

COUNCIL PENSIONER REBATE SUBSIDY SCHEME POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide assistance to pensioners residing in Cook Shire who apply for the Council Pensioner Rate Concession, and to guide Council officers in administering the subsidy scheme.

SCOPE

To enable Council to process applications for concessions on rates in a fair and equitable manner.

POLICY PROVISIONS

1. Criteria for Granting a Pensioner Rate Concession

- 1.1 The scheme will be administered, and eligibility criteria shall be on the same basis as the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme Policy 2-5 as amended.
- 1.2 The pensioner must be a resident of Cook Shire and the owner/occupier of the property, which is their principal place of residence.
- 1.3 There is no income being derived from the property.
- 1.4 There is no business being carried out on the subject land.
- 1.5 The Pensioner Subsidy is not being claimed on any other property.

2. Ownership / Co-Ownership / Tenancies / Residential Requirements and Trusteeships

Council shall apply the same requirements as the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.

3. Application for Pensioner Rate Concession

- 3.1 The application must be made on the prescribed form available on the Council website and from Council's administration office.

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- 3.2 The application must be lodged prior to the commencement of each rating period; however apportionment will be granted for new applicants from the date the application is approved.
- 3.3 Supply a photocopy of a valid Pensioner Concession Card.
- 3.4 Once an application for concession is approved it shall remain in force from year to year without further renewal whilst a person remains owner/occupier of the property in question.
- 3.5 The applicant must notify Council of any changes in circumstances.
- 3.6 Council will conduct periodic audits to verify current entitlements.

4. Lapsed Subsidy

The Council subsidy is not available following the death of the pensioner.

5. Pensioner Concession Amount

- 5.1 The State Government's pensioner subsidy will be up to twenty percent (20%) or up to a maximum rebate of \$200 per annum and is applied to General Differential Rates, Water Service Charges, Sewerage Charges and Refuse Collection Charges; and
- 5.2 Council's pensioner subsidy will be a maximum rebate of \$240 per annum and is applied to General Differential Rates, Water Service Charges, Sewerage Charges and Refuse Collection Charges; and
- 5.3 The State Government pensioner subsidy will also provide 20% of the Emergency Management Levy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible Officer	Responsibility
Elected Council	Approval of the Council Pensioner Rebate Subsidy Scheme Policy.
Finance Manager	Ensuring that the Council Pensioner Rebate Subsidy Scheme operates in accordance with the Council approved policy.
Rates Officer	Review of applications for completeness, assessment of applications, liaising with ratepayers. Administration and implementation of the policy.

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DEFINITIONS

Council – the administrative body of Cook Shire Council.

Elected Council – the elected members of Cook Shire Council, comprising the Mayor and Councillors.

Council Pensioner Rate Concession – shall mean the amount in monetary terms by which a pensioner rate liability is reduced in terms of Council's Pensioner Rebate Subsidy Scheme Policy and Annual Budget Resolution.

Pensioner – shall mean a ratepayer who resides in Cook Shire and who is:

- (a) An eligible holder of a Queensland 'Pensioner Concession Card' issued by Services Australia on behalf of the Department of Human Services, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Queensland 'Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions (Gold Card)' issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- (b) The owner (either solely or jointly) or life tenant/s of a property which is their principal place of residence; and
- (c) Has, either solely or jointly with a co-owner, the legal responsibility for the payment of rates and charges levied in respect of the said property.

Pensioner Concession Card – shall mean a Queensland 'Pensioner Concession Card' issued by Department of Human Services, on behalf of the Department of Communities, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Queensland 'Repatriation Health Card – for all conditions (Gold Card)' issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References and Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Related Documents

Revenue Statement

Revenue Policy

Application for Council Pensioner Rebate Subsidy Scheme Form

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Implementation and Communication

This policy will take effect from 1 July 2026 and will be displayed on Council's website. The policy will be communicated to ratepayers by Council officers, as appropriate.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier following legislative or significant operational change.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Approved by: Resolution of the Elected Council

Sponsor: Chief Operating Officer

Officer Responsible for Review: Finance Manager

Department: Growth and Liveability

Amendment History

Version	Amendment Details	Date	Approved
2.0	Previously named <i>Council Pensioner Remission Subsidy Scheme Policy</i>	27/06/2018	2018/107
3.0	Previously named <i>Council Pensioner Remission Subsidy Scheme Policy</i> , Section 1.6 — Class 1a Structure added, and new template	19/06/2019	2019/124
4.0	Previously named <i>Council Pensioner Remission Subsidy Scheme Policy</i> , no amendments	09/06/2020	2020/138
5.0	Renamed, minor amendments	11/05/2021	2021/100
6.0	Minor amendments	24/05/2022	2022/107
7.0	Removed requirement for a Certificate of Occupancy or a Final Inspection Certificate (Section 1), removed the requirement for full payment by due date (Section 4)	23/05/2023	2023/101
8.0	Minor amendments	16/07/2024	2024/129
9.0	Minor amendments	08/07/2025	2025/114
10.0	Minor amendments	30/06/2026	2026/124

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