

Helen Harris O.A.M., Master of Arts (History)

Genealogical & Historical Researcher & Lecturer

6 February 2017

Ms N. Duff
CEO
City of Whitehorse
NUNAWADING.

Dear Ms Duff

MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES SUBMISSION

I write in support of the published proposed allowances for the positions of Mayor and Councillor for the City of Whitehorse. As a former Councillor and Mayor, I have a very detailed understanding of the amount of effort that is involved in being a Councillor, and the enormous workload that a Mayor carries.

While I think that the Councillor Allowance should be increased to around \$35,000, I understand that this is not possible as it is the State government that sets the maximum allowance, but it is far less than would be paid in private enterprise for the hours and responsibilities involved.

Mayoral duties take up around 50-60 hours per week, including weekends and evenings, and place a heavy demand on family life. The allowance proposed is again, much less than a similar position in private enterprise, and far less than that paid to a State parliamentarian.

I do not think it necessary to speak to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN HARRIS, OAM

Order of Australia Medal awarded 1993 for services to community history.
Hon. Life Member Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.
Hon. Life Member Victoria Police Historical Society.
Founder & Hon. Life Member Avoca & District Historical Society.
Winner of the inaugural VAFFHO Frances Brown Award 2004.
Member Professional. Historians' Association.
Former Councillor & Mayor, City of Whitehorse
National Secretary, Aust. Local Government Women's Association Inc.
Executive Officer, Victorian Branch ALGWA.