

**8.1.1. COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW - POLICIES REVIEWED WITH NO OR MINIMAL CHANGES IDENTIFIED: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR COUNCILLORS**

**File No: 11.00006**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- a) Place the draft Governance - Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors Policy on public exhibition for 28 days, and
- b) Receive a further report following the exhibition period to consider adoption of the Policy.
- c) Enact this resolution immediately without the need for adoption at the Ordinary Council meeting.

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**REPORT:**

As part of Council's governance procedures, there is an ongoing program to review all Council policies.

Section 252 of the Local Government Act requires Council to:

**252 Payment of expenses and provision of facilities**

- (1) *Within the first 12 months of each term of a council, the council must adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor (if there is one) and the other councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.*
- (2) *The policy may provide for fees payable under this Division to be reduced by an amount representing the private benefit to the mayor or a councillor of a facility provided by the council to the mayor or councillor.*
- (3) *A council must not pay any expenses incurred or to be incurred by, or provide any facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor (if there is one) or a councillor otherwise than in accordance with a policy under this section.*
- (4) *A council may from time to time amend a policy under this section.*
- (5) *A policy under this section must comply with the provisions of this Act, the regulations and any relevant guidelines issued under section 23A.*

Prior to adopting the policy there are certain requirements in regards to giving public notice prior to adoption of the policy.

**253 Requirements before policy concerning expenses and facilities can be adopted or amended**

- (1) *A council must give public notice of its intention to adopt or amend a policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities allowing at least 28 days for the making of public submissions.*
- (2) *Before adopting or amending the policy, the council must consider any submissions made within the time allowed for submissions and make any appropriate changes to the draft policy or amendment.*
- (3) *Despite subsections (1) and (2), a council need not give public notice of a proposed amendment to its policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities if the council is of the opinion that the proposed amendment is not substantial.*
- (4) *(Repealed)*
- (5) *A council must comply with this section when proposing to adopt a policy in accordance with section 252(1) even if the council proposes to adopt a policy that is the same as its existing policy.*

It is proposed that the Policy be placed on exhibition immediately following the Policy Meeting, if Council should so agree. A report for the adoption of the proposed policy will be presented to the September Ordinary meeting of Council.

Policy Reviewed	Action	New Renewal Date
Governance – Payment of Expenses & Provisions of Facilities for Councillors	No changes made.	September 2028

A copy of the proposed policy to go on public exhibition is at **attachment 1**.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Funding for Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities is contained within Council's existing budget.

## **BATHURST COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:**

### **Strategic Direction 2: Council Leadership and Collaboration**

Outcome 2.3      Council leads through engaged civic governance and has ethical decision making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

01 **Inform** - to provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Governance Payment of expenses Provision of Facilities for Councillors [8.1.1.1 - 16 pages]

## **MINUTE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-15**

**MOVED: Cr B Fry SECONDED: Cr J Underwood**

### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

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- b) Receive a further report following the exhibition period to consider adoption of the Policy.
- c) Enact this resolution immediately without the need for adoption at the Ordinary Council meeting.

Cr W Aubin connected in by Audio Visual link.