



# Young is biggest spender

**MATTHEW KILLORAN**

MAYORAL candidate Peter Young is the city's most costly councillor, racking up \$17,700 in expenses in 2010-11.

The bill, greater even than the mayor's, was revealed in the council's annual report, which was released quietly over the festive season.

The biggest chunk of Cr Young's expenses was an \$8000 mobile phone bill, while \$5359 was spent on conferences and training and \$4104 on printing and advertising.

He said he racked up \$3500 in charges by accidentally leaving his phone on data roaming while on a trade mission in China.

"It's a savage lesson to learn," he said.

"The ratepayers are picking up that bill and some will want my head for it."

But he said the trip brought back \$25 million in contracts to Gold Coast businesses, including Palm Beach-based Tidal Energy.

There was also a trip to Taipei costing \$391, with the rest of the expenses met by Taiwan's government. Combined, the 14 councillors and mayor tallied up \$137,000 in expenses, a 55 per cent increase on the \$88,000 spent the previous year.

Mayor Ron Clarke spent \$16,000 on printing and advertising, well above the \$3000 average.

In other areas, Cr Clarke cut back on his spending,

reducing his phone bill by \$357 to \$816 and his conference and training expenses were just \$188.

Cr Clarke could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Broadbeach councillor Eddy Sarroff, expected to run for mayor, was the most frugal; his expenses were just more than \$3000. "Maybe I practise what I preach," Cr Sarroff said. "If there's a concern about the extent of expenses, the way to rectify that is a policy about what is acceptable expenditure and what isn't."

Cr Sarroff spent nothing on conferences and training, \$658 on printing and advertising and racked up a \$2498 phone bill.

## Council expenditure

Division	Councillor	Conferences and training	Printing and advertising	Mobile phones	Total
Mayor	Ron Clarke	\$168	\$16,059	\$816	\$17,043
1	Donna Gates	\$2,186	\$4,770	\$1,925	\$8881
2	John Wayne	\$3,142	\$2,447	\$998	\$6587
3	Grant Pforr	\$6,600	\$4,516	\$1,776	\$12,892
4	Margaret Grummit	\$1,496	\$4,743	\$978	\$7217
5	Peter Young	\$5,359	\$4,104	\$8,266	\$17,729
6	Dawn Crichlow	\$0	\$4,291	\$1,553	\$5844
7	Susie Douglas	\$1,724	\$3,007	\$2,231	\$6962
8	Bob La Castra	\$6,600	\$669	\$2,383	\$9652
9	Ted Shepherd	\$3,894	\$4,080	\$2,028	\$10,002
10	Eddy Sarroff	\$0	\$658	\$2,498	\$3156
11	Jan Grew	\$1,775	\$4,070	\$2,574	\$8419
12	Greg Betts	\$6,536	\$651	\$2,122	\$9309
13	Daphne McDonald	\$5,033	\$2,316	\$1,159	\$8508
14	Chris Robbins	\$590	\$3,490	\$1,030	\$5110

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Page: 6

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