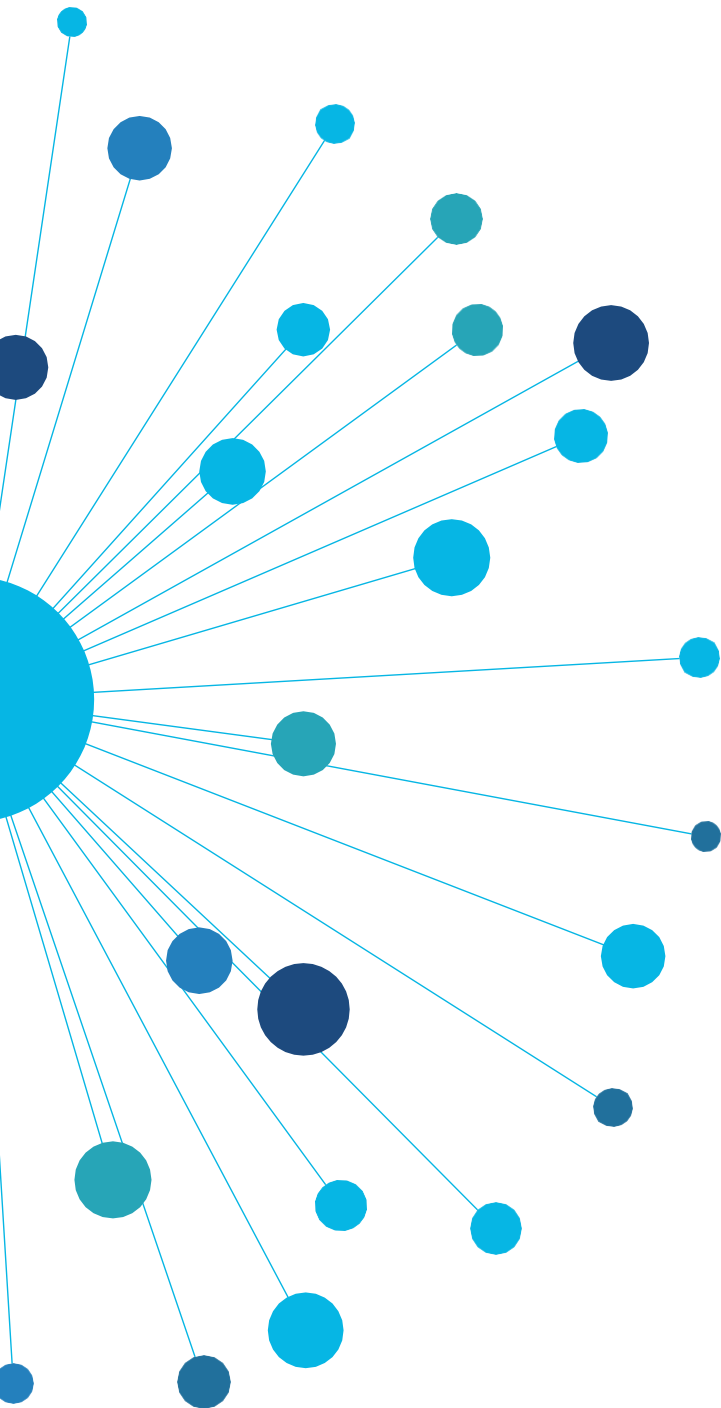


Queensland Independent
Remuneration Tribunal

Electorate and Communication Allowance Band Adjustment 2024

Determination 32/2024
30 September 2024



Determination 32/2024

Background and Reasons

Tribunal roles and responsibilities

The *Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Act 2013* (the Act) provides for the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the 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 (Remuneration Determination); and
- review and determine entitlements of cross bench members to additional staff members (Additional Staff Member Determination).

For a Remuneration Determination, the Tribunal may have regard to the value to the community of a Member of the Legislative Assembly (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 of the Act).

The Tribunal must ensure any allowances paid to a member reflect the reasonable expenses incurred by a member in servicing their electorate and ensure these allowances are not a substitute for other remuneration and that accommodation services or other entitlements mentioned in section 59D of the Act (such as electorate offices, staffing support and major items of office equipment) are not taken into account (section 30 of the Act).

Consultation

Before making a Determination, the Tribunal must consult with and consider the views of the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament (the Clerk).

Electorate and Communication Allowance

Electorate and Communication Allowance

The Electorate and Communication Allowance (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
- 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
- electioneering and campaigning purposes.

ECA bands and electoral roll data

Electorates are grouped into four bands based on the following formula (the formula) which recognises the impact of both the number of electors and land area on usage of the ECA:

Band = (60 cents per person registered on the electoral roll) + (1.5 cents per square kilometre of electorate area (land only)).

The quantum of ECA for each band (in accordance with Determination 30/2024:

Band	Quantum of ECA for electorates in each band¹
1	\$97,136
2	\$99,008
3	\$101,608
4	\$104,208

Electoral roll data

The Tribunal has previously determined to annually review the allocation of electorates to ECA bands, based on changes in electoral enrolments, using an average of quarterly electoral roll data over a 12-month period to allocate electorates to ECA bands.

Based on electoral roll data, the total number of voters enrolled in Queensland increased by 1.5% from 30 June 2023 to 30 June 2024. The Tribunal notes it is likely the number of voters registered on the Queensland electoral roll will continue to increase in the lead up to the 2024 State General Election.

This is expected to result in electorates continuing to move up ECA bands, eventually resulting in the majority of electorates falling within Bands 3 and 4.

However, the application of average quarterly enrolment over 2023-24 for each electorate to the ECA band ranges results in the majority of electorates at this stage remaining in ECA Bands 1 and 2.

¹ Figures taken from the *Members' Remuneration Handbook*. Determination 30/2024 increased the ECA by 4.0% with effect from 1 July 2023.

Queensland Independent
Remuneration Tribunal

Determination 32/2024

This can be seen in the table below:

Band	Quantum of ECA	No. of electorates in band as at 1 July 2023	No. of electorates in band as at 1 July 2024 if reallocated
1	\$97,136	30	14
2	\$99,008	36	40
3	\$101,608	23	31
4	\$104,208	4	8

Accordingly, the Tribunal has determined it is not necessary to reset the ECA Bands at this time.

Electorates will, however, be allocated to the relevant ECA Band based on application of the formula using averaged quarterly data for 2023-24.

With effect from 1 July 2024, the allocation of electorates ECA Bands will be as follows:

Band	Quantum of ECA	Electorates in each Band
1	\$97,136	Chatsworth, Currumbin, Gaven, Gladstone, Mansfield, Miller, Moggill, Mount Ommaney, Mundingburra, Oodgeroo, Southport, Springwood, Stretton, Toohey
2	\$99,008	Algerger, Aspley, Bancroft, Bonney, Broadwater, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Burleigh, Cairns, Callide, Capalaba, Cooper, Everton, Ferny Grove, Glass House, Greenslopes, Hinchinbrook, Inala, Ipswich, Ipswich West, Kawana, Lockyer, Lytton, Maroochydore, Mermaid Beach, Mirani, Mulgrave, Nicklin, Noosa, Nudgee, Rockhampton, Sandgate, Southern Downs, Surfers Paradise, Theodore, Thuringowa, Toowoomba South, Townsville, Waterford, Whitsunday
3	\$101,608	Barron River, Buderim, Bulimba, Bundamba, Burnett, Caloundra, Clayfield, Condamine, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Hill, Keppel, Kurwongbah, Macalister, Mackay, Maiwar, Maryborough, McConnel, Morayfield, Mudgeeraba, Nanango, Ninderry, Pine Rivers, Pumicestone, Redcliffe, Redlands, Scenic Rim, South Brisbane, Stafford, Toowoomba North, Woodridge
4	\$104,208	Cook, Coomera, Gregory, Jordan, Logan, Murrumba, Traeger, Warrego

The current acquittal and reporting requirements for the ECA remain unchanged.

Quantum of ECA bands

The Tribunal will further consider the quantum of the ECA bands as part of its Annual Review of Allowances, following the tabling of expense reports by the Clerk of the Parliament.

High Enrolment Supplement

In Determination 26/2022 the Tribunal established a 'high enrolment supplement'. Members are eligible for the high enrolment supplement if:

- the electorate is in ECA Band 4; and
- the number of electors is 25% or more above the quota, over a period of 6 consecutive months, determined in accordance with the ECQ monthly enrolment data.

In Determination 27/2023, the Tribunal set the amount of the high enrolment supplement at \$5,000 per financial year. This amount was increased by 4.0 per cent to \$5,200 with effect from 1 July 2023 (Determination 30/2024).

In reviewing the bands, the Tribunal determined to retain the current high enrolment supplement. The quantum of the supplement will be considered by the Tribunal again as part of its Annual Review of Allowances.

Determination 32/2024

Any inconsistencies between earlier Tribunal Determinations and Determination 32/2024 are resolved in favour of Determination 32/2024. 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 the allocation of electorates in each band with the stated ECA amount, as set out in the table below, will apply with effect from 1 July 2024

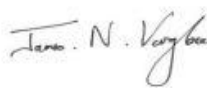
Band	ECA Amount	Electorates in each Band
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4	\$104,208	Cook, Coomera, Gregory, Jordan, Logan, Murrumba, Traeger, Warrego

Date of Determination: 30 September 2024

Effective Date: 1 July 2024



Keitha Dunstan
Chairperson



Jim Varghese
Member



Patrick Weller
Member