



POLICY NO: CCC021

Policy for Pensioner Concessions

Version 0.3
Carlton Oldfield
6 March 2017

Assigned review period: 4 years

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CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF POLICY ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

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History of Revisions:

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POLICY SUMMARY

A1 This policy defines the circumstances under which Council will provide Pensioner Concessions on rates and charges under section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("Act").

B. POLICY BACKGROUND

B1 Central Coast Council ("CCC") levies ordinary rates under section 494 of the Act, Domestic Waste Management service charges under section 496 of the Act and also levies water and sewerage service charges under section 310 of the *Water Management Act 2000* ("WMA").

B2 Section 575 of the Act provides that reductions for eligible pensioners be provided against ordinary rates, domestic waste management service charges, water service charges (including water usage charges) and sewerage service charges.

B3 Regulation 221 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2011* ("WMR") provides that reductions for eligible pensioners be provided against water and sewerage service charges levied under the WMA in the same manner as provided for under the Act.

C. DEFINITIONS

C1 **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1993*

C2 **Regulations** means the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

C3 **WMA** means the *Water Management Act 2000*

C4 **WMR** means the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2011*

C5 **CCC** means Central Coast Council

C6 **Council** means the Administrator or elected representatives, Councillors, who form the governing body of Central Coast Council.

C7 **Rating period** means the twelve month period from 1 July in one calendar year until 30 June in the following calendar year.

C8 **Owner** is defined as per s.3 (Dictionary) of *Local Government Act 1993*.

C9 **Eligible Pensioner** is defined per s.3 (Dictionary) of *Local Government Act 1993*.

C10 **Life Tenants** are defined within section 9 of the *Office of Local Government Council Rating and Revenue Raising Manual 2007*

C11 **Dwelling** is defined per section 3 (Dictionary) of *Local Government Act 1993*.

C12 **Building** is defined per section 3 (Dictionary) of *Local Government Act 1993*.



- C13 **Life Interest** meets definition of owner per section 3 (Dictionary) of *Local Government Act 1993*.

D. POLICY STATEMENTS

Jurisdiction

- D1 This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by CCC, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of CCC, any person or organisation employed to work on CCC premises or facilities and all activities of the CCC.
- D2 This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the Chief Executive Officer.

Conditions

- D3 Concessions under this policy are provided to residents who are eligible pensioners under section 575 of the Act and regulations 213 and 214 of the WMR.

Applications

- D4 Applications must be on the form approved by the Director General.
- D5 Applications must be supported with documentary evidence of the applicant's eligibility under section 575 of the Act and regulations 213 and 214 of the WMR.
- D6 Applications must be made in the same rating period that the rates and charges, against which the concessions are being sought, are levied, or in the next rating period.
- D7 Other applications must be made as prescribed by other levels of Government.

Concessions

- D8 Reductions for eligible pensioners will be provided against ordinary rates, domestic waste management service charges, water service charges and sewerage services as required under section 575 of the Act.
- D9 Other concessions will be applied as prescribed by other levels of Government.
- D12 Where customers seek concessions in excess of those provided for in this policy, such requests may be considered by the Chief Financial Officer or their delegate.
- D13 The rebate on ordinary rates and domestic waste charges will be shown on the annual rate notice and will be deducted from the total amount owing.



- D14 The rebate on water service, water usage and sewerage service charges will be apportioned equally over the number of billing periods in a year for each specific charge. The apportioned rebate amounts will then be applied to each billing period and will be deducted from the total amount owing.
- D15 On land that is jointly owned and for which the liability for payment of the rates is shared with ratepayers who are not eligible pensioners, the rebate amount will be calculated proportionally according to the percentage of ownership as prescribed by Land and Property Information NSW.
- D16 For the purpose of this policy, life tenants are deemed as owners.
- D17 Ratepayers remain eligible for concessions notwithstanding that they are required to leave their principal place of living for a temporary period for the purpose of receiving medical care, with an intention to return to their home subject, during the time of their absence, to the property being:
- a. unoccupied for a maximum period of one (1) year, or;
 - b. occupied only by the ratepayer's spouse.
- D18 If an eligible pensioner becomes ineligible for any reason, then the Council rebate will be written back proportionally according to the number of full periods left in the rating year in accordance with section 584 of the Act.