

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Towong Shire Councillors take voluntary pay cut**

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Towong Shire Council's five Councillors have voluntarily reduced their allowances by 1.5%.

Council unanimously agreed to the reduction at its April 2017 meeting, citing a commitment to financial responsibility as the reason behind the move.

Towong Shire Council Mayor Cr David Wortmann said the reduction keeps Councillor allowances below CPI at a time when staffing costs and rates are also being capped.

"We think it's important to lead by example and considering the cost pressures facing the Council now is not the time to be accepting pay increases," he said.

"The Minister for Local Government increased Victorian Mayor and Councillor allowances by 2.5% in November 2016. We have a long-standing commitment to reducing costs and increasing sustainability and we don't believe it's appropriate to accept such an increase.

"We believe it is essential that we are responsible with public funds. Good governance shouldn't be an onerous financial burden to our ratepayers and we have been elected to act in their interests."

It is proposed to reduce Towong Shire Council's Mayoral allowance for 2017-18 to \$58,389 and the Councillor allowance to \$19,543 annually.

Submissions from the public in relation to the allowance review will be accepted until 5.00pm Thursday 18 May and will be considered at the 6 June Council meeting. Submissions can be made by emailing [info@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au) or mailed to the Towong Shire Offices, 32 Towong Street, Tallangatta, Victoria 3700.

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