinjuck	16. Murray-Darling	26. Tweed
7. Cessnock	17. Myall Lakes	27. Upper Hunter
8. Clarence	18. Northern Tablelands	28. Wagga Wagga
9. Coffs Harbour	19. Orange	
10. Dubbo	20. Oxley	

**RECOGNISED OFFICE HOLDER AND
OTHER MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS**

SCHEDULE 3

Recognised Office Holder	Transport	Communication (electronic)	Communication (non- electronic)	Printing & Stationery
Presiding Officer	30%		55%(A) 175%(C)	40%
Minister				40%
Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committees				40%
Leader of the Opposition	20%(A)		140%(A) 175%(C)	40%
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	10%		15%(C)	40%
Whips			15%(C)	40%
Party Leader (not less than 10 Members)	15%			40%
Deputy Party Leader (not less than 10 Members LA or 9 Members LC)	10%			40%
Leader of the National Party (in Opposition with not less than 10 Members in LA)	15%		15%	40%
Other Recognised Office Holders				40%
Independent Members				20%

Recognised Office Holders and Members referred to in schedule 3 may only receive additional entitlements for one office; that office being the office which attracts the greater level of entitlement.

Where entitlements formerly provided for the recognised office holder's approved relative these have been included in the allocation.

Where an entitlement is followed by (A) or (C) it applied only to the office holder in either the Assembly or the Council.

ELECTORATE MAILOUT ACCOUNT

SCHEDULE 4

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS (as of 8 May 2006 as provided by the State Electoral Office)	ANNUAL ENTITLEMENT
1. ALBURY	42,982	\$55,877
2. AUBURN	46,295	\$60,184
3. BALLINA	45,810	\$59,553
4. BANKSTOWN	44,852	\$58,308
5. BARWON	42,304	\$54,995
6. BATHURST	44,370	\$57,681
7. BAULKHAM HILLS	45,617	\$59,302
8. BEGA	48,218	\$62,683
9. BLACKTOWN	46,884	\$60,949
10. BLIGH	48,306	\$62,798
11. BLUE MOUNTAINS	46,263	\$60,142
12. BURRINJUCK	44,268	\$57,548
13. CABRAMATTA	42,839	\$55,691
14. CAMDEN	54,737	\$71,158
15. CAMPBELLTOWN	43,496	\$56,545
16. CANTERBURY	44,472	\$57,814
17. CESSNOCK	44,689	\$58,096
18. CHARLESTOWN	44,414	\$57,738
19. CLARENCE	43,867	\$57,027
20. COFFS HARBOUR	45,714	\$59,428
21. COOGEE	42,764	\$55,593
22. CRONULLA	44,826	\$58,274
23. DAVIDSON	45,249	\$58,824
24. DRUMMOYNE	48,737	\$63,358
25. DUBBO	43,707	\$56,819
26. EAST HILLS	44,563	\$57,932
27. EPPING	45,088	\$58,614
28. FAIRFIELD	44,137	\$57,378
29. GEORGES RIVER	46,069	\$59,890
30. GOSFORD	48,924	\$63,601
31. GRANVILLE	43,029	\$55,938
32. HAWKESBURY	49,273	\$64,055
33. HEATHCOTE	45,304	\$58,895
34. HEFFRON	43,910	\$57,083
35. HORNSBY	46,592	\$60,570
36. ILLAWARRA	46,160	\$60,008
37. KEIRA	43,775	\$56,908
38. KIAMA	48,601	\$63,181
39. KOGARAH	44,895	\$58,364
40. KU-RING-GAI	44,979	\$58,473
41. LACHLAN	44,394	\$57,712
42. LAKE MACQUARIE	47,014	\$61,118
43. LAKEMBA	42,897	\$55,766
44. LANE COVE	44,542	\$57,905
45. LISMORE	42,633	\$55,423
46. LIVERPOOL	47,675	\$61,978
47. LONDONDERRY	44,430	\$57,759
48. MACQUARIE FIELDS	54,261	\$70,539
49. MAITLAND	49,920	\$64,896
50. MANLY	43,876	\$57,039

ELECTORATE MAILOUT ACCOUNT

SCHEDULE 4

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS (as of 8 May 2006 as provided by the State Electoral Office)	ANNUAL ENTITLEMENT
51. MAROUBRA	44,067	\$57,287
52. MARRICKVILLE	45,552	\$59,218
53. MENAI	48,441	\$62,973
54. MIRANDA	43,387	\$36,403
55. MONARO	46,985	\$61,081
56. MOUNT DRUITT	45,408	\$59,030
57. MULGOA	48,608	\$63,190
58. MURRAY-DARLING	41,187	\$53,543
59. MURRUMBIDGEE	44,065	\$57,285
60. MYALL LAKES	47,352	\$61,558
61. NEWCASTLE	45,190	\$58,747
62. NORTH SHORE	46,160	\$60,008
63. NORTHERN TABLELANDS	42,886	\$55,752
64. ORANGE	44,331	\$57,630
65. OXLEY	44,491	\$57,838
66. PARRAMATTA	45,137	\$58,678
67. PEATS	45,459	\$59,097
68. PENRITH	44,608	\$57,990
69. PITTWATER	45,648	\$59,342
70. PORT JACKSON	52,713	\$68,527
71. PORT MACQUARIE	47,326	\$61,524
72. PORT STEPHENS	47,471	\$61,712
73. RIVERSTONE	53,120	\$69,056
74. ROCKDALE	43,982	\$57,177
75. RYDE	45,520	\$59,176
76. SMITHFIELD	45,858	\$59,615
77. SOUTH COAST	49,013	\$63,717
78. SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	47,345	\$61,549
79. STRATHFIELD	46,569	\$60,540
80. SWANSEA	47,355	\$61,562
81. TAMWORTH	44,735	\$58,156
82. THE ENTRANCE	46,253	\$60,129
83. THE HILLS	56,119	\$72,955
84. TWEED	49,881	\$64,845
85. UPPER HUNTER	42,173	\$54,825
86. VAUCLUSE	43,390	\$56,407
87. WAGGA WAGGA	44,225	\$57,493
88. WAKEHURST	44,718	\$58,133
89. WALLSEND	48,083	\$62,508
90. WENTWORTHVILLE	44,051	\$57,266
91. WILLOUGHBY	46,996	\$61,095
92. WOLLONGONG	43,338	\$56,339
93. WYONG	50,287	\$65,373

THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 24 MARCH 2007

ELECTORAL GROUPS

SCHEDULE 1A

Group 1 Electorates		
1. Auburn	19. Heffron	37. Parramatta
2. Balmain	20. Hornsby	38. Penrith
3. Bankstown	21. Kogarah	39. Pittwater
4. Baulkham Hills	22. Ku-ring-gai	40. Riverstone
5. Blacktown	23. Lakemba	41. Rockdale
6. Cabramatta	24. Lane Cove	42. Ryde
7. Camden	25. Liverpool	43. Smithfield
8. Campbelltown	26. Londonderry	44. Strathfield
9. Canterbury	27. Macquarie Fields	45. Sydney
10. Castle Hill	28. Manly	46. Toongabbie
11. Coogee	29. Maroubra	47. Vauchuse
12. Cronulla	30. Marrickville	48. Wakehurst
13. Davidson	31. Menai	49. Willoughby
14. Drummoyne	32. Miranda	
15. East Hills	33. Mount Druitt	
16. Epping	34. Mulgoa	
17. Fairfield	35. North Shore	
18. Granville	36. Oatley	
Group 2 Electorates		
1. Blue Mountains	8. Lake Macquarie	14. Wallsend
2. Charlestown	9. Newcastle	15. Wollondilly
3. Gosford	10. Shellharbour	16. Wollongong
4. Hawkesbury	11. Swansea	17. Wyong
5. Heathcote	12. Terrigal	
6. Keira	13. The Entrance	
7. Kiama		

SCHEDULE 1A

Group 3 Electorates		
1. Ballina	5. Maitland	9. South Coast
2. Cessnock	6. Myall Lakes	10. Tweed
3. Coffs Harbour	7. Port Macquarie	
4. Goulburn	8. Port Stephens	
Group 4 Electorates		
1. Albury	4. Dubbo	7. Oxley
2. Bathurst	5. Lismore	8. Tamworth
3. Bega	6. Orange	9. Wagga Wagga
Group 5 Electorates		
1. Burrinjuck		
2. Clarence		
3. Monaro		
4. Northern Tablelands		
Group 6 Electorates		
1. Murrumbidgee		
2. Upper Hunter		
Group 7 Electorates		
1. Barwon		
2. Murray Darling		

SYDNEY ALLOWANCE GROUPINGS**SCHEDULE 2AA**

Category 1		
1. Blue Mountains	9. Newcastle	16. Wollongong
2. Charlestown	10. Shellharbour	17. Wyong
3. Gosford	11. Swansea	
4. Hawkesbury	12. Terrigal	
5. Heathcote	13. The Entrance	
6. Keira	14. Wallsend	
7. Kiama	15. Wollondilly	
8. Lake Macquarie		

Category 2		
1. Albury	12. Lismore	21. Port Macquarie
2. Ballina	13. Maitland	22. Port Stephens
3. Barwon	14. Monaro	23. South Coast
4. Bathurst	15. Murray-Darling	24. Tamworth
5. Burrinjuck	16. Murrumbidgee	25. Tweed
6. Bega	17. Myall Lakes	26. Upper Hunter
7. Cessnock	18. Northern Tablelands	27. Wagga Wagga
8. Clarence	19. Orange	
9. Coffs Harbour	20. Oxley	
10. Dubbo		
11. Goulburn		

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ZONES**SCHEDULE 2AAA**

Zone 1 Electorates		
1. Auburn	19. Heffron	37. Parramatta
2. Balmain	20. Hornsby	38. Penrith
3. Bankstown	21. Kogarah	39. Pittwater
4. Baulkham Hills	22. Ku-ring-gai	40. Riverstone
5. Blacktown	23. Lakemba	41. Rockdale
6. Cabramatta	24. Lane Cove	42. Ryde
7. Camden	25. Liverpool	43. Smithfield
8. Campbelltown	26. Londonderry	44. Strathfield
9. Canterbury	27. Macquarie Fields	45. Sydney
10. Castle Hill	28. Manly	46. Toongabbie
11. Coogee	29. Maroubra	47. Vacluse
12. Cronulla	30. Marrickville	48. Wakehurst
13. Davidson	31. Menai	49. Willoughby
14. Drummoyne	32. Miranda	
15. East Hills	33. Mount Druitt	
16. Epping	34. Mulgoa	
17. Fairfield	35. North Shore	
18. Granville	36. Oatley	
Zone 2 Electorates		
1. Blue Mountains	8. Lake Macquarie	14. Wallsend
2. Charlestown	9. Newcastle	15. Wollondilly
3. Gosford	10. Shellharbour	16. Wollongong
4. Hawkesbury	11. Swansea	17. Wyong
5. Heathcote	12. Terrigal	
6. Keira	13. The Entrance	
7. Kiama		

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ZONES**SCHEDULE 2AAA**

Zone 3 Electorates		
1. Albury	11. Goulburn	21. Port Macquarie
2. Ballina	12. Lismore	22. Port Stephens
3. Barwon	13. Maitland	23. South Coast
4. Bathurst	14. Monaro	24. Tamworth
5. Bega	15. Murrumbidgee	25. Tweed
6. Burrinjuck	16. Murray-Darling	26. Upper Hunter
7. Cessnock	17. Myall Lakes	27. Wagga Wagga
8. Clarence	18. Northern Tablelands	
9. Coffs Harbour	19. Orange	
10. Dubbo	20. Oxley	

SCHEDULE 4A

ELECTORATE MAILOUT ACCOUNT

Effective on and from Declaration of the Polls

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS *	ANNUAL ENTITLEMENT
1. ALBURY	48,988	\$63,684
2. AUBURN	47,765	\$62,095
3. BALLINA	47,246	\$61,420
4. BALMAIN (Port Jackson)	49,240	\$64,012
5. BANKSTOWN	47,409	\$61,632
6. BARWON	48,049	\$62,464
7. BATHURST	48,850	\$63,505
8. BAULKHAM HILLS	49,207	\$63,969
9. BEGA	48,977	\$63,670
10. BLACKTOWN	48,087	\$62,513
11. BLUE MOUNTAINS	49,007	\$63,709
12. BURRINJUCK	48,158	\$62,605
13. CABRAMATTA	48,611	\$63,194
14. CAMDEN	48,535	\$63,096
15. CAMPBELLTOWN	48,169	\$62,620
16. CANTERBURY	48,581	\$63,155
17. CASTLE HILL (The Hills)	47,185	\$61,341
18. CESSNOCK	48,960	\$63,648
19. CHARLESTOWN	48,175	\$62,628
20. CLARENCE	48,074	\$62,496
21. COFFS HARBOUR	48,330	\$62,829
22. COOGEE	48,774	\$63,406
23. CRONULLA	48,069	\$62,490
24. DAVIDSON	48,019	\$62,425
25. DRUMMOYNE	47,966	\$62,356
26. DUBBO	49,272	\$64,054
27. EAST HILLS	47,038	\$61,149
28. EPPING	48,245	\$62,719
29. FAIRFIED	48,807	\$63,449
30. GOSFORD	49,544	\$64,407
31. GOULBURN	48,449	\$62,984
32. GRANVILLE	48,889	\$63,556
33. HAWKESBURY	47,253	\$61,429
34. HEATHCOTE	48,368	\$62,878
35. HEFFRON	48,675	\$63,278
36. HORNSBY	49,250	\$64,025
37. KEIRA	47,831	\$62,180
38. KIAMA	48,620	\$63,206
39. KOGARAH	48,753	\$63,379
40. KU-RING-GAI	48,652	\$63,248
41. LAKE MACQUARIE	48,202	\$62,663
42. LAKEMBA	49,174	\$63,926
43. LANE COVE	48,035	\$62,446
44. LISMORE	47,410	\$61,633
45. LIVERPOOL	47,241	\$61,413
46. LONDONDERRY	48,678	\$63,281
47. MACQUARIE FIELDS	48,371	\$62,882
48. MAITLAND	48,357	\$62,864
49. MANLY	47,711	\$62,024

ELECTORATE MAILOUT ACCOUNT

Effective on and from Declaration of the Polls

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS *	ANNUAL ENTITLEMENT
50. MAROUBRA	49,154	\$63,900
51. MARRICKVILLE	49,139	\$63,881
52. MENAI	48,152	\$62,598
53. MIRANDA	47,842	\$62,195
54. MONARO	46,979	\$61,073
55. MOUNT DRUITT	47,041	\$61,153
56. MULGOA	48,403	\$62,924
57. MURRAY - DARLING	47,483	\$61,728
58. MURRUMBIDGEE	49,117	\$63,852
59. MYALL LAKES	49,063	\$63,782
60. NEWCASTLE	48,120	\$62,556
61. NORTH SHORE	48,914	\$63,588
62. NORTHERN TABLELANDS	48,890	\$63,557
63. OATLEY (Georges River)	48,425	\$62,953
64. ORANGE	49,199	\$63,959
65. OXLEY	47,116	\$61,251
66. PARRAMATTA	48,483	\$63,028
67. PENRITH	48,442	\$62,975
68. PITWATER	48,123	\$62,560
69. PORT MACQUARIE	47,545	\$61,809
70. PORT STEPHENS	48,371	\$62,882
71. RIVERSTONE	48,216	\$62,681
72. ROCKDALE	48,397	\$62,916
73. RYDE	48,379	\$62,893
74. SHELLHARBOUR (Illawarra)	48,360	\$62,868
75. SMITHFIELD	48,407	\$62,929
76. SOUTH COAST	48,874	\$63,536
77. STRATHFIELD	47,772	\$62,104
78. SWANSEA	49,247	\$64,021
79. SYDNEY (Bligh)	48,999	\$63,699
80. TAMWORTH	48,457	\$62,994
81. TERRIGAL (Gosford)	48,326	\$62,824
82. THE ENTRANCE	47,407	\$61,629
83. TOONGABBIE (Wentworthville)	49,147	\$63,891
84. TWEED	47,416	\$61,641
85. UPPER HUNTER	48,369	\$62,880
86. VAUCLUSE	49,054	\$63,770
87. WAGGA WAGGA	48,460	\$62,998
88. WAKEHURST	49,071	\$63,792
89. WALLSEND	47,350	\$61,555
90. WILLOUGHBY	48,508	\$63,060
91. WOLLONDILLY (Camden)	47,409	\$61,632
92. WOLLONGONG	49,202	\$63,963
93. WYONG	47,934	\$62,314

Based on predicted electors as noted in the 2004 Electoral Districts Commissioners Report, pp. XIV-XV.

NB: name in bracket refers to replaced former electorate district

Advice of the Secretary of Treasury Pursuant to Section 12A of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act, 1989*

The following comments on the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal's 2006 annual determination are made pursuant to Section 12A of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act, 1989* by the Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

Financial Implications

The table below shows the financial costs of Part 1 of the Tribunal's Draft Determination. For the purpose of calculating the costs, the estimates are based on the 2006 composition of the Legislative Assembly and the Council membership. Estimates have not been provided where the maximum remuneration limits for the particular allowances are not defined. The Sydney Allowance is calculated on the annual amount allocated to Members.

ENTITLEMENT	2005 DET.	2006 DET. ⁽¹⁾	CHANGE
Electoral Allowance	\$ 5,698,510	\$ 5,869,435	\$ 170,925 +3%
Sydney allowance	\$ 1,887,000	\$ 1,943,610	\$ 56,610 +3%
Logistic Support Allocation	\$ 3,725,510	\$ 3,837,560	\$ 126,047 +3%
Electorate Mail-out Account ⁽²⁾	\$ 5,671,117	\$ 5,553,735	-\$ 117,382 - 2%
Committee Allowance ⁽³⁾	\$ 16,475	\$ 18,287	\$ 1,812 +11%
Electorate Charter Transport Allowance - LA Members	\$ 97,180	\$ 97,180	NIL
Travelling Allowance for Recognised Office Holders	Not Estimated	Not Estimated	<u>Increased</u> ⁽⁴⁾
TOTAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE	\$17,095,792	\$17,319,807	\$ 224,015 (1.3%)

- (1) Minor variations between Pre March and Post March Election figures in relation to Electoral Allowance, LSA and Travelling Allowance.
- (2) Based on data provided by the State Electoral Office.
- (3) Includes members of Public Accounts Committee only.
- (4) Adjusted in line with movements in public sector rates which vary depending on the travel destination. The cost of allowances is likely to increase by approximately 2.5 percent.

Part 2 of the Tribunal's Draft Determination deals with the issue of staffing levels for Members of Parliament. Treasury estimates that the Tribunal's proposed determination that Members who are currently allocated two electorate officers be allowed to employ casual relief staff for a period of 61 days per year would cost an additional \$1.154 million per annum.

In relation to the Tribunal's recommendation that Shadow Ministers be allocated an additional staff member, the cost of this is estimated at \$1.686 million per annum.

Comment

The State is currently budgeting for a deficit of \$696 million in 2006-07. Given this, and the need to direct expenditures into high priority areas, it is important that all other costs are minimised wherever practical.

I am advised that the current entitlement for electorate office staff is comparable to Victoria. While it is true that staff entitlements for Federal Members of Parliament may be larger, their electorates are also much larger. An increase in electorate office staff entitlements will worsen the Budget position by \$1.154 million per annum. The Tribunal may wish to consider its Draft Determination in this light.

I also note that the Draft Determination is based on a CPI increase of 3 percent in the coming year. I wish to advise that Treasury's current CPI forecast for 2006-07 (as detailed in the 2006-07 Budget) is 2¾ percent.

The Draft Determination also proposes the Committee Allowance be adjusted by 11 percent (a 4.12 percent increase in respect of increases in Members' salaries from 1 July 2005 and a 7 percent increase in respect of salary increases from 1 July 2006). Under the normal timing of PRT determinations, only one annual CPI adjustment is granted in each determination. If this practice is followed, a 4.12 percent increase in the Committee Allowance would be appropriate in the 2006 Determination.

Mark Ronsisvalle
Acting Secretary
10 July 2006

