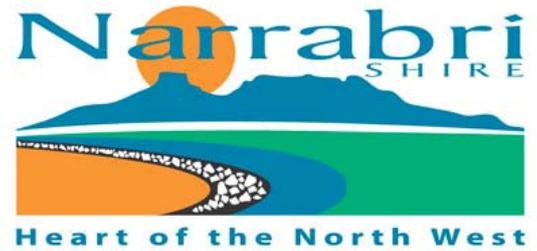


# PENSIONER CONCESSION POLICY



**Responsible Department:** Corporate Services  
**Responsible Section:** Financial Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Financial Services Manager

## Objective

This policy has been adopted to formalise the procedures relating to Pensioner Concession Rebates.

## Policy

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

#### 1.1 Eligible Persons

You must be an eligible pensioner. Eligible pensioners are those who receive any of the following:

- a pension, benefit, or allowance under Chapter 2 of the *Social Security Act 1991 (Cth)*, and hold a pensioner concession card issued by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government;
- a service pension under Part III of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (Cth)* and hold a pensioner concession card issued by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government;
- a pension from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs, who are also eligible for a pensioner concession card from Centrelink;
- a general rate pension adjusted for extreme disablement under section 22(4) of the *Veteran's Entitlements Act 1986 (Cth)*, or a special rate of pension under section 24 of that Act.

#### 1.2 Occupation of the Property

The eligible person must occupy a *dwelling* on the property, for which a concession is sought, as their sole or principal place of abode. Rebates are not granted for vacant or unoccupied land.

#### 1.3 Liable for the payment of the Rates

The eligible person must be solely liable, or a person jointly liable with one or more other persons for the rates and/or charges levied on that property.

### 2. Application For Concession

#### 2.1 Application Form

The eligible person must fully complete the Pensioner Concession Application Form available from Customer Services. Applicants must sign the customer consent, which allows Council to confirm with appropriate Government agencies, the accuracy of the details provided by the applicant. Applicants who fail to sign this section will not be granted the rebate.

## **2.2 Evidence**

Evidence in the form of the Pensioner Concession Card provided by Centrelink must be produced as evidence when applying for the concession. A rebate will not be granted without providing this evidence

## **2.3 Pensioner Concession Eligibility Confirmation**

Council confirms all pensioners eligibility once a year with Centrelink, in May. At this time some pensioners eligibility is not confirmed and Council is therefore unable to grant a pension rebate on their assessment issued in July.

Council sends all "un-confirmed" pensioners written documentation notifying them they are no longer entitled to a pension rebate. This gives the rate payer the chance to re-apply prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July as in some cases assessments are not confirmed as one owner of the house is no longer entitled but their partner is entitled.

## **3. Applying The Concession**

### **3.1 Date of Grant**

#### **After first day of current financial year**

If a person becomes an eligible pensioner after the first day of the current financial year, the amount of the rebate will be proportioned to the number of full quarters remaining after the day on which the person becomes an eligible pensioner.

#### **Before first day of current financial year**

If a person had become an eligible pensioner prior to the start of the current financial year they will be eligible only for the full annual rebate for the current financial year. A Pensioner concession rebate will not be back dated beyond the start of the current financial year.

### **3.2 Value of Rebate**

The amounts of the concession available on an annual basis are:

- Up to \$250 on all ordinary rates and domestic waste management service charges; and
- Up to \$87.50 on water supply service charges; and
- Up to \$87.50 on sewerage service charges.

## **4. Water Usage Accounts**

Where the rebate value for the water supply service cannot be fully granted on the Rates Assessment the remaining value will be granted on the water usage account for that property.

The rebate will be applied to the water usage account using a price-step structure. The eligible pensioner will be charged at one half of the usual water tariff until the remaining concession value has been granted, at which point the normal full water tariff will apply.

Any concession value not received through the water usage account for the financial year will be forfeited and will not be carried over into the next financial year.

Only those pensioners who receive the rebate on their Rates Assessments will be eligible to obtain a rebate on their water usage accounts. This rebate does not apply to pensioners who are only tenants of the property.

## Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

**dwelling**, in Section 1.2, means a *building* or part of a *building* used as a place of dwelling.

**building** includes part of a building and any structure or part of a structure, but does not include a moveable dwelling or associated structure or part of a moveable dwelling or associated structure.

## References

- Chapter 2 of the Social Security Act 1991.
- Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

## Measure of Success

- Measure by the adherence to the Policy and Procedure outlined in the Policy.

## History

MINUTE NUMBER	MEETING DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
10/2007	7 February, 2007	Adopted
229/2010	18 May 2010	Reviewed
26/2012	21 February 2012	Reviewed
75/2013	19 February 2013	Reviewed