

# Warringah Council Policy

## FIN-PL 520

### Rebate of Pensioners' Rates and Charges Policy

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#### 1. The purpose of this policy is

To provide an equitable policy of rate, 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 Management 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 Management 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 retirement age who receive the Carer Payment and to owners who have reached the accepted retirement age and continue to receive the Disability Support Pension
- A voluntary pensioner rebate of the Domestic Waste Management Usage Charge as determined in Council's Management 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 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 three times per year.
- 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. Amendments**

This Policy was amended on 1 August 2006.  
This Policy was last amended on 25 August 2009.

#### **5. Authorisation**

Policy No. FIN-PL 520 Rebate of Pensioner's Rates and Charges Policy was authorised by Council on 31.5.1995.

This policy is due for review on 31 December 2011.

#### **6. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?**

Chief Financial Officer

#### **7. Document owner**

Director Corporate Services

#### **8. TRIM**

DC00028 – Policy Register for Council

#### **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

##### **9.1. Definitions**

None.

