

# **Remuneration for additional responsibilities - Councillor Fox**

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<b>TO</b>	Thames-Coromandel District Council
<b>FROM</b>	Angela Jane - Governance Strategy Manager
<b>DATE</b>	12 January 2015
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Remuneration for additional responsibilities - Councillor Fox</b>

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## **1 Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to propose that additional remuneration be approved for Councillor Fox in consideration of his work on the District Plan Hearing Panel.

## **2 Background**

The Remuneration Authority, which sets remuneration for all local government elected members across the country, established a new approach to remuneration setting for the 2013 term. The Remuneration Authority set a base salary for all elected members and has set a cap of 1.5 times the councillor base salary as a pool to pay elected members for additional responsibilities. The Remuneration Authority must approve all payments for additional responsibilities.

## **3 Issue**

At the commencement of the term the Council determined the allocation of the total pool available for paying elected members for additional responsibilities. The Council's proposal for paying for additional responsibilities was approved by the Remuneration Authority.

The Council's councillors in the role as Committee Chairs and Deputy Mayor were identified for additional remuneration for additional responsibilities. For the 2014/15 financial year the Committee Chair salary is \$35,380 and the councillor base salary is \$29,000. With the disbandment of the Policy Committee there is approximately \$3,190 available in 2014/15 to be re-allocated.

When Councillor Fox was included in the District Plan Hearings Panel on a full-time basis the Mayor requested staff investigate a means to compensate Councillor Fox for the additional responsibilities above his councillor and committee chair responsibilities.

## **4 Discussion**

The Remuneration Authority has to approve all payments for additional responsibility. The Council can only pay councillors for additional responsibilities that are within the Authority's criteria. District Plan hearings are included in the Authority's criteria for additional responsibilities.

Councillor Fox has attended 11 days of hearings and administration days prior to Christmas 2014 and 13 more hearing and administration days have been scheduled before the end of April 2015. Councillor Fox has continued to fulfil his responsibilities as Audit Committee Chair and member of the Judicial Committee, Infrastructure Committee, District Licensing Committee and the Mercury Bay Community Board.

## **5 Suggested resolution(s)**

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Remuneration for additional responsibilities - Councillor Fox' report, dated 12 January 2015.
2. Approves the additional payment of \$3,190 in the 2014/15 financial year to Councillor Fox for additional responsibilities as a member of the District Plan Hearings Panel subject to approval from the Remuneration Authority.