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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL ACT, 1975

DETERMINATION OF THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL

(22nd OCTOBER, 1976)

Mr. K. J. Townsing, C.M.G., I.S.O.	CHAIRMAN
Mr. P. R. Adams, Q.C.	MEMBER
Mr. F. S. Cross, J.P.	MEMBER

DETERMINATION OF THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL (22nd OCTOBER, 1976)

Members of Parliament

1. In our first Determination of 8 August, 1975, we determined a basic salary for Members of Parliament of \$16 170 per annum which has been increased progressively as a result of subsequent National Wage determinations to \$18 275 per annum as at 1 September, 1976.

2. Although relativity in remuneration with other States was not considered by us in August 1975 to be the relevant factor at that time for determining the basic salary of Members of Parliament in Western Australia, we did not neglect to examine the salaries paid in other States and it is appropriate therefore, to look at the changes which have since taken place in those salaries.

3. The basic salary paid to a Member of the Lower House in each of the States was as follows:—

	As at 1 July, 1975		As at 1 July, 1976	
	\$ per annum	Operative Date	\$ per annum	Operative Date
N.S.W.	17 280	1/1/1975	19 660	1/1/1976
Vic.	19 500	30/3/1975	20 750	1/6/1976
Qld.	15 630 (a)	1/7/1974	18 980 (b)	1/7/1975
S.A.	16 500	1/2/1975	18 730	1/3/1976
W.A.	16 170	(8/8/1975)	18 005	1/6/1976
Tas.	16 582	1/7/1975	18 975	1/7/1976

(a) Increased in October 1975 to \$18 980 and back-dated to 1 July, 1975.

(b) Increased in September 1976 to \$21 840 and back-dated to 1 July, 1976.

4. It is to be noted that the basic salary of a Member in Western Australia, is still the lowest in Australia and that Members in the other less populous States of Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania have increased their margins over a Member in Western Australia during the twelve months under review particularly in Queensland.

5. We believe that the method used in Queensland to adjust the remuneration of Members of Parliament in accordance with the variation during the previous financial year in the index published by the Bureau of Census and Statistics for average minimum weekly wage rates for adult males in Queensland, is completely at variance with the guidelines laid down by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission for wage restraint. We therefore consider that the salaries now being paid in that State have to be disregarded in any assessment of the appropriate current remuneration for Members of Parliament in Western Australia.

6. The method used in Tasmania to determine the basic salary for a Member of Parliament in that State, is to apply the average of the basic salaries actually paid on 1 July each year to Members in other States. Subsequent increases in salary even if back-dated to 1 July, are not taken into account in calculating the average for other States. Such a method will result in the basic salary of a Member in Tasmania being higher than that in Western Australia so long as the salary in Western Australia is less than the average of the other mainland States.

7. A review is now taking place of the remuneration of Members of Parliament in South Australia and it has been reported that the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal is likely to award an increase to provide for National Wage Case decisions since the date of the last review by the Tribunal in March 1976. Such an increase although in line with National Wage determinations, would further increase the margin in favour of a Member in South Australia over a Member in Western Australia.

8. We are fully conscious of the need to exercise restraint in prevailing economic circumstances but on the grounds of equity, we cannot completely ignore the anomalies created by a widening gap between the basic salaries of Members in Western Australia and other States.

9. We have also come to the conclusion that the current basic salary of a Member in this State is too low to act as a firm base for a continuing system of wage fixation based on indexation of the kind applied by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission since April 1975.

10. After considering all aspects, we have decided that the present basic salary of a Member should be increased but having regard to the need for continued restraint we have limited the increase to 5 per cent. Accordingly, we hereby determine the basic salary at \$19 189 per annum on and from 1 November, 1976. Current rates in all States will then be:—

	\$ per annum	Operative Date
N.S.W.	19 660 (a)	1/1/1976
Vic.	20 750	1/6/1976
Qld.	21 840	1/7/1976
S.A.	18 730 (a)	1/3/1976
W.A.	19 189	1/11/1976
Tas.	18 975	1/7/1976

(a) Currently under review.

11. We have also decided to increase the current rates of additional salary paid to Ministers of the Crown, Officers of Parliament and the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet by 5 per cent. on and from 1 November, 1976 and we hereby determine accordingly.

Stipendiary Magistrates

12. We have considered a number of submissions from the Stipendiary Magistrates Institute claiming salary increases and the payment of allowances to compensate for extraneous duties, extensive travel and attendance in Court on Saturdays and Public Holidays. It has been submitted that these aspects of magisterial duties have not been recognised in the salaries currently applying.

13. After taking into account the issues raised by the Institute and having regard to current levels of remuneration for other judicial and legal offices in this State we have concluded that there is a strong case for lifting the salaries of Stipendiary Magistrates and for the payment to them of expense allowances.

14. The salary rates which we hereby determine with effect on and from 1 November, 1976 are:—

	\$ per annum
Stipendiary Magistrate—	
First Year	22 682
Second Year	23 382
Third Year	24 082
Fourth Year	24 782
Fifth Year	25 482
Senior Stipendiary Magistrate	26 182
Deputy Chief Stipendiary Magistrate	26 882
Chief Stipendiary Magistrate	28 082

15. The following expense allowances are awarded with effect on and from 1 November, 1976:—

	\$ per annum
Chief Stipendiary Magistrate	500
Other Stipendiary Magistrates	300

Officers in the Special Division of the Public Service and Persons holding Prescribed Offices

16. A list of officers in the Special Division of the Public Service and Persons holding Prescribed Offices, is set out in Parts II and III of our Determination of 27 February, 1976. There are six separate classifications with salaries as follows:—

	As at 1 March, 1976 \$ per annum	As at 1 June, 1976 \$ per annum	As at 1 September, 1976 \$ per annum
	28 699	28 897	29 330
	29 640	29 838	30 286
	30 581	30 779	31 241
	31 523	31 721	32 197
	32 464	32 662	33 152
	34 991	35 189	35 717

17. We see no reason at this time to vary existing salary levels but consider that there are grounds for the reclassification of the offices of Principal Architect, Public Works Department and Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations with effect on and from 1 June, 1976.

18. The amended salaries which we have determined for these two offices are:—

Operative Date	Principal Architect	Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations
	\$ per annum	\$ per annum
1 June, 1976	31 721	29 838
1 September, 1976	32 197	30 286

Dated at Perth this 22nd day of October, 1976.

K. J. TOWNSING,
Chairman.

P. R. ADAMS, Q.C.,
Member.

F. S. CROSS,
Member.

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.