



8. FINANCE

Policy 8.5

PENSION REBATES

Version 5

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OBJECTIVE

To provide assistance to eligible pensioners with the payment of their rates and charges.

POLICY

Council will provide a rebate of rates to eligible pensioners under Section 575 of the Local Government Act 1993.

1. Guidelines

For the purpose of the Local Government Act (1993) and consequently, this policy an eligible pensioner is defined as;

- (a) persons who receive a pension, benefit or allowance under Chapter 2 of the Social Security Act 1991 of the Commonwealth, or a service pension under Part III of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 of the Commonwealth, and who are entitled to a pensioner concession card issued by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government,
- (b) persons who receive a pension from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs as:
 - (i) a war widow or war widower within the meaning of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 of the Commonwealth, or
 - (ii) the unmarried mother of a deceased unmarried member of the Australian Defence or Peacekeeping Forces, or
 - (iii) the widowed mother of a deceased unmarried member of the Australian Defence or Peacekeeping Forces, and does not have income and assets that would prevent them from being granted a pensioner concession card (assuming they were eligible for such a card),
- (b1) persons who have received a lump sum mentioned in section 234 (1) (b) of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 of the Commonwealth or are receiving a weekly amount mentioned in that paragraph, and do not have income and assets that would prevent them from being granted a pensioner concession card (assuming they were eligible for such a card),
- (c) persons who receive a general rate of pension adjusted for extreme disablement under section 22 (4) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 of the Commonwealth, or a special rate of pension under section 24 of that Act,
- (d) persons who receive, or who at some point in their life have been eligible for, a Special Rate Disability Pension under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 of the Commonwealth."

The rebate available to eligible pensioners is set out in Section 575(3) of the Local Government Act (1993). The total amount by which:

- (a) all ordinary rates and charges for domestic waste management services levied on any land for the same year are reduced is not to exceed \$250, and
- (b) all water supply special rates and charges so levied are reduced is not to exceed \$87.50, and
- (c) all sewerage special rates or charges so levied are reduced is not to exceed \$87.50

An application for pensioner rebates is to be made on a form approved by the Director General of the Office of Local Government.

The rebate will be shown on the Rates and Charges notice and will be deducted from the total amount payable.

On land that is jointly owned and the liability for payment of the rates is shared with ratepayers who are not eligible pensioners, the rebate amount will be calculated proportionally according to the ratio that the eligible pensioners bears to the total number of owners. There will be an exception where a legal agreement exists that makes the eligible pensioners solely liable for payment of the rates. In this case the full rebate will apply.

If an eligible pensioner becomes ineligible for any reason, the Council rebate will be written back proportionally according to the number of full quarters left in the rating year (Section 58 of the Local Government Act 1993).

2. Hardship

Eligible pensioners can apply to Council for assistance at any time within the current rating year if they are suffering financial hardship and are having difficulty paying their rates and charges. The procedure to apply is set out in the Council's Hardship Policy.

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