

## MEDIA RELEASE

8 August 2020

### **Rate subsidy for Gladstone Region pensioners**

Gladstone Region ratepayers who have recently become eligible for the pension are encouraged to apply for Gladstone Regional Council's 2020/21 Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.

Council's Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme provides a maximum concession of \$300, which has been increased since the 2019/20 financial year, for eligible pensioners.

In addition, the Queensland Government provides a maximum subsidy of \$200 per annum for eligible pensioners.

To be eligible, a person must hold one of the following concession cards:

- Queensland Pensioner Concession Card (issued by Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs) or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

And:

- Be the owner or life tenant of a property in the Gladstone Region, which is his/her principal place of residence
- Be solely or jointly liable for the payment of Council rates and charges levied on that property
- The subject property must be an approved dwelling.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said Council's Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme and the Queensland Government's Pension Rebate would greatly assist pensioners.

"Council recognises the unique needs of pensioners and encourages them to continue to be independent and live in their own home," Councillor Burnett said.

"We are committed to ensuring our pensioners are looked after, especially during these extraordinary and challenging times as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency.

"Council's recent Budget outlined our commitment to freeze all Council rates and charges for the 2020/21 financial year.

"This means that eligible pensioners will not pay more in general rates or service charges for their home than they did last year."

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MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or [media@gladstone.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@gladstone.qld.gov.au)

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To apply for Gladstone Regional Council's Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme, or to update details if you are already eligible, please visit [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/rates](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/rates) or call 4970 0700.

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