

Pensioner Rates Concession Policy

Policy Details

Policy Category	Council Policy
Date Adopted	20 th June 2024
Resolution Number	BM0623/007
Approval Authority	Council
Effective Date	1 st July 2024
Policy Version Number	6.0.0
Policy Owner	Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer	Manager Finance and Administration

Supporting documentation

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Act 2009 Local government Regulation 2012
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue Policy Revenue Statement
Delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 311 – Pensioner Concession Application
Supporting Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Plan 2021 – 2025

Version History:

Version	Adopted	Comment	eDRMS #
2.0.0	15/07/2020	Council Resolution SM0720/011	POL_E_C SF_018
3.0.0	30/06/2021	Council Resolution SM0621/012	
4.0.0	16/06/2022	Council Resolution SM0622/012	
5.0.0	22/06/2023	Council Resolution BM0623/007	
6.0.0	20/06/2024	Council Resolution 062/007	

Contents

INTENT	3
REPEAL	3
SCOPE	3
POLICY	3
STATE GOVERNMENT REBATE	3
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONCESSION	3
DEFINITIONS	5

Intent

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to pensioners who apply for rate concessions.

Repeal

This policy repeals all previous versions of policies relating to Pensioner Rates Remission.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all Pensioners within the Council area who meet the required criteria for the State Government rebate and Council's concession of rates and charges.

Policy

Under this Policy any arrears of rates and charges associated with the residential allotment must be paid in full before a Pensioner is eligible to receive a concession.

State Government Rebate

In accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 120 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will grant a concession of 20% up to a maximum of \$200 per annum, on all rates and charges (excluding excess water consumption charges, special rates and charges, and rural and state fire levy), relating only to the current rating period where:

1. The Pensioner is the holder of a valid Queensland 'Pensioner Concession Card' issued by Centrelink, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Queensland 'Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions (Gold Card)' issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
2. Is the owner or life tenant (either solely or jointly) of a property which is the Pensioners principal place of residence; and
3. Is solely or jointly legally responsible for the payment of rates and charges; and
4. There is no business being carried out on the property; and
5. There is no income being derived from the property; and
6. The Concession is not being claimed on any other property.

State Government rebate will be applied from the date that the Pensioner Concession application is received, and then from the first date of the new rating period, without the requirement to complete another application.

Local Government Concession

In addition to this rebate, Council recognises the financial constraints for Pensioners and extends a further concession of its own. In accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 120 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will grant a concession of 30% on all rates and charges (excluding water consumption charges, special rates and charges, and rural and state fire levy), relating only to the current rating period where:

Pensioner Concession Card Holders

1. Must meet the above requirements for receiving the State Government pensioner rebate; and
2. Can prove they have been a resident of Carpentaria Shire for a total of at least ten years.

Self-Funded Retirees

Must meet the following criteria

1. They must be at least 67 years of age (Proof of Age to be provided), and
2. Is the owner or life tenant (either solely or jointly) of a property which is the Pensioners principal place of residence; and
3. Is solely or jointly legally responsible for the payment of rates and charges; and
4. There is no business being carried out on the property; and
5. There is no income being derived from the property; and
6. The Concession is not being claimed on any other property, and
7. Must be able to prove that they have been a resident of Carpentaria Shire for a total of at least ten years.

Council's concession will be applied from the date that confirmation of eligibility is received, and then from the first date of the new rating period, without the requirement to complete another application.

The State Government rebate will not apply to Self-Funded Retirees unless they can produce a current and valid Pensioner Concession Card.

Application Process

Applications by Pensioners seeking a concession under this Policy must be made by completing the Pensioner Concession Application Form.

All applications are to be accompanied by a photocopy or photo of the current Pensioner Concession Card.

Confirmation of Eligibility

Confirmation of eligibility through Department of Human Services, Centrelink Confirmation eServices (CCeS), will be undertaken upon receipt of the application and before each Rating Levy where consent has been given.

Where consent has not been given or revoked to confirm eligibility through CCeS, the following requirements can be asked of the applicant in any combination and with any other options that satisfies Council of their eligibility -

- a) Suitably dated annual letter from Centrelink confirming the pensioner holds a current and valid PCC and confirming the expiry date;
- b) Pensioner must produce a copy of their PCC once or twice yearly either to Council offices or via email;
- c) Statutory Declaration provided yearly confirming the pensioner's eligibility details (Principal Place of Residence) and PCC remains current and valid.

Subject to the applicant providing written consent to Council to seek confirmation, where a Pensioner has been granted a concession in accordance with a commensurate policy in a

previous financial year, and where with applicant's pension and residential requirements have not altered, confirmation by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs that he or she is an approved Pensioner, will be accepted in lieu of a written application.

Joint Ownership

In cases where one or both owners are Pensioners, 100% of the concession shall be granted.

In cases where the applicant Pensioner is a joint owner of a property with a person other than their spouse, a pro-rata concession shall be granted.

Life Tenancy

In cases where the applicant Pensioner is a Life Tenant, the subsidy will only be granted where the following additional supporting documentation is received by Council –

- a) Court Order or an Executed Will, ie the testator must be deceased
- b) A Statutory Declaration that the applicant Pensioner is solely responsible for the payment of Rates and Charges

Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Form	Refers to Pensioner Concession Application form
Pensioner	A person who is the holder of a pensioner concession card issued by the department of the Commonwealth responsible for administering the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> (Cwlth) or the <i>Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986</i> (Cwlth).

Adopted by Council on the 20th June 2024 by Resolution Number 062/007.

Mark Crawley
Chief Executive Officer