



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	PENSIONER REMISSION
Policy Number	P-2019-10
Business Unit/s	FINANCE GOVERNANCE AND RISK
Date of Adoption	
Resolution Number	
Review Date	
Date Repealed	

1.0 PURPOSE:

To set out Gladstone Regional Council guidelines for the assessment of requests for the remission of rates and charges for ratepayers who are in receipt of an approved federal government pension (Pensioners), inclusive of a Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veteran Affairs Gold Card (all conditions).

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to all pensioners seeking rebates and remissions for rates and charges, in addition to any concession that may be available under Council's Rating Financial Hardship Policy or Concealed Water Leak Policy.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012.

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Nil.

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

To assist in interpretation of this policy the following definitions apply:

- **Approved Residence** is defined as a Class 1 or 2 building according to Standard Building Law i.e. single family dwelling or multiple dwelling (flats, townhouses, etc).
- **Council** means Gladstone Regional Council.
- **Differential General Rates** is the general rate levied on property owned by ratepayers in the Council region as set out in the Council budget documents.

- **Pensioners** means ratepayers of Council who are in receipt of an approved federal government pension, inclusive of a Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veteran Affairs Gold Card (all conditions), which entitles them to a remission in their Council rates and charges.
- **Queensland State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme** is the scheme provided by the Queensland State Government for the provision of a subsidy towards Council rates and charges for Pensioners.
- **Standard Building Law** includes the Australian Building Regulations, Building legislation, and Building Code of Australia (BCA).

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT:

Council recognises the unique needs of Pensioners and offers a remission of rates to financially assist pensioners, as ratepayers, in accordance with section 120(1)(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The remission is provided by Council to encourage pensioners to be independent and live in their own home where possible as Council believes this provides a "quality of life" benefit.

The conditions for eligibility and the proportion of benefit for the Council rate remission shall be in accordance with the Queensland State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.

Council's rate remission for Pensioners is in addition to the subsidy provided by the Queensland State Government and the following additional conditions apply:

1. A remission of 50% of the Differential General Rate up to a maximum of \$290-295 be granted to pensioners who receive the pension; and
2. The pensioner must be the owner/ratepayer and resident of the property for the period of the levy in an Approved Residence.

No pro-rata adjustment will be made for the current financial year, on the death of a pensioner, for either the Council or State Rebate. Pro-rata adjustments will be made on the sale of a property which was owned by a pensioner.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS:

Nil.

8.0 REVIEW MECHANISM:

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation or governing documents are amended or replaced; or
2. Other circumstances as determined by resolution of Council or the CEO; or
3. Annually in preparation for budget adoption.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS			
Document History	Date	Council Resolution No.	Notes (including the prior Policy No, precise of change/s, etc)
Originally Approved	03/06/2008	08/242	
Amendment 1	06/08/2012	S/12/1149	
Amendment 2	01/07/2013	Not recorded	
Amendment 3	07/07/2014	G/14/2065	
Amendment 4	17/03/2015	G/15/2355	
Amendment 5	05/07/2016	S/16/2835	
Amendment 6	04/07/2017	S/17/3094	
Amendment 7	24/07/2018	S/18/3485	
Amendment 8			Formerly P-2018-13

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LEISA DOWLING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER