Attachment A

Council Submission
Local Government Remuneration Tribunal
2026 Annual Review – Stage 1
Comment on Local Government NSW Submission

CITY OF SYDNEY

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Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - 2027 Annual Review – Stage 1 – Comment on Local Government NSW Submission

The City of Sydney Council supports the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) submission.

The LGNSW submission (similar to the City of Sydney submission) notes that the current framework and fees applied to Councillors and Mayors in NSW does not and cannot provide just fee outcomes in its current form.

The LGNSW submission provides that Category I (Principal City) should continue to apply only to the City of Sydney Council, consistent with the current treatment of Sydney and Melbourne in their respective jurisdictions. This recognises Council's unique economic and social character and its domestic and international significance.

The LGNSW submission proposes a point system to classify councils for remuneration purposes, rather than using population as the only criterion. Each Council would be scored points against the following 7 criteria:

- The size of areas (1 to 5 points)
- The physical terrain of areas (1 to 5 points)
- The population of areas and the distribution of the population (1 to 10 points)
- The nature and volume of business dealt with by each council (1 to 10 points)
- The nature and extent of the development of areas (1 to 10 points)
- The diversity of communities served (1 to 10 points)
- The regional, national and international significance of the council (1 to 5 points)

Councils would be scored between one and up to 10 points for each criterion. Councils would be classified into categories according to the number of points they have. Given that some criteria favour rural councils and other criteria favour metropolitan councils, it is unlikely that any Council could score the possible maximum of 55 points.

The City of Sydney would retain its own unique category (Category I) and it would appear it would not necessarily be subject to the points system.

The LGNSW submission proposes that Mayoral and Councillors be set according to each category. The submission supports the fees it recommends by arguing that the role and responsibilities of Mayors and Councillors have significantly increased since 1995 – and that the Tribunal should effectively cease simply increasing the fees using the 1995 fees as a base. This parallels the approach of the City's submission which argues that fees should be calculated by establishing a new base fee from 2004/2005 to take into account the expanded City of Sydney boundaries and increased responsibilities of Councils.

The City of Sydney acknowledges
the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the
Traditional Custodians of our local area.