



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS**

LORD MAYOR - CORRESPONDENCE

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee

**Meeting date: 14 September
2021**

Raised by: Councillor Dutta

Question:

1. Can you provide advice as to whether it has been normal practice since the city was established in 1853 for Hobart Mayors to send correspondence signed by the Mayor?
2. Can the staff please advise if it is common practise in every Australian Council for Mayors to send correspondence, signed by the Mayor, to stakeholders and city partners?
3. Can staff identify any Council in Australia that requires general civic and community correspondence to be vetted by a Council chamber?
4. Can advice be provided as to how the City of Hobart's Lord Mayoral budget compares to those in other Australian capital cities?
5. Can you confirm if under section 27 of the *Local Government Act* that the Mayor has additional duties when compared to those of Councillors, and if these duties include the Lord Mayor being required to:
 - (a) to act as a leader of the community in the municipal area?
 - (b) to carry out civic and ceremonial functions?
 - (c) to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels?

Response to question 1:

Certainly in modern history, with the Lord Mayor being the figurehead or principal member of the Council, it has been normal practice that the Lord Mayor of the day would send correspondence signed by them.

It is imagined that it would also have been normal practice since the first Lord Mayor was invested.

Response to question 2:

Yes, it is understood that this is common practice.

Response to question 3:

Officers are not able to identify any Council that requires general correspondence to be approved by the full Council.

Response to question 4:

	Budget 2021/22
Brisbane	\$31.2M*
Sydney	\$3.7M
Melbourne	-
Hobart	\$0.47M
Perth	-
Adelaide	\$2.96M*
Darwin	-

** Figure includes support for all elected representatives*

Only publicly available information was willing to be shared by capital City Councils. The table above denotes Lord Mayor Office budget information detailed in publicly available annual operating plans or budget papers.

The annual budget figure for the City of Hobart Lord Mayor Office is largely made up of staff costs.

As the principal member of the Council, the Lord Mayor of the day receives comprehensive support services to assist in their civic leadership responsibilities and to ensure consistency with the City of Hobart Community Vision and Strategic Plan.


It should also be noted that the quantum of staff supporting the Lord Mayor has decreased in recent years.

Response to question 5:

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Lord Mayor has specific additional functions to an Alderman/Councillor. Among others, it is confirmed these do include:

- (a) to act as a leader of the community in the municipal area
- (b) to carry out civic and ceremonial functions
- (c) to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Kelly Grigsby
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 30 November 2021
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