

# Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 28 April 2022  
Ordinary Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Arnold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

**Mark Arnold**  
**General Manager**

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

1      Legal Costs ..... 3

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

**Question with Notice No. 1 – Legal Costs**

**File No:** I2022/455

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At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 28 April, John Anderson submitted the following question which was taken on notice:

*What has been the real annual cost to Council over the past three years of employing lawyers as salaried Council staff and other costs flowing from court cases and outside expert legal consultation?*

**Response Ralph James Legal Counsel:**

This response covers the three financial years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

Employing lawyers as salaried Council staff

It is presumed that the term "lawyers" refers to admitted Australian Legal Professionals.

The expenditure in the three financial years referred to was \$733,141.28 relating to salaries and superannuation.

Costs flowing from court cases and outside expert legal consultation

In addition to legal professional fees for court related matters and advices the following expenditure figure includes amounts payable to experts in legal proceedings.

The expenditure in the three financial years referred to was \$1,873,621.92 (GST incl).

In the period costs totalling \$244,210 were/are being recovered.