

COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL



Pensioner Rebate Policy

FILE: P5-75

Responsible Officer: RATES OFFICER

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1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance to staff in applying the provisions of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993 for rate and charges rebates applicable to eligible pensioners.

2. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to eligible pensioners as defined in Clause 134 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Council	Cobar Shire Council
Pensioner	An eligible pensioner as defined in Clause 134 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.
Principal Place of Residence	The property which the ratepayer occupies as their sole or dominant residence.
Ratepayer	The person liable for payment of Rates and Charges for the property in accordance with section 560 of the Act.
Rates and Charges	Ordinary Rates and Annual Charges levied in accordance with the Act.

4. OBJECTIVES

To provide eligible pensioners with the statutory pensioner concession relating to rates and charges under the provisions of section 575 of the "Act".

5. POLICY

Ratepayers who hold a current pensioner concession card and are solely or jointly liable for the rates and charges levied on land on which a dwelling which is their principal place of living is situated, may be eligible for a reduction in rates and charges according to section 575 of the Act.

The statutory reduction provided is fifty percent of the total ordinary rates and charges up to a maximum of \$250.00 on rates and \$87.50 each on water and sewer charges annually. If the ratepayer is jointly liable with other persons who are not eligible pensioners, the reduction will be proportionate to which the ratepayer is liable for the rates and charges.

If a ratepayer is eligible for a reduction on the date of the levy of the rates and charges notice, they are entitled to receive the annual amount. If they become eligible during the year, the following applies:

- Becomes eligible after levy date but before 1 October, 75% rebate;
- Becomes eligible between 1 October and 31 December (inclusive) 50% rebate;
- Becomes eligible between 1 January and 31 March (inclusive) 25% rebate;
- Becomes eligible between 1 April and 30 June (inclusive) – no rebate.

Council will apply the rebate for the current financial year and one year prior.

Requests for reductions for eligible pensioners must be made on the Council's standard form (Annexure 1). A copy of the eligible pensioners pension card must be retained.

Section 581 of the Act enables Council to receive a Pensioner Concession Subsidy of 55% of all concessions granted for a rating year. Council funds the balance of 45% of pensioner concessions granted. Council is required to submit an Independent Audit Certificate to the Department of Local Government when applying for payment of the Pensioner Concession Subsidy.

6. ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Rates Officer is responsible for assessing applications against Part 8 Division 1 of the Act to determine whether the applicant is eligible for a rebate and the applicable amount. Council will check with Centrelink at least annually for verification of current pensioner eligibility.

7. REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND ANNEXURES

- Local Government Act (NSW) 1993
- Local Government General Regulations (NSW) 2005
- Annexure 1: Application for Council Pensioner Concession Rates Rebate

Application for Council Pensioner Concession Rates Rebate

*If joint owners are eligible for a pensioner concession **and they are not spouses**, a separate form will need to be completed by each owner to receive the maximum rebate, otherwise only a partial rebate will be granted.*

Council Account/ Assessment Number:	
Name:	
Concession Card Type (eg Pensioner Concession Card, DVA Gold Card)	
Concession Card Number:	
Date of grant of Concession Card:	/ /
Phone:	
Email:	
Property Address:	
Is this your sole / principal place of living	Yes / No
When did you move into the property?	/ /
Have you claimed a pensioner rebate for any other property in the last 12 months? <i>(if Yes, please provide the address of the other property)</i>	Yes / No Address: _____
Are you the sole owner of the property? If No, who else owns a share? <i>(If more than one other co- owner please list the name of each co-owner and their relationship to you.)</i>	Yes / No Spouse / Other Further Details (if applicable):

The information contained in this application form and any information requested for the purpose of assessing eligibility for a pensioner concession is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

By submitting this form, you declare that the information provided is true and correct and that you are the person making this application. If you make a false statement in an application, you may be guilty of an offence and fined up to \$2,220

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Consent

The information provided on this form is private and confidential and your Council must not disclose the information to any person or body, if it is not directly related to the purpose for which the information was collected. If you have a complaint about the use of your personal information, contact your Council's Public Officer. The information contained or referred to in this application form may be corrected and updated by you, by contacting your Council.

Please read the conditions and tick box below to confirm your consent to your Council checking your concession eligibility with Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

I _____ authorise:

- Council to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform a Centrelink/DVA enquiry of my Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs customer details and concession card status to enable Council to determine if I qualify for a rebate.
- The Australian Government Department of Human Services (the department) to provide the results of that enquiry to Council.

I understand that:

- The department will disclose personal information to Council including my name, address, payment type, payment status and concession card type and status to confirm my eligibility for a rebate.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while I am a customer of Council unless I withdraw it by contacting Council or the department.
- I can get proof of my circumstances/details from the department and provide it to Council so my eligibility for a rebate can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the rebate provided by Council.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Information:

Your council will determine your eligibility to receive a rebate of up to \$250 on your rates account. You may also be eligible to receive up to \$87.50 on your annual water charges and up to \$87.50 off your annual sewerage charges, if your council provides these services.

Eligibility:

- Holders of the PCC (Pensioner Concession Card);
- Holders of a gold card embossed with 'TPI' (Totally Permanently Incapacitated);
- Holders of a gold card embossed with 'EDA' (Extreme Disablement Adjustment);
- War widow or widower or wholly dependent partner entitled to the Pensioner Concession Card*.

* If you are a war widow or widower or wholly dependent partner but do not have a Pensioner Concession Card, you should contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to test your eligibility for the DVA income support supplement. Eligibility is subject to an income and assets test. Holders of cards other than those listed above are not eligible for the concession. For assistance from the DVA call 133 254.

