



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	WATER ALLOCATIONS AND SEWERAGE CONNECTION CONCESSIONS
Policy Number	P-2020-08
Business Unit/s	FINANCE GOVERNANCE AND RISK
Date of Adoption	07 JULY 2020
Resolution Number	S/20/4241
Review Date	07 JULY 2021
Date Repealed	

1.0 PURPOSE:

To set out Gladstone Regional Council (Council) guidelines for the assessment of requests for concession of water and sewerage charges to maintain community sporting and other community use facilities.

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to:

- not-for-profit sporting clubs and other not-for-profit community organisations that:
 - occupy Council owned/leased/controlled land; or
 - own private (freehold) property; or
 - occupy a deed of grant in trust land; and
- where the sporting clubs or community organisations;
 - do not have a gaming licence;
 - do not have a liquor licence, except for a Community Club Licence;
 - provide free public access to playing fields and/or the sporting facility outside of scheduled competition/training (for example, playing fields that are not locked up); and
 - are responsible for the payment of the rates for the property.¹

This concession is granted in addition to any other concession that the not-for-profit sporting club and/or not-for-profit community organisation may be eligible for.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

- *Local Government Act 2009*;
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

¹ Section 119 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, concessions are available to ratepayers only.

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Fees and Charges.

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

“Community Club Licence” means a liquor licence granted to a non-proprietary club such as a sporting club, RSL club, or ethnic club. The *Liquor Act 1992* defines a non-proprietary club as an association where any income, profits and assets are used only to promote its objects and are not distributed to its members.

“Community Organisation” means an entity that carries out activities for a public purpose or an entity whose primary object is not directed at making a profit.

“Playing fields” means the actual fields upon which the sport provided by the sporting club is played and required to be irrigated or watered, not including the area outside of the field which is used for spectators, or other activities associated with the sport.

“Sporting clubs” means sporting bodies that are not-for-profit and provide sporting facilities and opportunities for the public to engage in sports.

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT:

The concessions available under this policy are:

- water availability charges (fixed cost component);
- water consumption charges;
- standpipe charges; and
- sewerage charges.

6.1 Water Availability Charges

Ratepayers/Occupiers of Council owned/leased/controlled land and those that provide playing fields or facilities qualifying under the scope of this policy shall receive a concession on water availability charges (fixed cost component) calculated as follows:

water charge based on meter size – LESS difference to base 20mm water meter charge.

6.2 Water Consumption Charges

On those occasions where no general water restrictions have been applied, occupiers of Council owned/leased/controlled land and those private playing fields/facilities qualifying under the scope of this policy shall receive a concession on water consumption charges equivalent to the cost of 5,000 kilolitres per hectare of playing fields per annum (pro-rata).

6.3 Standpipe Charges

On those occasions where no general water restrictions have been applied, the clubs and organisations which meet the criteria under section 6.2 will receive a concession on standpipe hire and standpipe water consumption charges.

The concession applied shall not exceed 5,000 kilolitres per hectare of playing fields (per annum) and where the club or organisation receives a concession under section 6.2, the standpipe concessions will be accumulative towards the available 5,000 kilolitres per hectare of playing fields provided under section 6.2.

That is, the standpipe hire charge will be converted to the equivalent cost of water consumption in kilolitres and deducted from the available 5,000 kilolitres per hectare of playing fields concessional amount. Water consumption charges for water accessed via the standpipe will also be deducted from the maximum concession amount of 5,000 kilolitres per hectare of playing fields (per annum).

6.4 Sewerage Charges

Ratepayers/Occupiers of Council owned/leased/controlled land qualifying under the scope of this policy shall receive a concession on sewerage charges for charges greater than the equivalent charge for a single unit dwelling, irrespective of the number of pedestals installed.

The minimum amount to be paid by the eligible sporting club or not-for-profit community organisation is the equivalent charge for a single unit dwelling.

Ratepayers/Occupiers of Council owned/leased/controlled land qualifying under the scope of this policy shall receive a concession of 100% on unconnected water and sewerage charges until such time that the occupiers undertake building works on the land requiring connection to water and sewerage services.

6.5 Concession Mechanism

Normal charges will be levied against all relevant rate assessments, with these concessions processed as a credit against the relevant rate assessment, with the exception of standpipe charges for which an invoice will be raised.

Officers will conduct an audit annually to check the eligibility and quantum of the concessions available under this policy for all organisations.

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	7 July 2009	09/381	Formerly Policy No. P-3.02.05
Amendment 1	18 March 2014	G/14/1926	
Amendment 2	7 June 2016	G/16/2815	ECSC 16/001 – 24/5/2016
Amendment 3	4 July 2017	G/17/3107	
Amendment 4	6 February 2018	G/18/3318	Formerly Policy P-2017-34. This change was to the scope of the Policy
Amendment 5	19 June 2018	G/18/3440	Formerly Policy P-2018-05
Amendment 6	18 June 2019	G/19/3820	Formerly Policy P-2018-21
Amendment 7	07 July 2020	S/20/4241	Formerly P-2019-14. Inclusion of concessions available in relation to the use of standpipes.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER