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## **Report 01.354**

24 May 2001

File: E/6/1/1

### **Question Time**

At the Council meeting on 19 April, the following questions were submitted:

#### **1. Councillor Gibson asked**

##### **1.1 To Chief Financial Officer**

- (a) *Can a favourable variance in a Department's wage costs during the year be caused by extra holidays being taken? If so is there any later entry (eg as at 30 June each year) which "corrects" the variance?*
- (b) *Is it a possible source of tension for staff members if staff members are asked to take overdue leave?*

### **Response**

Concerning:

- (a) A favourable variance can arise because extra holidays are taken. It occurs because for budget purposes we have to assume all holidays earned will be taken. When additional leave is actually taken over what was earned during the period, a favourable variance against budget arises. The variance, if it arises, is like all other variances between budget and actual and it is explained if material. No 'correcting' entry is required.
- (b) It would depend how the issue is handled.

##### **1.2 To Chairperson**

*What was the cost to ratepayers of any overseas trips made by Councillors in 2000 and do you wish to comment on them?*

**Response**

The cost to ratepayers of overseas travel by Councillors in the past year has been:

• Cr Macaskill –		
September/October 2000 to UK, Berlin and Bologna	\$22,422.29	
• Cr Buchanan –		
May 2001 to Brisbane	\$ 1,350.32	
		—————
		\$23,772.61

Paragraph 2 of the Chairman's Report to Council today (Report 01.331) refers to the presentation of the Report on the tour.

Cr Buchanan's paper has already been provided to Councillors.

**2. Water Intergration**

Cr Werry asked:

*That the General Manager determine average costs of water connections in each of the four Territorial Authorities from the information outlined in their Annual Plans.*

**Response**

Report 01/302 to the Utility Services Committee meeting on 17 May 2001 provides this information.