

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Corporate Services Manager
DATE: 29 July 2008
SUBJECT: **Computer Allowances**

Purpose

To confirm an amendment to Council's Elected Members Reimbursement Policy in regard to the nominal rent for owning a computer.

Background

The Remuneration Authority is responsible for confirming allowances paid to elected members. The Authority has written to Council recommending that the current allowance be amended to reflect the reduced cost of purchasing a computer.

Discussion

Council has over the last few years assessed the value of a computer at \$2,158 for elected members reimbursement purposes, with the logic being that the value of the computer is written off over the three year term of the member. This rationale established the current reimbursement rate of \$59.95 per month.

While Council's policy has remained static over the years, logic tells us that the value of a computer has declined. On this basis, the Authority has asked Council to review its reimbursement.

With a current mid-range computer costing around \$1,500 rather than \$2,158, it would be appropriate for Council to recommend a monthly allowance of \$41.66 rather than the current \$59.95. This view is acceptable to the Remuneration Authority.

Recommendation

That it be recommended to the Remuneration Authority that the nominal rent for a computer under Section 8 of Council's Reimbursing Rules, be amended to read \$41.66 per month, effective from 1 August 2008.

Murray Staite

Corporate Services Manager