

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**25 JUNE 2018****11****RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY**

J Cristaldi | 54/1/1 | #5750178

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council adopts the Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy.****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy allows Council to consider applications for remissions of general rates, water access and sewerage charges for not for profit recreational, sporting and community organisations.

This report provides an update of the Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy for the provision of rates based financial assistance to Not For Profit recreation, sporting and community groups.

The only change proposed is to add clarification where a concession is revoked because of unpaid rates that they will need to reapply.

COMMENT:

Under this policy, eligible organisations receive the following concessions:

- General Rates - Council may provide up to 100% concession of the general rate
- Water Access Charges – Council may provide up to 50% concession of the water access charges
- Sewerage Charges – Council may provide up to 75% concession of the sewerage charges

The only change to the policy proposed is to add clarification where a concession is revoked because of unpaid rates that they will need to reapply.

CONSIDERATIONS:**Statutory:**

In formulating the Rates Based Financial Assistance policy, Council has complied with the relevant legislative provisions.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy



Mandy Wise
Manager Cairns Shared Services



Lisa Whitton
Chief Financial Officer

RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY
FOR NOT FOR PROFIT RECREATION, SPORTING AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Intent To establish a policy for the provision of rates based financial assistance to Not For Profit recreation, sporting and community groups.

Scope This policy will allow Council to consider applications for remissions of general rates, water access and sewerage charges for not for profit recreational, sporting and community organisations. Unless otherwise determined by Council, the applicant organisation must be the owner or lessee and occupier of the land with the rate notice being issued in the organisation's name.

The land for which an application is made must be used for the purpose of which the rating concession applies. Organisations that manage or operate premises with poker machines will not be considered eligible.

PROVISIONS

Background

A local government may grant a ratepayer a concession for rates or charges for land in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Chapter 4 Part 10.

This policy only applies to an organisation making an application for rating concession, which must be a Not For Profit organisation meeting the adopted criteria and whose constitution clearly states prohibitions on any member of the organisation making a private profit or gain, either from ongoing operations of the organisation or as a result of distribution of assets if the organisation is wound up.

DEFINITIONS

Community Organisations

- a) Not For Profit organisations that exist primarily to undertake community service activities and rely mainly on volunteer labour.
- b) Not For Profit organisations that have considerable paid labour, however a substantial community benefit is provided.
- c) Religious entities with land exceeding 20 hectares and used for education, health or community services. *This applies to assessment 553123 for providing land to the community for sporting and recreation purposes.*

Sporting and Recreation Organisations

- a) Not For Profit organisations that exist primarily to undertake sporting or recreational activities and rely mainly on volunteer labour.
- b) Not For Profit organisations that have considerable paid labour, however a substantial community benefit is provided.

Concessions

- General Rates - Council may provide up to 100% concession of the general rate for organisations that comply with definition 2.1 or 2.2.
- Water Access Charges – Council may provide up to 50% concession of the water access charges for organisations that comply with definition 2.1a, 2.1b or 2.2a and 2.2b
- Sewerage Charges – Council may provide up to 75% concession of the sewerage charges for organisations that comply with definition 2.1a, 2.1b or 2.2a and 2.2b, where free standing toilet blocks or other toilet facilities are signed and available for use by the general public.

General

Unless otherwise determined by Council, Not For Profit organisations will not be eligible if they sub-lease to organisations that do not comply with the Not For Profit definitions, the sub lease activity is not aligned with the primary purpose of the organisation and the property, or the sublease is a commercial activity of a substantial size.

Applications for the current financial year are required be lodged with Council 31 days prior to the commencement of the financial year, however, late applications may be approved by Council for the current rating period subject to the Not For Profit Group (applicant) meeting all the requirements of this policy.

Furthermore, if a Not For Profit Group purchases or leases property during a rating year, Rates Based Financial Assistance will apply from the date the land is actually used for its intended purpose, subject to that group meeting all the requirements of this policy.

The concession provided in this policy is only on the general rate, water access and sewerage charge and will not apply to vacant land. Not For Profit organisations that do not fulfil their lease obligations or their rates are not paid in full prior to the end of a financial year, will not be eligible for further concessions. The concession will be revoked and a new application will be required for future concessions.

It is incumbent upon the organisation receiving this concession to notify Council of any change in circumstances that may affect their eligibility under the provisions of this policy. Council will conduct periodic audits to verify compliance.

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This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

General Manager Responsible for Review:

Chief Financial Officer

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 21/06/2002

CURRENT ADOPTION: 25/06/2018

DUE FOR REVISION: 25/06/2022

REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:

**John Andrejic
Chief Executive Officer**