



Office of the Leader of the Opposition

27 October 2009

Mr Ken Smith
 Director General
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 PO Box 15185
 CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to previous correspondence in relation to proposed variations to Member's Entitlements.

These proposals have now been considered by Shadow Cabinet and the LNP Party Meeting and the following positions have been adopted.

- Recommendation 1 Support
- Recommendations 2/3 Support subject to no Member being disadvantaged. Members were concerned that some Members either do not have access to competitive Mobile Phone Plans or to any Mobile coverage at all.
- Recommendation 4 Support
- Recommendation 5 Claims against the General Travelling Allowance should be allowed in relation to attendance at seminars and conferences but not Party related.
- Recommendation 6 Support but the level of tax claim should be raised to \$100
- Recommendation 7 Support
- Recommendation 8 Support but believes Members should be able to display Name and Electorate on vehicle.
- Recommendation 9 Support. The view was expressed that indexation should be 7.5%.
- Recommendation 10 Support
- Recommendation 11 Until the actual proposed Form is available for perusal no view can be expressed. However the imposition of further obligations on Members is opposed.
- Recommendation 12 Support
- Recommendation 13 Noted. Concern was however expressed that no relief is available for Electorate Officers who are absent through illness.
- Recommendation 14 Support
- Recommendation 15 Noted
- Recommendation 16 Noted
- Recommendation 17 Noted
- Recommendation 18 Support
- Recommendation 19 Support
- Recommendation 20 Support
- Recommendation 21 Support

I trust you will now be able to progress this matter.

Yours faithfully

KEVIN MARTIN
 Chief of Staff

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Andrew Timperley

From: Andrew Timperley
Sent: Monday, 26 October 2009 9:14 AM
To: Ken Smith
Cc: Scott Kessell; Patrick Vidgen
Subject: Opposition Spokespersons Allowance


Ken

Please find information as requested:-

- The Opposition Spokespersons Allowance was introduced in April 1996.
- The rate was set at 7.5% of the base salary of a Member of Parliament and equated to \$5,887 per annum.
- As there is no mechanism in the Members' Entitlements Handbook to periodically increase the allowance it has remained at \$5,887 per annum since it was introduced in 1996.
- The current rate of \$5,887 per annum is 4.65% of the current base salary of a Member of Parliament.
- If a return to a rate of 7.5% was approved this would increase the amount from \$5,887 per annum to \$9,492 per annum.
- The issue of a mechanism to periodically increase the allowance was raised with the former Premier in 2006 by the then Leader of the Opposition (Mr Seeney) but the request was declined.

Regards
Andrew

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Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: ES/AT - TF/09/27861 - DOC/09/113621

6 OCT 2009

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I refer to the statement of 24 September 2009 by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal recommending an adjustment to the remuneration of public offices, including Members of the Parliament of Australia, of three per cent with effect from 1 October 2009, and to the statement of the Acting Prime Minister (the Honourable Julia Gillard MP) that the federal Government will accept the Remuneration Tribunal's recommendation.

As you are aware, in 2008 the Prime Minister placed a freeze on increases to the salaries of Members of the Parliament of Australia. As a consequence of the link between the salaries of Members of the Commonwealth House of Representatives and the salaries of Members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, this freeze has also applied to Queensland Members.

During the State election campaign in March 2009, I made a commitment that regardless of what was to happen to the salaries of federal Members this year, the salaries of Queensland Members would not rise in 2009.

The federal Government has recently lifted its freeze on salaries. Consequently, I wish to advise that as soon as the salary increase to federal Members has been formalised by the Commonwealth Parliament, the Government intends to seek the approval of the Governor-in-Council to apply a three per cent increase to the salaries of Members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly with effect from 1 January 2010.

I also refer to the *Members' Entitlements Handbook* (the Handbook), which provides that certain allowances shall be varied annually from July in accordance with the variation in the Consumer Price Index for Brisbane for the previous financial year ending 30 June.



Queensland
Government


The Clerk of the Parliament has recently written to my department advising that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Brisbane rose by two per cent for the year ending 30 June 2009, and requesting that the appropriate amendments to the Handbook be considered.

I wish to advise that it is the Government's intention to seek the approval of the Governor in Council, to apply a two per cent CPI increase to those allowances payable under the Handbook, with effect from 1 January 2010.

If you should have any queries regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have also written to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Independent Members of the House regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely


ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

RTI RELEASED