

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Speaker's Salary Cap Determination 2019 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2019-30

Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act 1989, s 5 (3) (Office-holders may employ staff) and s 17 (4) (Office-holders may engage consultants and contractors)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Legislative Context

The *Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act 1989* ("the Act") provides for the employment of staff, and the engagement of consultants or contractors, by office-holders (Ministers and "the Speaker") of the Legislative Assembly.

Subsections 5(1) and 17(1) of the Act give office-holders the authority to employ staff, and engage consultants and contractors, respectively. Subsections 5(3) and 17(4) provide for the Chief Minister to determine in writing the conditions within which office-holders may exercise that authority. Such a determination is a disallowable instrument.

Outline

The Instrument revokes disallowable instrument DI2018-187 which provided conditions under which the Speaker may employ staff and engage consultants or contractors, including interim salary allocation for the 2018–2019 financial year pending the finalisation of an enterprise agreement for staff employed under the Act.

An enterprise agreement has now been approved by staff. The enterprise agreement provides for pay increases to staff of 1.35% with effect from 13 December 2018 and from 13 June 2019. The instrument determines a revised allocation for the Speaker which provides for the payment to staff of these pay increases for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Conditions

Numbered clause 2 sets the commencement of the instrument as the day after its notification day.

Numbered clauses 3 and 4 contain technical provisions.

Numbered clause 5 revokes disallowable instrument DI2018-187.

Numbered clause 6 sets that the instrument determines the conditions that apply to the hire, by the Speaker, of staff, contractors and consultants under the Act.

Numbered clause 7 sets that the conditions apply to a person while the person holds the office of Speaker during the specified period. The specified period commences on 1 July 2018 and ends on 30 June 2019, or the date on which the instrument is revoked, whichever is the later.

Numbered clause 8(1) sets the condition that the Speaker may only employ staff, or engage consultants or contractors, while the total amount payable for salary and payments do not exceed the specified salary cap, while the Speaker holds office during the period, worked out in accordance with the prescribed formula.

Numbered clause 8(2) sets the formula for calculating the relevant salary cap. The formula provides that the Speaker may allocate part or all of the Speaker's uncommitted salary allocation to another member, and to receive part or all of the uncommitted salary allocation from another member, in the form of a salary pledge. The formula also provides for the carry over by the Speaker of unexpended salary allocation from the 2017–2018 financial year.

Numbered clause 8(3) limits the carry over to no more than 10% of the Speaker's annual salary allocation for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Numbered clause 8(4) provides that an amount payable for salary to a staff member for a period of leave may be excluded from the Speaker's salary cap where specified conditions are met. Subclauses (a) to (d) set out the specified conditions.

Numbered clause 8(5) requires that an amount may only be excluded from the Speaker's salary cap if the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is satisfied that all of the specified conditions have been met.