

Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	PENSIONER CONCESSION
Policy Number	P-2021-15
Business Unit/s	FINANCE GOVERNANCE AND RISK
Date of Adoption	15 JUNE 2021
Resolution Number	S/21/4527
Review Date	15 JUNE 2022
Date Repealed	

1.0 PURPOSE:

To set out Gladstone Regional Council (Council) guidelines for the assessment of requests for the concession of differential general rates for ratepayers who are holders of an approved Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to all pensioners seeking a concession for differential general rates.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

- *Human Rights Act 2019;*
- *Local Government Act 2009;*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Queensland 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 who hold a Queensland Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or Department of Veterans’ Affairs or a Department of Veterans’ Affairs Health Card for all conditions (Gold Card) which entitles them to a concession of their Council differential general rates.

“Queensland 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 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 \$310 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.
Amendment 9	07 July 2020	S/20/4235	Formerly P-2019-10.
Amendment 10	15 June 2021	S/21/4527	Formerly P-2020-06 Pensioner Remission Policy.

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LEISA DOWLING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER