



# Gladstone Regional Council

## Council Policy

<b>Title</b>	<b>PENSIONER REMISSION</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>P-2020-06</b>
<b>Business Unit/s</b>	<b>FINANCE GOVERNANCE AND RISK</b>
<b>Date of Adoption</b>	<b>07 JULY 2020</b>
<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>S/20/4235</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>07 JULY 2021</b>
<b>Date Repealed</b>	

### 1.0 PURPOSE:

To set out Gladstone Regional Council (Council) guidelines for the assessment of requests for the 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 concession for rates and charges, in addition to any other concession that 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.

### 5.0 DEFINITIONS:

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

**“Approved Residence”** means a Class 1 or 2 building according to Standard Building Law i.e. single family dwelling or multiple dwelling (flats, townhouses, etc).

**“Differential General Rates”** means 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 concession in their Council rates and charges.

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

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

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

- a concession of 50% of the differential general rate up to a maximum of \$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.

<b>TABLE OF AMENDMENTS</b>			
<b>Document History</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Council Resolution No.</b>	<b>Notes (including the prior Policy No, precise of change/s, etc)</b>
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
Amendment 9	07 July 2020	S/20/4235	Formerly P-2019-10.

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