

Expenses and Facilities for the Mayor and Councillors Policy



We're with you

LEADERSHIP Wingecarribee Community Strategic Plan 2031 - An enhanced culture of positive leadership, accountability and ethical governance that guides well informed decisions to advance agreed community priorities

Document Type	Council Policy
Document Reference No.	2021/12
Version No.	2.1
Council File Reference	Document Set ID 249531
Adoption Date	9 June 2021
Resolution Number	MN 167/21
Document Owner	Manager Corporate Strategy and Governance
Responsible Branch	Corporate Strategy and Governance
Responsible Business Unit	Corporate Strategy and Governance
Review Schedule	4 years
Review Date	9 June 2025

Contents

1	Objectives.....	4
2	Policy Statement.....	4
	Policy Summary	4
3	Scope	13
4	Responsibilities	13
4.1	Councillors	13
4.2	Executive	13
4.3	Council staff	13
5	Performance Measures	13
6	Definitions.....	13
7	Related Material	14
7.1	Related Legislation	14
7.2	Related Policies, Procedures.....	14
8	Document Control	14
8.1	Version Control	14
9	Attachments	14

1 Objectives

The objective of the Policy are:

- enable the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors while undertaking their civic duties
- enable facilities of a reasonable and appropriate standard to be provided to Councillors to support them in undertaking their civic duties
- ensure accountability and transparency in reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors
- ensure facilities and expenses provided to Councillors meet community expectations
- support a diversity of representation \
- fulfil Council's statutory responsibilities.

2 Policy Statement

Policy Summary

This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to help them undertake their civic duties.

It ensures accountability and transparency and seeks to align Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (the Regulation), and complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW.

The policy sets out the maximum amounts Council will pay for specific expenses and facilities. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

The main expenses and facilities are summarised in the table below. All monetary amounts are exclusive of GST.

Table 1: Maximum Expense or Facility Limits

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
General travel expenses	\$5,000 per Councillor \$10,000 for the Mayor	Per year
Interstate, overseas travel expenses	\$10,000 total for all Councillors	Per year
Accommodation and meals	As per the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, adjusted annually	Per meal/night
Professional development	\$3,500 per Councillor	Per year
Conferences and seminars	\$15,000 total for all Councillors	Per year
Community meetings and non-council functions/events	\$500 per Councillor	Per year
ICT expenses	\$100 calls and 3GB data for the Mayor for Smart Phone \$80 calls and 3GB data per Councillor for Smart Phone 3GB of data for tablet \$40 home internet (if supplied with laptop only)	Per month
Carer expenses	\$2,000 per Councillor	Per year
Home office expenses	\$500 per Councillor	Per year

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
Access to facilities in a Councillor common room	Provided to all Councillors	Not relevant
Council vehicle and fuel card	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Reserved parking space at Council offices	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Furnished office	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant

Additional costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of these limits are considered a personal expense that is the responsibility of the Councillor.

Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement within three months of an expense being incurred, however all claims for April, May and June must be submitted no later than two weeks after the end of the financial year to ensure Council can accurately report on all Councillor payments made under this policy as part of its Annual Report. Claims made after this time cannot be approved. All claims must be made on the prescribed form and must be sufficiently detailed and accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence.

Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council meeting every six months and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

Part A - Introduction

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Wingecarribee Shire Council.
- 1.2. The community is entitled to know the extent of expenses paid to Councillors, as well as the facilities provided.
- 1.3. The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the facilities and support that are available to Councillors to assist them in fulfilling their civic duties.
- 1.4. Council staff are empowered to question or refuse a request for payment from a Councillor when it does not accord with this policy.
- 1.5. Expenses and facilities provided by this policy are in addition to fees paid to Councillors. The minimum and maximum fees a council may pay each Councillor are set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as per Section 241 of the Act and reviewed annually. Council must adopt its annual fees within this set range.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Council commits to the following principles:
 - Proper conduct:** Councillors and staff acting lawfully and honestly, exercising care and diligence in carrying out their functions
 - Reasonable expenses:** Providing for Councillors to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred as part of their role as Councillor
 - Participation and access:** Enabling people from diverse backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those in carer roles and those with special needs to serve as a Councillor
 - Equity:** There must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for all Councillors
 - Appropriate use of resources:** Providing clear direction on the appropriate use of Council resources in accordance with legal requirements and community expectations
 - Accountability and transparency:** Clearly stating and reporting on the expenses and facilities provided to Councillors.

3. Private or political benefit

- 3.1. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

- 3.2. Private use of Council equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time. For example, telephoning home to advise that a Council meeting will run later than expected.
- 3.3. Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council.
- 3.4. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where there are unavoidable circumstances and more substantial private use of Council facilities does occur, Councillors must reimburse Council.
- 3.5. Campaigns for re-election are considered to be a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered to be a political interest during a re-election campaign:
 - production of election material
 - use of Council resources and equipment for campaigning
 - use of official Council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit
 - fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

Part B - Expenses

4. General Expenses

- 4.1. All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. Allowances for general expenses are not permitted under this policy.
- 4.2. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

5. Specific Expenses General travel arrangements and expenses

- 5.1. All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport.
- 5.2. Each Councillor, including the Mayor, may be reimbursed up to a total of \$5,000 per year, and the Mayor may be reimbursed up to a total of \$10,000 per year, for travel expenses incurred while undertaking official business or professional development or attending approved conferences and seminars within NSW. This includes reimbursement:
 - for public transport fares
 - for the use of a private vehicle or hire car
 - for parking costs for Council and other meetings
 - for tolls
 - by Cabcharge card or equivalent
 - for documented ride-share programs, such as Uber, where tax invoices can be issued.
- 5.3. Allowances for the use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award.
- 5.4. Councillors seeking to be reimbursed for use of a private vehicle must record on the Councillor expense claim form the date, distance and purpose of travel being claimed.

Interstate and overseas travel expenses

- 5.5. In accordance with Section 4, Council will scrutinise the value and need for Councillors to undertake overseas travel. Councillors should avoid interstate and overseas trips unless direct and tangible benefits can be established for the Council and the local community. This includes travel to sister and friendship cities.
- 5.6. Total interstate and overseas travel expenses for all Councillors will be capped at a maximum of \$10,000 per year.
- 5.7. Councillors seeking approval for any interstate travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, the Mayor and General Manager prior to travel.
- 5.8. Councillors seeking approval for any overseas travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, a full Council meeting prior to travel.
- 5.9. The case should include:
 - objectives to be achieved in travel, including an explanation of how the travel aligns with current Council priorities and business, the community benefits which will accrue as a result, and its relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties

- who is to take part in the travel
- duration and itinerary of travel
- a detailed budget including a statement of any amounts expected to be reimbursed for the participant/s.

- 5.10. For interstate journeys by air of less than three hours, the class of air travel is to be economy class.
- 5.11. For interstate journeys by air of more than three hours, the class of air travel may be premium economy.
- 5.12. For international travel, the class of air travel is to be premium economy if available. Otherwise, the class of travel is to be economy.
- 5.13. Bookings for approved air travel are to be made through the General Manager's office.
- 5.14. For air travel that is reimbursed as Council business, Councillors will not accrue points from the airline's frequent flyer program. This is considered a private benefit.

Travel expenses not paid by Council

- 5.15. Council will not pay any traffic or parking fines or administrative charges for road toll accounts.

Accommodation and meals

- 5.16. In circumstances where it would introduce undue risk for a Councillor to travel to or from official business in the late evening or early morning, reimbursement of costs for accommodation and meals on the night before or after the meeting may be approved by the General Manager. This includes where a meeting finishes later than 9.00pm or starts earlier than 7.00am and the Councillor lives more than 50 kilometres from the meeting location.
- 5.17. Council will reimburse costs for accommodation and meals while Councillors are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside a 100 km radius of the Moss Vale Civic Centre.
- 5.18. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses within Australia are to be consistent with those set out in Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.
- 5.19. The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses outside Australia are to be determined in advance by the General Manager, being mindful of Clause 5.18.

Refreshments for Council related meetings

- 5.20. Appropriate refreshments will be available for Council meetings, Council Committee meetings, Councillor briefings, approved meetings and engagements, and official Council functions as approved by the General Manager.
- 5.21. As an indicative guide for the standard of refreshments to be provided at Council related meetings, the General Manager must be mindful of Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.

Professional development

- 5.22. Council will set aside \$3,500 per Councillor annually in its budget to facilitate professional development of Councillors through programs, training, education courses and membership of professional bodies.
- 5.23. In the first year of a new Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors which considers any guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the ongoing professional development funding.
- 5.24. Annual membership of professional bodies will only be covered where the membership is relevant to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties, the Councillor actively participates in the body and the cost of membership is likely to be fully offset by savings from attending events as a member.

5.25. Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the Mayor and General Manager outlining the:

- details of the proposed professional development
- relevance to Council priorities and business
- relevance of the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.

5.26. In assessing a Councillor request for a professional development activity, the Mayor and General Manager must consider the factors set out in Clause 5.25, as well as the cost of the professional development in relation to the Councillor's remaining budget.

Conferences and seminars

5.27. Council is committed to ensuring its Councillors are up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the community, and local government in NSW.

5.28. Council will set aside a total amount of \$15,000 annually in its budget to facilitate Councillor attendance at conferences and seminars, including the Local Government NSW Annual Conference. This allocation is for all Councillors. The General Manager will ensure that access to expenses relating to conferences and seminars is distributed equitably.

5.29. Approval to attend a conference or seminar is subject to a Council resolution or approval by both the Mayor and General Manager. A written request considering the following factors is required:

- relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties
- cost of the conference or seminar in relation to the total remaining budget.

5.30. Council will meet the reasonable cost of registration fees, transportation and accommodation associated with attendance at conferences for approved conferences. Council will also meet the reasonable cost of meals when they are not included in the conference fees. Reimbursement for accommodation and meals not included in the conference fees will be subject to Clauses 5.16-5.20.

Local Government NSW Annual Conference

5.31. Up to three Councillors will also attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference each year. Council will reimburse the cost of registration fees and where the conference is outside a 100 km radius of the Moss Vale Civic Centre, the cost of travel, accommodation and meals not covered by the conference registration, subject to Clauses 5.17-5.20.

5.32. For the Local Government NSW Annual Conference only, Council will meet the costs of the official conference dinner for an accompanying person of a Councillor.

Community Meetings and Non-Council Functions or Events

5.33. Where a Councillor accepts an invitation to attend a community meeting or non-Council function/event Council will reimburse up to \$500 per annum per Councillor for travel and other reasonable out of pocket expenses associated with attendance at the meeting or function. All claims must be supported by appropriate documentary evidence.

5.34. Council will not cover the costs associated with an accompanying spouse or partner attending community meetings and non-Council function or events.

5.35. Council will not reimburse to a Councillor, any costs associated with attendance at any political fundraising event, for any donation to a political party or candidate's electoral fund, or for some other private benefit.

ICT expenses

5.36. Council will provide to Councillors upon the commencement of their term of office appropriate ICT devices and services to fulfil their civic office duties. This will include a:

- Smart phone including \$100 call allowance and 3GB data per month for the Mayor and \$80 call allowance and 3GB data per month for Councillors
- Tablet including 3GB data allowance per month OR laptop with reimbursement of up to \$40 per month for home internet costs
- Multifunction device including A4 colour printing, copying and scanning functions
- Facsimile and where required, a separate facsimile phone line.

- 5.37. Council will procure all equipment on behalf of Councillors and will supply its preferred and supported equipment only. The determination as to what equipment (i.e. make and model) will be provided will be made by the General Manager based upon Council's General ICT program and identified needs. Council will update ICT equipment once during the Council term.

Special requirement and carer expenses

- 5.38. Council encourages wide participation and interest in civic office. It will seek to ensure Council premises and associated facilities are accessible, including provision for sight or hearing impaired Councillors and those with other disabilities. 5.39. Transportation provisions outlined in this policy will also assist Councillors who may be unable to drive a vehicle. 5.40. In addition to the provisions above, the General Manager may authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties.
- 5.41. Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or other elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member will be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 per annum for attendance at official business, plus reasonable travel from the principal place of residence.
- 5.42. Child care expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years where the carer is not a relative.
- 5.43. In the event of caring for an adult person, Councillors will need to provide suitable evidence to the General Manager that reimbursement is applicable. This may take the form of advice from a medical practitioner.

Home office expenses

- 5.44. Each Councillor will be provided with minor home office consumables associated with the maintenance of a home office, such as stationery and printer ink cartridges up to the cost of \$500 per year. These items will be procured by Council and all requests for items must be submitted in writing on the prescribed form.

6. Insurances

- 6.1. In accordance with Section 382 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is insured against public liability and professional indemnity claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this Policy.
- 6.2. Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his or her civic duties, or exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor. All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.
- 6.3. Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by Council's insurers, whether defended or not.
- 6.4. Appropriate travel insurances will be provided for any Councillors traveling on approved interstate and overseas travel on Council business.

7. Legal assistance

- 7.1. Council may, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:
- a Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act 1993
 - a Councillor defending an action in defamation, provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Act
 - a Councillor for proceedings before an appropriate investigative or review body, provided the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act and the matter has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review and the investigative or review body makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor
 - a conduct complaint made against a Councillor, legal costs will only be made available where the matter has been referred by the General Manager to a conduct

reviewer or conduct review panel to make formal enquiries into that matter in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and that the findings are substantially favourable to the Councillor

- 7.2. Legal expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising out of the performance by a Councillor of his or her functions under the Act are distinguished from expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising merely from something that a Councillor has done during his or her term in office. For example, expenses arising from an investigation as to whether a Councillor acted corruptly would not be covered by this section.
- 7.3. Council will not meet the legal costs:
- of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstances
 - of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation
 - for legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor.
- 7.4. Authorisation of the payment or reimbursement of legal expenses for a Councillor will be subject to approval by Council, following consideration of the relevant matters, including this policy, via a report to open Council.

8. Interim Administrator Expenses

- 8.1. Council will meet the reasonable cost of accommodation for an Interim Administrator while appointed by the Minister for Local Government in accordance with section 438M of the Act

Part C - Facilities

9. General facilities for all Councillors Facilities

- 9.1. Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors to assist them to effectively discharge their civic duties:
- a Councillor common room appropriately furnished to include telephone, photocopier, printer, desks, computer terminal, pigeon holes and appropriate refreshments (excluding alcohol)
 - personal protective equipment for use during site visits
 - a name badge which may be worn at official functions, indicating that the wearer holds the office of a Councillor and/or Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- 9.2. Councillors may book meeting rooms for official business in a specified Council building at no cost. Rooms may be booked through a specified officer in the Mayor's office or another specified staff member.
- 9.3. The provision of facilities will be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.

Stationery

- 9.4. Council will provide the following stationery to Councillors each year:
- letterhead, to be used only for correspondence associated with civic duties
 - business cards.

Administrative support

- 9.5. Council may provide administrative support to Councillors to assist them with their civic duties only. Administrative support may be provided by staff in the Mayor's office or by a member of Council's administrative staff as arranged by the General Manager or their delegate.
- 9.6. As per Section 3, Council staff are expected to assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

10. Additional facilities for the Mayor.

- 10.1. Council will provide to the mayor a maintained vehicle to a similar standard of other council vehicles, with a fuel card. The vehicle will be supplied for use on business, professional development and attendance at the mayor's office.

- 10.2. The mayor must keep a log book setting out the date, distance and purpose of all travel. This must include any travel for private benefit. The log book must be submitted to council on a monthly basis.
- 10.3. The mayoral allowance will be reduced to cover the cost of any private travel recorded in the log book, calculated on a per kilometre basis by the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award.
- 10.4. A parking space at Council's offices will be reserved for the Mayor's use on official business, professional development and attendance at the Mayor's office.
- 10.5. Council will provide the Mayor with a furnished office incorporating a computer configured to Council's standard operating environment, telephone and meeting space.
- 10.6. In performing his or her civic duties, the Mayor will be assisted by a small number of staff providing administrative and secretarial support, as determined by the General Manager.
- 10.7. The number of exclusive staff provided to support the Mayor and Councillors will not exceed the number of full time equivalents identified in the adopted organisational structure and as provided in the adopted budget.
- 10.8. As per Section 3, staff in the Mayor's office are expected to work on official business only, and not for matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

Part D - Processes

11. Approval, payment and reimbursement arrangement

- 11.1. Expenses must only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- 11.2. Up to the maximum limits specified in this policy, approval for the following may be sought after the expense is incurred:
 - travel relating to the conduct of official business
 - carer costs.
- 11.3. Final approval for payments made under this policy will be granted by the General Manager or their delegate.

Direct payment

- 11.4. Council may approve and directly pay expenses. Requests for direct payment must be submitted to the Group Manager Corporate and Community for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form, with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

Reimbursement

- 11.5. All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred must be made on the prescribed form, supported by appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices and be submitted to the Group Manager Corporate and Community.

Advance payment

- 11.6. Council may pay a cash advance for Councillors attending approved conferences, seminars or professional development.
- 11.8. Requests for advance payment must be submitted to the Group Manager Corporate and Community for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form, with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.
- 11.9. Councillors must fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within one month of incurring the cost and/or returning home. This includes providing to Council:
 - a full reconciliation of all expenses including appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices
 - reimbursement of any amount of the advance payment not spent in attending to official business or professional development.

Notification

- 11.10. If a claim is approved, Council will make payment directly or reimburse the Councillor through accounts payable.

11.11. If a claim is refused, Council will inform the Councillor in writing that the claim has been refused and the reason for the refusal.

Reimbursement to Council

11.12. If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy:

- Council will invoice the Councillor for the expense
- the Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense within 14 days of the invoice date.

11.13. If the Councillor cannot reimburse Council within 14 days of the invoice date, they are to submit a written explanation to the General Manager. The General Manager may elect to deduct the amount from the Councillor's allowance.

Timeframe for reimbursement

11.14. Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within three months of an expense being incurred, however all claims for April, May and June must be submitted no later than two weeks after the end of the financial year to ensure Council can accurately report on all Councillor payments made under this policy as part of its Annual Report. Claims made after this time cannot be approved. All claims must be made on the prescribed form and must be sufficiently detailed and accompanied by appropriate documentary evidence. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

12. Disputes

12.1 If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the General Manager.

12.2 If the Councillor and the General Manager cannot resolve the dispute, the Councillor may submit a notice of motion to a Council meeting seeking to have the dispute resolved.

13. Return or retention of facilities

13.1 All unexpended facilities or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or Mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.

13.2 Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the General Manager to purchase any such equipment. The General Manager will determine an agreed fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.

13.3 The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors under Clause 12.2 will be recorded in Council's Annual Report.

14. Publication

14.1 This policy will be published on Council's website.

15. Reporting

15.1 Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulation.

15.2 Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council meeting every six months and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

16. Auditing

16.1 The operation of this policy, including claims made under the policy, will be included in Council's audit program and an audit undertaken at least every two years.

17. Breaches

17.1 Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager.

17.2 Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

3 Scope

This Policy applies to the Mayor and Councillors during their elected term.

4 Responsibilities

Responsibilities for the implementation of this Policy are shared as follows.

4.1 Councillors

- To communicate, implement and comply with this Policy

4.2 Executive

- To ensure (directly through delegation) the distribution and communication of the Policy and to ensure the approved Policy is available in hardcopy and electronically on Council's website

4.3 Council staff

- To comply with this policy and to facilitate the provision of training to all Council officials on their role and responsibilities.

5 Performance Measures

The success of this Policy will be measured through Council's audit program. Audits of claims made under this policy will be audited at least every two years.

6 Definitions

accompanying person	Means a spouse, partner or de facto or other person who has a close personal relationship with or provides carer support to a Councillor
appropriate refreshments	Means food and beverages provided by Council to support Councillors undertaking official business
Act	Means the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Annual Conference	Means Local Government NSW Annual Conference
clause	Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this policy
Code of Conduct	Means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council or the Model Code if none is adopted
Councillor	Means a person elected or appointed to civic office as a member of the governing body of Council who is not suspended, including the Mayor
General Manager	Means the General Manager of Council and includes their delegate or authorised representative
ICT	Means Telecommunications and Information Communications and Technology
incidental personal use	Means use that is infrequent and brief and use that does not breach this policy or the Code of Conduct
maximum limit	Means the maximum limit for an expense or facility provided in the text and summarised in Table 1

NSW

official business

New South Wales

Means functions that the Mayor or Councillors are required or invited to attend to fulfil their legislated role and responsibilities for Council or result in a direct benefit for Council and/or for the local government area, and includes:

- meetings of Council
- meetings of committees facilitated by Council, as per Council's adopted committee structure
- civic receptions hosted or sponsored by Council
- meetings, functions, workshops and other events to which attendance by a Councillor has been requested or approved by Council

professional development

Means a training course or other development opportunity relevant to the role of a Councillor or the Mayor

Regulation

Means the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (NSW)

year

Means the financial year, that is the 12 month period commencing on 1 July each year.

7 Related Material

7.1 Related Legislation

The following legislative material(s) are related to this Policy:

- Local Government Act 1993, Sections 252 and 253
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Clauses 217 and 403

7.2 Related Policies, Procedures

The following policy materials are related to this Policy:

- Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW, 2009
- Local Government Circular 09-36 Guidelines for Payment of Expenses and Facilities
- Local Government Circular 05-08 legal assistance for Councillors and Council Employees
- Wingecarribee Shire Council Code of Conduct

8 Document Control

8.1 Version Control

Version	Adoption Date	Notes
1.0		
2.0	23 August 2017	Policy modelled on a new template endorsed by the Office of Local Government

9 Attachments

There are no attachments to this Policy.

Approved by:

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

9 June 2021