

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

22 JUNE 2022

21**ADOPTION OF RATES PENSIONER CONCESSIONS FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR**

M Wise | 63/2/10 | #6906456

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolve, for new approved applications, from 1 July 2022, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a rebate of the general rate of a set amount of \$300.00 per annum be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission for the 2022/23 financial year.

That Council resolve, for existing recipients, approved applications prior to 1 July 2022, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a rebate of the general rate of up to 40% be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission to a maximum of \$1,350 per annum for the 2022/23 financial year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks to formally adopt the definition, eligibility and entitlements of pensioner concessions for the upcoming 2022/23 financial year.

COMMENT:

Council Pensioner Concession provisions are included in the Revenue Statement which is separately adopted by Council as part of the budget process. The following changes are proposed:

1. New Applications

Effective 1 July 2022, for new approved applications, the concession will be a set amount of \$300.00 per annum.

2. Pre-existing Council Pensioner Concessions

For all existing approved recipients, the concession will be up to 40% of the General Rate to a maximum of \$1,350.00 per annum.

3. Lifestyle Resorts

With the introduction of a Lifestyle Resort to Cairns an exclusion under the Retirement Village Concession has been added:

- The concession will not be extended to owners in a Land Lease Community (LLC), e.g. Lifestyle Resort for over 50's, with a perpetual land lease from the site owner

under a Residential Site Agreement, governed by the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003*.

4. Wording change – Remission to Concession

All references to Council's Pensioner 'Remission' have been changed to consistently use the word 'concession' as per section 121 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended):

That Council resolve, for new approved applications, from 1 July 2022, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a rebate of the general rate of a set amount of \$300.00 per annum be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission for the 2022/23 financial year.

That Council resolve, for existing recipients, approved applications prior to 1 July 2022, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a rebate of the general rate of up to 40% be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission to a maximum of \$1,350 per annum for the 2022/23 financial year.

Or

Option 2: That Council does not adopt the Rates Concessions for the 2022/23 financial year and proposes amendments to the Revenue statement

CONSIDERATIONS:

Statutory:

Adoption of the Rates Pensioner Concession is in accordance with section 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.



Mandy Wise
Executive Manager Cairns Shared Services



Lisa Whitton
Chief Financial Officer