

All jurisdictions are required to maintain corresponding legislation for the *National Environment Protection Council Act*. As per the 1992 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, Commonwealth legislative changes affecting the *National Environment Protection Council Act* must be incorporated into corresponding legislation in all states and territories. In recognition of these changes and of the Territory's requirement to maintain corresponding legislation, the draft National Environment Protection Council Northern Territory Amendment Bill 2003 has been prepared.

Madam Speaker, I commend the bill to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

TABLED PAPER
Remuneration Tribunal Report and
Determination No 1 of 2003

Ms MARTIN (Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, I table the Remuneration Tribunal Report and Determination No 1 of 2003.

MOTION
Note Paper - Remuneration Tribunal Report
and Determination No 1 of 2003

Ms MARTIN (Chief Minister): Madam Speaker, I move that the Assembly take note of the paper.

The Leader of Government Business provided a written submission to the Remuneration Tribunal Chair on behalf of government on 13 October of this year. You, Madam Speaker, the member for Nelson, the Clerk of the Assembly, and the opposition made written submissions. Additional evidence was also taken in Darwin from 8 to 11 October. This determination does not recommend substantial changes to members' entitlements. The tribunal made structural changes to the format of Determination No 2 of 2002 to increase clarity and simplicity in relation to members' entitlements. This report continues that process without fundamentally changing the scope of members' entitlements.

The tribunal notes entitlements as office holders remuneration and electoral allowances have not been substantially increased for some time, and remuneration for officer holders is progressively declining in relation to the base salary of members. Similarly, the real value of electorate allowances is also declining. The tribunal has recommended a CPI increase of approximately 1.8% to office holders' salaries and to electorate allowances.

The tribunal has also made some structural changes to the report to set out more logical arrangements of the determination, particularly in relation to travel. Further, the report has clarified some uncertainties and anomalies in previous determinations. Changes include an increase in the flexibility of use of trips within the Northern Territory by the opposition. The tribunal has determined travelling allowance nights and the number of trips can be pooled and used by shadow ministers collectively, increasing their flexibility in travelling around the Territory, and there will be no additional cost to taxpayers.

In relation to communications, the tribunal has recommended that the mobile phone allowance paid to members be discontinued and, in line with current practice for senior public servants and ministers, members will be provided with mobile phones and broadband Internet access to complete their duties on their constituents' behalf more efficiently. The tribunal has recommended members reimburse 15% of mobile phone charges, with this amount to remain under review by the tribunal.

The tribunal has also recommended electorate allowances be adjusted for the increase in the standard letter rate of postage, in addition to Darwin's CPI increase to electorate allowances generally.

In summary, the reduction in the mobile phone allowance, the increase in the stamp costs and the application of the CPI amount will mean no change in the rate of electorate allowances payable to urban members, and very little change in the rate paid to regional members.

Madam Speaker, there is very little change overall, but it continues the process of clarification and removing anomalies. The report covers other matters for members and it should be read by all. The government accepts the tribunal determination. I place on record my thanks to tribunal Chair, Otto Alder and his team for their work.

Madam Speaker, I move that the Assembly take note of the report and that I have leave to continue my remarks at a later hour.

Motion agreed to.

PARKS AND RESERVES (FRAMEWORK FOR
THE FUTURE) BILL
(Serial 180)

Continued from 8 October 2003.

Mr MILLS (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, this bill is yet another example of the way