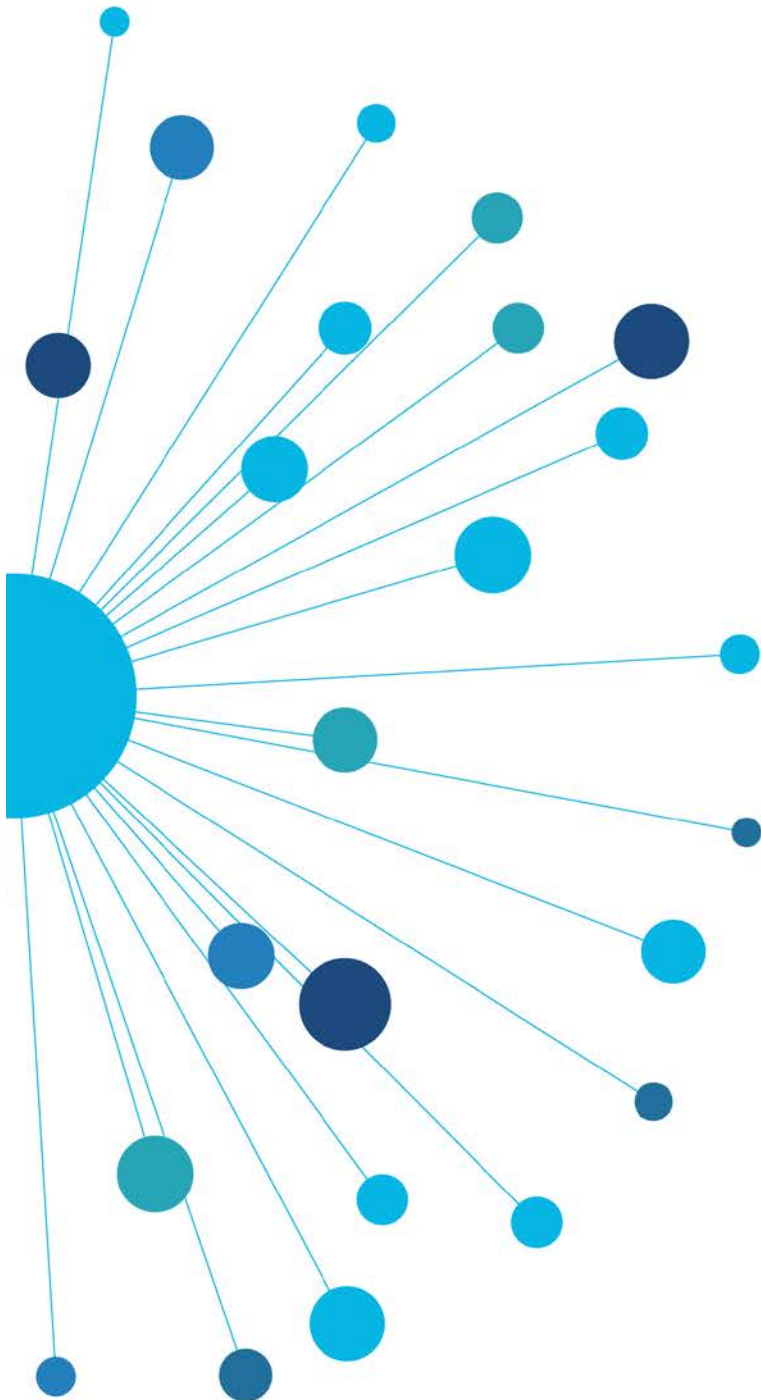


Queensland Independent
Remuneration Tribunal

Minor amendments to the Allowances System 2018

Determination 17/2018
19 June 2018



Determination 17/2018

Background and Reasons

Tribunal roles and responsibilities

The *Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Act 2013* (Act) provides for the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) to review and determine remuneration (annual and additional salaries, allowances and entitlements) in connection with members and former members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly (section 7).

Under the Act, the Tribunal may have regard to the value to the community of a member carrying out their role, functions and responsibilities and the importance of a member being appropriately remunerated for carrying out their role. The Tribunal may also consider relevant laws and any other matters the Tribunal considers appropriate including, for example, the size of an electorate (section 29).

Before making a Determination, the Tribunal must consult with and consider the views of the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament (the Clerk). In making a Determination, the Tribunal must ensure any allowances paid to a member reflect the amount of reasonable expenses incurred by a member in servicing their electorate; ensure these allowances are not a substitute for other remuneration; and ensure accommodation services or other entitlements provided for in section 55 of the Act are not taken into account - for example, electorate offices, staffing support and major items of office equipment (section 30).

Background

On 25 November 2017 the Tribunal handed down Determination 16/2017. This Determination provided a comprehensive review of the allowances system and made consequential amendments to the system following changes to electorate boundaries as determined by the 2017 Queensland Redistribution Commission (QRC).

In Determination 16/2017 the Tribunal committed to continuing to consider allowance related issues and to monitor the use and acquittal of allowances and allocations to ensure their adequacy.

This Determination outlines the results of a six-month assessment of the quantum of the allowances system, having regard to the QRC's Determination. It adjusts the Electorate and Communication Allowance (ECA) bands and Motor Vehicle Allowance (MVA) bands to reflect updated electoral roll data that became available after the Tribunal's 2018 review was concluded.

Electorate and Communication Allowance

The ECA is provided to cover a range of expenditure associated with:

- providing constituent assistance and service for the electorate
- obtaining and disseminating information to constituents that is relevant to fulfilling parliamentary and constituency responsibilities, and
- meeting incidental costs relating to the operation of a member's electorate office.

The ECA may not be used to meet expenditure for:

- private or commercial purposes or to purchase goods and services where the member, or a connected party is the provider of the goods and services
- political party activity, or
- electioneering and campaigning purposes.

Determination 16/2017 reconfirmed the importance of both electorate area and population in determining an appropriate ECA and used the formula of 60c for each registered voter on the electoral roll plus 1.5c for each square kilometre of area in the electorate. The ECA provided for in Determination 16/2017 resulted in the following bands:

Band	No. of electorates in band	Quantum of allowance
Band 1	45	\$67,800
Band 2	21	\$70,400
Band 3	25	\$72,000
Band 4	2	\$74,500

The Tribunal relied on the published data available from the QRC in determining the number of voters on the electoral roll and size (km²) of each electorate. This data was current as at 29 August 2016.

The same-sex marriage ballot and the November 2017 Queensland State Election, saw approximately 145,000 additional enrolments to the Queensland electoral roll. On 14 June 2018, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice tabled the *Statistical Return, 2017 State General Election* including Close of Roll data (page 21) for each electorate, as at 25 November 2017 (polling day). There has been an increase of more than 10% in the electoral roll of six electoral districts and between 5% and 10% in a further twenty-five electorates. The population increases have resulted in an upward shift in electorates across the ECA bands as follows:

Band	No. of electorates in band	Quantum of allowance
Band 1	10	\$67,800
Band 2	36	\$70,400
Band 3	26	\$72,000
Band 4	21	\$74,500

In accordance with its legislative requirement to ensure allowances paid to members reflect the reasonable expenses incurred by a member in servicing their electorate, the Tribunal has decided to re-allocate ECA bands based on the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) close of roll data, with effect from 25 November 2017, as outlined in the following table:

Electorate and Communication Allowance Bands

Band 1 – ECA of \$67,800			
Bonney Gaven Gladstone	Ipswich Logan Nicklin	Oodgeroo Theodore	Waterford Whitsunday
Band 2 – ECA of \$70,400			
Algerger Bancroft Broadwater Buderim Bundaberg Bundamba Burleigh Burnett Caloundra	Chatsworth Currumbin Glasshouse Hinčinbrook Inala Ipswich West Jordan Kawana Kurwongbah	Lockyer Macalister Mansfield Maroochydore Mermaid Beach Miller Mirani Moggill Morayfield	Mulgrave Mundingburra Redlands South Brisbane Southport Stretton Surfers Paradise Toohey Townsville
Band 3 – ECA of \$72,000			
Barron River Burdekin Cairns Callide Capalaba Ferry Grove Greenslopes	Gregory Keppel Lytton Maryborough McConnell Mount Ommaney Mudgeeraba	Ninderry Noosa Nudgee Pumicestone Rockhampton Sandgate	Scenic Rim Southern Downs Springwood Thuringowa Toowoomba North Woodridge
Band 4 – ECA of \$74,500			
Aspley Bulimba Clayfield Condamine Cook Coomera	Cooper Everton Gympie Hervey Bay Hill	Mackay Maiwar Murrumba Nanango Pine Rivers	Redcliffe Stafford Toowoomba South Traeger Warrego

Notes regarding data used in the ECA formula:

- a. Electoral District area data has been provided by the ECQ based on the new electorate boundaries determined by the QRC in its Determination of Queensland's Legislative Assembly Electoral Districts.
- b. Electoral roll data is taken from the *Statistical Return, 2017 State General Election, Close of Roll Figures and Deviation from Average Enrolment 2017*, State General Election held on 25 November 2017, page 21, tabled on 14 June 2018.

Motor Vehicle Allowance

A MVA is provided to cover expenditure incurred in acquiring and maintaining a member's vehicle.

Determination 16/2017 provided for four bands of MVA as follows:

Band	Size of electorate (km ²)	No. of electorates in band	Quantum of allowance
Band 1	0 – 1,000	71	\$25,500
Band 2	1,001 – 10,000	12	\$32,000
Band 3	10,001 – 99,999	6	\$37,000
Band 4	100,000 and over	4	\$42,000

The Tribunal has noted concerns raised by members in Band 3 regarding the quantum of their MVA given the significant distances, travel times and diverse locations of key communities within their respective electorates under the new electorate boundaries determined by the QRC. It is appreciated that members in this band saw a reduction in the quantum of their MVA following Determination 16/2017. The electorates currently in Band 3 are as follows:

Band 3 – 10,001km ² to 99,999km ² - \$37,000 per annum	
Burdekin	78,681
Callide	74,199
Hill	19,752
Mirani	25,976
Nanango	18,122
Southern Downs	30,951

The Tribunal notes that Burdekin and Callide have significantly higher square kilometres than other electorates in Band 3, but significantly lower square kilometres than electorates in Band 4 with more than 100,000km².

Band 4 – 100,000km ² and over - \$42,000 per annum	
Cook	196,836
Gregory	459,681
Traeger	428,911
Warrego	337,812

The Tribunal has undertaken an audit of Band 3 and Band 4 electorates and is of the view that Burdekin and Callide should be moved to Band 4. While these electorates have a smaller area in square kilometres than Band 4 electorates, the geography, travel times and location of communities across these electorates makes them more comparable to Band 4 electorates than Band 3 electorates. Accordingly, with effect from 25 November 2017, the MVA Bands will be amended as follows:

Band	Size of electorate (km ²)	No. of electorates in band	Quantum of allowance
Band 1	0 – 1,000	71	\$25,500
Band 2	1,001 – 10,000	12	\$32,000
Band 3	10,001 – 70,000	4	\$37,000
Band 4	70,001 and over	6	\$42,000

The Tribunal will continue to monitor the adequacy of the MVA and other allowances, entitlements and allocations, and consider member's acquittals for the 2017–18 financial year.

The data and anecdotal advice provided by members will enable a comprehensive and evidence-based consideration of issues relating to the allowances system.

Determination 17/2018

Any inconsistencies between earlier Tribunal Determinations and Determination 17/2018 are resolved in favour of Determination 17/2018. Matters in earlier Determinations not addressed in this Determination are confirmed by the Tribunal and not amended.

Electorate and Communication Allowance

1. The Tribunal determines that each electorate will be provided with the Electorate and Communication Allowance outlined in the table below:

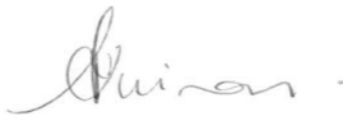
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Band 3 – ECA of \$72,000			
Barron River Burdekin Cairns Callide Capalaba Ferry Grove Greenslopes	Gregory Keppel Lytton Maryborough McConnell Mount Ommaney Mudgeeraba	Ninderry Noosa Nudgee Pumicestone Rockhampton Sandgate	Scenic Rim Southern Downs Springwood Thuringowa Toowoomba North Woodridge
Band 4 – ECA of \$74,500			
Aspley Bulimba Clayfield Condamine Cook Coomera	Cooper Everton Gympie Hervey Bay Hill	Mackay Maiwar Murrumba Nanango Pine Rivers	Redcliffe Stafford Toowoomba South Traeger Warrego

Motor Vehicle Allowance

2. The Tribunal determines the bands for the Motor Vehicle Allowance be amended as follows:

Band	Size of electorate (km2)	Quantum of allowance
Band 1	0 – 1,000	\$25,500
Band 2	1,001 – 10,000	\$32,000
Band 3	10,001 – 70,000	\$37,000
Band 4	70,001 and over	\$42,000

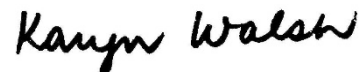
Date of Determination: 19 June 2018
Effective Date: 25 November 2017



Professor Anne Tiernan
Chairperson



Mr Walter Tutt
Member



Ms Karyn Walsh
Member