



**LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL**

*Preserving the Past, Enhancing the Future*

# **LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY**

## **PENSIONER CONCESSIONS**

## **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide pensioner concessions on rates and charges.

This policy applies to Council officers administering rates and charges and ratepayers within the Leeton Shire Council who are entitled to a pensioner concession.

This policy applies to situations where the Council levies rates and charges.

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides guidelines for Councils in respect of providing rates and charges concessions to eligible pensioners. This policy is necessary to ensure that Leeton Shire Council implements this section of the Act.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Eligible Pensioners** - In relation to a rate or charge levied on land on which a dwelling is situated, an eligible pensioner is a person who occupies that dwelling as his or her sole or principal place of living and is in receipt of a Pension Concession Card issued by Centrelink or a Department of Veteran Affairs Gold Total and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) or Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) Card.

**Ratepayer** – The person liable for payment of the rates and charges of the property for which the pensioner concession is claimed

## **POLICY GUIDELINES**

### **1 GRANTING OF PENSIONER RATES AND CHARGES REDUCTION**

- 1.1** Council will provide the statutory pensioner concession relating to Rates and Charges under the provisions of Section 575 of the Local Government Act.
- 1.2** Pensioner rebate concessions will be granted only in the year the application was made, they will not be applied to previous years.
- 1.3** Where an owner becomes an eligible pensioner after the commencement of a quarterly instalment period, the rebate will commence from the first day of the next quarterly instalment. Subsequently, when the owner ceases to qualify as an eligible pensioner, or sells the property to which a rebate is applied, the rebate will cease at the end of the current instalment period.

- 1.4** As provided by Section 577 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council will grant a rate concession, where an eligible pensioner has a life interest in the property and is responsible for the payment of rates. Council requires confirmation in writing from a legal representative with a copy of the will (if a deceased estate) or a copy of certificate of title or supporting documentation if Life tenancy applies.
- 1.5** Section 577 of the Local Government Act 1993 enables Council to make an order deeming certain persons that are jointly, or solely, liable with an eligible pensioner(s), but who are not eligible themselves, to be treated as an eligible pensioner for the purpose of the statutory reduction.

## **2 APPLICATION PROCESS**

- 2.1** Application for a pension concession on a property must be made by completing and signing the prescribed rebate application form and supplying this, together with all relevant information, to Council.
- 2.2** The property must be the applicants' sole or principal place of abode and this must be reflected on any documentation provided.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Leeton Shire Council Debt Recovery – Rates and Sundry Debtors  
Leeton Shire Council Debt Recovery – Water

## **GETTING HELP**

For interpretations, resolution of problems and special situations contact Council's Rates Officer.

**Policy History:**

<b>Date of Adoption/Amendment</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>
12 December 2007	07/750
26 June 2013	13/136
22 February 2017	17/018