

Resources and Time Commitments

How much time does it take and do councillors get paid?

The role of a councillor involves several hours each week for formal duties and many more hours for informal duties such as meeting with constituents and attending community functions.

The time commitment varies but it could require a core commitment of 15 to 25 hours a week.

Some councillors may be able to devote more hours. Councillors should expect to attend at least one meeting per week.

Formal council meetings are held at least once a month, however, council may have committee meetings or other activities, which form a regular schedule. Councillors often nominate for a particular committee responsibility, which holds separate committee meetings.

Regular council and committee meetings may take up more than one night each week. It is unlikely that councillors will be fulfilling their elected duties every night of the week. Night functions are shared with other councillors to avoid overload.

There may also be involvement in external organisations, for example with neighbourhood house committees, school and recreational committees. These committees meet at the discretion of their membership.

Many councillors retain their full-time employment and undertake the role of councillor in their own time. Partners of councillors are not expected to attend all civic events and receptions, however, an invitation is often extended to them.

Councillors are not considered employees and do not receive employment benefits such as a salary, superannuation and leave entitlements.

Councillors receive an allowance as fixed by an Order in Council, which commenced operation on 1 July 2001.

Under this Order, the minimum allowance that can be received by a councillor is between \$5,000 and \$18,000 depending on the revenue and population base of each council. Each council determines the amount to be paid to councillors within specified limits. Mayors receive a larger allowance due to their increased workload and role.