

Councillor Couros - QoN - Legal Costs and Staff Time – Hyde v ECSA and Li

Tuesday, 8 April 2025
Council

Council Member
Councillor Mary Couros

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Mary Couros will ask the following Question on Notice:

‘Can the Chief Executive Officer provide details on:

1. The total legal fees incurred by the City of Adelaide for the current court case Alexander Hyde v Jing Li?
2. The total hours spent by Council staff in relation to this matter, including legal, administrative, and other relevant support?’

REPLY

1. At the meeting of Council on 11 March 2025, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) gave an undertaking to provide information on the expenditure related to attendance at hearings in relation to the Court of Disputed Returns matter. Between service of the Petition on 16 December 2022 and the Court hearing on 7 March 2025, the cost of attendance totalled \$25,816, noting those fees related to more than 40 separate Court attendances.
2. Further costs relating to legal advice to Council in relation to the matter of *Alexander Hyde v Electoral Commissioner of South Australia & Jing Li (No 3) [2025]* SADC 20 amounted to \$70,803.53, reflecting a total cost in legal fees in relation to the matter of \$96,646.53.
3. Administration has not maintained a specific record of staff time, nor the type of work completed in relation to this matter. Any work that has been undertaken by staff has been actioned using resources currently available.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 4 hours.
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