

Report 11.543
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Committee Council
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Remuneration for non-Councillor members of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee advisory groups

1. Purpose

For the Council to determine the remuneration arrangements for non-Councillor members of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee advisory groups.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

Since July 2011 four advisory groups of the Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee have been operating to focus on progressing pieces of work that will then be formally considered by the Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee.

The four advisory groups are focused in the following areas:

- Water quality – stormwater and urban land use
- Water quality – rural land use

- Water allocation
- Coastal management and hazards.

The membership of the advisory groups is drawn from the membership of the Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee.

The advisory groups have no decision-making powers. They have not been formally established by way of a committee or Council resolution and are not subordinate decision-making bodies of the Council.

4. Comment

Given the informal nature of the advisory groups there is currently no authority from the Council for the non-Councillor members of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee to receive remuneration for their participation as a member of the advisory groups.

While non-Councillor members of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee are each entitled to receive a taxable honorarium of \$500 for each formally convened committee meeting and committee workshop that they attend, that entitlement does not extend to their participation on the advisory groups given the groups' informal status. Also, Council's policy is that no Council remuneration shall be available to non-elected members of advisory groups unless the Council resolves otherwise.

Given the integral nature of the advisory groups for progressing the regional plan work, it is appropriate for the Council to consider remunerating the non-Councillor committee members for their attendance at advisory group meetings. The advisory groups are key to enabling the milestones in the plan review process to be met, given the volume of work that Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee needs to deal with between now and the end of the triennium.

Given each advisory group meeting is expected to be no more than three hours in duration officers consider that an honorarium of \$250 per meeting would be appropriate to recognise the contribution of each non-Councillor member of the advisory groups. As with the honorarium of \$500 payable per meeting to non-Councillor members of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee, the meeting fee would be inclusive of travel costs, preparation time and all resources committed by each non-Councillor member to their advisory group responsibilities.

As initial advisory group meetings have already been held it is proposed that any decision made by Council would be applied retrospectively, to be effective from the first advisory group meeting.

5. Budgetary implications

A decision by Council to approve an honorarium for non-Councillor member participation on Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee advisory groups carries with it budget implications. The costs associated with

advisory group meeting fees have not been factored into the Elected Members budget for 2011/12; however, it is anticipated that the costs will be able to be met from the existing budget allocation.

6. Communication

The non-Councillor members of the advisory groups will be informed of the Council's decision.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives** the report.*
2. ***Notes** the content of the report.*
3. ***Endorses** the establishment of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee advisory groups to assist in progressing work on regional plan development.*
4. ***Approves** the payment of a taxable honorarium of \$250 per day for each non-Councillor member of Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee appointed to an advisory group, for their attendance at advisory group meetings.*
5. ***Approves** the payment of the honorarium effective from the first advisory group meeting that was held.*
6. ***Notes** that the costs associated with the payment of the honorarium are unbudgeted.*

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