

Councillor Couros - QoN - Cost of the Current Committee Governance Structure

Tuesday, 11 August 2026
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:

'Please advise the total cost to the City of Adelaide of the current committee governance structure since its inception, including a breakdown of the following:

1. The total additional allowances paid to Committee Chairs, detailing:
 - o each committee;
 - o the Chair;
 - o the annual amount paid; and
 - o the total amount paid since the current committee structure commenced.
2. The total additional allowances paid to Deputy Chairs, detailing:
 - o each committee;
 - o the Deputy Chair;
 - o the annual amount paid; and
 - o the total amount paid since the current committee structure commenced.
3. The total remuneration paid to Council Members appointed to Council subsidiaries, committees or boards, detailing:
 - o the name of each subsidiary, committee or board;
 - o each Council Member appointed;
 - o the remuneration or allowance received by each Council Member; and
 - o the total paid since the current committee structure commenced.
4. Any additional staffing costs incurred to support the current committee governance structure, including:
 - o any new governance positions created included any contracted positions;
 - o any increase in FTE within the Governance team;
 - o the annual cost of those positions; and
 - o the total staffing cost incurred since the current committee structure commenced.
5. Any other direct administrative or operational costs associated with implementing and maintaining the current committee governance structure, including meeting administration, reporting, governance support and any external advice.

6. Please advise whether an assessment has been undertaken of the benefits, efficiencies or value for money delivered by the current committee governance structure. If so, please provide a summary of that assessment?’

REPLY

1. The remuneration rate for Presiding Members of Committees and subsequent CPI adjustments are paid on a monthly basis, in addition to the base annual allowances from the commencement of the 2022-2026 Council Term to present are detailed as follows:
 - 1.1. 17 January 2023 to 11 November 2023: \$597.75 per month (\$7,173.00 per annum)
 - 1.2. 12 November 2023 to 11 November 2024: \$633.02 per month (\$7,596.24 per annum)
 - 1.3. 12 November 2024 to 11 November 2025: \$653.27 per month (\$7,839.24 per annum)
 - 1.4. 12 November 2025 to present: \$668.96 per month (\$8,027.52 per annum)

Committee Chairs

2. The following is a breakdown of additional allowances paid to Councillors (current and former*) who have served as a Chair of a Council Committee:

City Community Services and Culture Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Giles	17 January 2023 – 31 March 2024 – 31 March 2025	\$3,277.97	\$7,442.23	\$6,411.20	N/A
Councillor Snape	1 April 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	N/A	N/A	\$1,306.54	\$3,344.80 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2025– 31 December 2025</i> <i>Unpaid during leave of absence in March 2026</i>
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		\$21,782.74			

City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Noon	17 January 2023 – 11 April 2025 24 September 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council term	\$3,277.97	\$7,442.23	\$6,406.20	\$2,127.93 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 January 2026-30 June 2026</i>
Councillor Martin	14 May 2025 – 23 September 2025	N/A	N/A	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 14 May 2025-30 June 2025</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2025-23 September 2025</i>
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		\$22,065.55			

Chair position vacant – 12 April 2025 – 13 May 2025

City Finance and Governance Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Siebentritt	17 January 2023 – end of 2022-2026 Council term	\$3,277.97	\$6,844.48	\$7,733.99	\$7,958.93
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		\$25,815.37			

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Couros	17 January 2023 – 31 March 2024	\$3,277.97	\$4,277.13	N/A	N/A
Councillor Elliott*	1 April 2024 – 11 April 2025	N/A	\$3,164.08	\$3,819.52	N/A
Councillor Martin	14 May 2025 – 23 September 2025	N/A	N/A	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 14 May 2025-30 June 2025</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2025-23 September 2025</i>
Councillor Maher	24 September 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$6,141.69
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		\$15,464.09			

Chair position vacant – 12 April 2025 – 13 May 2025

Deputy Committee Chairs

3. A Deputy Chair of a Committee is only entitled to receive additional remuneration should they be acting as Chair for a minimum period of one month.
4. The following is a breakdown of additional allowances paid to Councillors (current and former*) who have served as a Deputy Chair of a Council Committee:

City Community Services and Culture Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Davis*	17 January 2023 – 31 March 2024	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
Councillor Snape	1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	N/A	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 14 April 2024-12 January 2025</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 14 April 2024-12 January 2025</i>	N/A
Councillor Giles	1 April 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		Nil			

City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Martin	17 January 2023 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 29 November 2022-30 June 2023</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2023-31 December 2023</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 14 May 2025-30 June 2025</i>	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2025-23 September 2025</i>
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		Nil			

Chair position vacant – 12 April 2025 – 13 May 2025

Deputy Chair position vacant – 14 May 2025 – 23 September 2025 due to Councillor Martin's appointment as Chair

City Finance and Governance Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Li*	17 January 2023 – 31 March 2024	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
Councillor Elliott*	1 April 2024 – 11 April 2025	N/A	\$0	\$0	N/A
Councillor Martin	10 September 2025 – 23 September 2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0 <i>Paid as DLM – 1 July 2025-23 September 2025</i>
Councillor Maher	24 September 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		Nil			

Deputy Chair position vacant – 12 April 2025 – 9 September 2025

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee

Council Member	Terms of Appointment	Additional Remuneration			
		FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Councillor Elliott*	17 January 2023 – 31 March 2024	Nil	\$0	N/A	N/A
Councillor Noon	1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	N/A	\$0	\$0	N/A
Councillor Li*	1 April 2025 – 11 April 2025	N/A	N/A	\$0	N/A
Councillor Freeman	24 September 2025 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
Total additional amount paid since current committee structure commenced		Nil			

Deputy Chair position vacant – 12 April 2025 – 23 September 2025

Subsidiaries

Subsidiary	Council Member	Position	Terms of Appointment	Remuneration				Total paid
				FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26	
Adelaide Economic Development Agency	The Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax Smith	Board Member (<i>ex-officio</i>)	2022-2026 Council term	\$3,800.00	\$8,550.00	\$7,600.00	\$3,800.00	\$23,750

Adelaide Central Market Authority Board	Councillor Noon	Board Member	13 December 2022 – 14 December 2024	\$7,725.00	\$15,450.00	\$6,866.64		\$30,041.64
	Councillor Martin	Board Member	14 December 2024 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term			\$6,866.64	\$13,733.28	\$20,599.92
Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority	The Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax Smith	Chair (<i>ex-officio</i>)	2022-2026 Council term	\$993.41	\$4,548.72	\$4,061.71	\$3,537.93	\$13,141.77
	Councillor Snape	Board Member	1 January 2023 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term	\$993.41	\$5,616.72	\$3,052.46	\$2,241.81	\$11,904.40
	Councillor Davis*	Board Member (Proxy)	1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025	Nil	\$342.06	Nil		\$342.06
	Councillor Freeman	Board Member (Proxy)	1 January 2026 – end of 2022-2026 Council Term				\$324.03	\$324.03

External Committees and Boards

5. Remuneration is payable for the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board.
6. For the 2022-2026 Council term, remuneration for both appointments has been set at \$590 per meeting attended.
7. Appointments to the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board were as follows:
 - 7.1. Councillor Couros – 2 February 2023 – 1 February 2026
 - 7.2. Councillor Noon – 11 June 2026 – 30 January 2027
 - 7.3. Attendance and payment information for the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board is not accessible to the administration.
8. Councillor Martin was appointed to the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust for the period 6 April 2023 – 5 April 2026. Council has completed the nomination process, however no further appointments have been gazetted. Councillor Martin is still attending meetings as a Trustee.
 - 8.1. Details of Councillor Martin's attendance at Adelaide Festival Centre Trust meetings are as follows:

FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26
Attended 1 out of 2 meetings	Attended 6 out of 6 meetings	Attended 6 out of 6 meetings	Attendance information not available

Governance Staffing Costs

9. Whilst not directly related to supporting the committee structure, there was an increase in Governance staff of 1.75 FTE in 2022-23 and 2023-24 for general support:
 - 9.1. 1 FTE for Council Governance Advisor
 - 9.2. 0.75 FTE Council Liaison & Admin Governance, this position was not new to the organisation but previously was held in the Office of the Lord Mayor.

Position	FTE	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26
Council Governance Advisor	1	-	\$112,480	\$117,919	\$121,276
Council Liaison & Admin Governance	0.75	-	\$77,319	\$81,058	\$83,365

10. There are no other direct administrative or operational costs associated with implementing or maintaining the current committee governance structure. Meeting administration, reporting, governance support activities and any external advice are managed within existing resources and budgets, with no additional direct costs incurred.
11. An assessment of the current committee governance structure has been undertaken periodically as part of Council's governance review processes. These in-house reviews have considered the effectiveness of the committee framework in supporting Council decision-making, strategic oversight, legislative compliance, stakeholder engagement and the efficient discharge of Council functions.
12. The current structure provides an effective governance framework and supports appropriate oversight, accountability and transparency. Any opportunities for improvement identified through a review process have been implemented as required to ensure the committee structure remains fit for purpose and aligned with Council's strategic and operational needs.
13. In March 2024, the Administration undertook a survey with Council Members regarding the existing committee structure. At that time, evaluation results indicated that there was general support for the existing structure from Council Members who responded, including majority support for propositions that Committees encourage participation, informed decision-making, and a team-approach. No substantive concerns with the existing Committee structure and schedule were raised that warranted changing the current governance arrangements. Suggestions were made to fine-tune Committee functioning, specifically to allow Committee agenda flexibility enabling discussion of pressing operational matters outside of the schedule. The report to the City Finance and Governance Committee on 19 March 2024 contains further information regarding the survey outcomes [Review of Committee Structure.pdf](#)
14. No separate value-for-money assessment has been undertaken beyond these governance reviews. Following the Local Government Elections which are to be held in April 2027, Administration will engage with Council to discuss how the council and committee structure will be managed in the new council term.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 15.5 hours.
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