



# Gladstone Regional Council

## Council Policy

<b>Title</b>	<b>PENSIONER REMISSION</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>P-20192020-4006</b>
<b>Business Unit/s</b>	<b>FINANCE GOVERNANCE AND RISK</b>
<b>Date of Adoption</b>	
<b>Resolution Number</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	
<b>Date Repealed</b>	

### 1.0 PURPOSE:

To set out Gladstone Regional Council (Council) guidelines for the assessment of requests for the ~~remission-concession~~ 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-concession~~ for rates and charges, in addition to any other concession that ~~may be available under Council's Rating Financial Hardship Policy or Concealed Water Leak Policy~~ the pensioner may be eligible for.

### 3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

- ~~Local Government Act 2009.~~
- ~~Local Government Regulation 2012.~~

### 4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- ~~Queensland State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.Nil.~~

### 5.0 DEFINITIONS:

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

~~“~~**Approved Residence**~~” means 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*** means ~~is~~ the general rate levied on property owned by ratepayers in the Council region as set out in the Council budget documents.

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**“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-concession in their Council rates and charges.

**“Queensland State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme”** ~~means 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-concession of rates to financially assist pensioners, as ratepayers, in accordance with section 120(1)(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The remission-concession is provided 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-concession shall be in accordance with the Queensland State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.

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

- a remission-concession of 50% of the differential general rate up to a maximum of \$~~295~~ 300 be granted to pensioners who receive the pension; and
- 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 June 2008	08/242	
Amendment 1	06 August 2012	S/12/1149	
Amendment 2	01 July 2013	Not recorded	
Amendment 3	07 July 2014	G/14/2065	
Amendment 4	17 March 2015	G/15/2355	
Amendment 5	05 July 2016	S/16/2835	
Amendment 6	04 July 2017	S/17/3094	
Amendment 7	24 July 2018	S/18/3485	
Amendment 8	18 June 2019	G19/3818	Formerly P-2018-13
<u>Amendment 9</u>			<u>Formerly P-2019-10.</u>

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**LEISA DOWLING**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**