

Warringah Council Policy

Policy No. PL 511 Rebate

Rebate of Pensioners' Rates and Charges Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

To provide an equitable policy of rates, domestic waste management and interest rebates to pensioners whilst ensuring that the provision of such does not become a burden on other ratepayers.

2 Policy Statement

Where payment of rates and charges would cause hardship, eligible pensioners can apply for a rebate to a maximum amount as determined by the Minister for Local Government or as determined in Council's Strategic Community Plan.

3 Principles.

This policy applies to eligible pensioners and is pursuant to Chapter 15, Part 8, Division 1 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- A mandatory rebate of Rates and Charges to the maximum amount determined by the Minister of Local Government.
- A voluntary pensioner rebate of Rates and Charges to a maximum amount as determined in Council's Strategic Community Plan be granted to eligible pensioners who have not reached the accepted male retirement age, to owners in receipt of the blind pension, to owners who have reached the accepted male retirement age and continue to receive either the Carer Payment or Disability Support Pension from Centrelink or either the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Pension or the Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) Pension from the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- A voluntary pensioner rebate of the Domestic Waste Management Usage Charge as determined in Council's Strategic Community Plan. This amount is adjusted annually in line with adjustments to minimum usage charge.
- Where an owner becomes an eligible pensioner after the commencement of a quarterly billing period the rebate can be claimed from the start of the next quarterly billing period.
- Where a ratepayer ceases to qualify as an eligible pensioner, or sells the property to which the rebate relates, they will not be entitled to receive a rebate after the end of the quarterly billing period in which they ceased to be eligible. Therefore, if they were granted a pensioner rebate in advance that they are no longer entitled to, it will be charged back to their rate account for the period pertaining to their ineligibility.
- Where in Council's opinion payment of Rates and Charges would cause hardship, eligible pensioners over the accepted male retirement age may be allowed to accrue Rates and Charges against their estate.
- Interest charges are to accrue on overdue Rates and Charges on a daily basis in accordance with s566 of the Act. Accrued interest is to be applied to assessments on a weekly basis subject to procedures for issuing Notices.

- Payment of the debt is to be made on the future sale or transfer of the property.
- Pensioner reference numbers determines eligibility for concessions.
- Validation of pensioner reference numbers will be carried out at least three times per year, or as required in line with Centrelink guidelines.
- Reversal of rebates will be made as required by the Local Government Act 1993.
- From the 1/7/99 an application for pensioner concessions must be made in the year the Rate or Charge is levied. An eligible pensioner making an application outside of this period will be entitled to a rebate of Rates and Charges for the whole of the current year only.

4 Authorisation

This Policy was adopted by Council on 28th February 2012.

5 Amendments

The Rebate of Pensioners' Rates and Charges FIN-PL 520 was last amended on 25 August 2009.

This policy will be due for review on 31 December 2014.

6 Who is responsible for implementing this Policy?

Chief Financial Officer

7 Document owner

General Manager

8 Related Council Policies

FIN-PL 510 – Rates and Charges Recovery Action

9 Legislation and references

Chapter 15, Part 8, Division 1 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Section 575).

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – REG 134 - 136

Warringah Council Strategic Community Plan

10 Definitions

None

