

6. Assessment of the Social and Economic Effects of the Rating Policy and Declaration

The Council has considered the ongoing effect of the COVID-19 crisis on the regions social and economic factors and whilst always mindful and prepared to initiate measures to protect the communities from the associated economic impacts, the Council is largely guided by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government' decisions.

Rates to be levied on property owners by Roper Gulf Regional Council in 2021/22 remain affordable and at very low levels compared to other local government jurisdictions in Australia. Furthermore, rates levied on Territory Housing dwellings are paid in the first instance by Territory Housing, so have no direct financial impact on public housing tenants. As such, the Council does not anticipate any detrimental socio-economic impact from levying rates in 2021/22.

Additionally, rates revenue remains a small proportion of the Council's total budget, at less than 7 per cent of the total operating revenue. This underlies the fact that the Council is effective in securing significant non-rate revenue for all of its communities, including government grants and contracts. This allows for services and employment opportunities to be delivered to Council residents far above what the rates revenue would alone enable, resulting in a net positive socio-economic impact for residents.

Despite having mining and pastoral properties in the council's area, the rate capping imposed by the Territory Government for this category, restricts council's ability to generate increased revenue. This adversely affects council to provide increased services to the communities.

7. Elected Member Allowances

Table of Maximum Council Member Allowances for 2021/22

A council must resolve to fix member allowances for the financial year when it adopts the budget for the financial year. A council must adopt its 2021/22 budget on or before 31 July 2021.

The amounts in these tables indicate the maximum level at which allowances may be set. A council needs to consider allowances in the overall context of its budget and a council can resolve to pay less than the maximum levels. Once the budget has been approved, a council may adopt an amendment to its budget but the amendment cannot have the effect of increasing the amount of allowances for the financial year for the council members.

	Approved Amount \$	Budget Amount \$
Councillor – base ⁽¹⁾	13,509.96	148,609.56
Electoral ⁽²⁾	4,943.73	59,324.76
Deputy Mayor – base ⁽¹⁾	27,776.12	27,776.12
Electoral ⁽²⁾	4,943.73	4,943.73
Mayor – base ⁽²⁾	75,116.61	75,116.61
Electoral ⁽²⁾	19,771.29	19,771.29
Total Base + Electoral Allowance		335,542.07