



NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL

PENSIONERS CONCESSION REBATE POLICY NO: CS 15

Our Vision

Nambucca Valley ~ Living at its best

Our Mission Statement

'The Nambucca Valley will value and protect its natural environment, maintain its assets and infrastructure and develop opportunities for its people.'

1.0 Policy Objective

To provide eligible pensioners with the statutory pensioner concessions relating to rates and charges in accordance with Section 575 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

To provide an administrative guideline in relation to the granting of rebates to eligible pensioners, including previous rating years.

2.0 Related Legislation

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 575, 577 & 582
Local Government General Regulation 2021 – Clause 134 & 135

3.0 Definitions

"Eligible pensioner" as stipulated in clause 134 of the Regulations.

"Rates and Charges" relates to ordinary rates and domestic waste, water supply and sewerage special rates or charges.

4.0 Policy Statement

In accordance with Section 575 of the Local government Act 1993, you must be an eligible pensioner to receive a pensioner concession and you must own and occupy the dwelling as your sole or principal place of residence.

Nambucca Valley Councils' policy is to grant a pensioner concession;

- to all War Widows regardless of whether they hold a Centrelink pension card in addition to their Gold Card.
- to pensioners who have a life time tenancy of the premises in which they reside. Proof of life time tenancy is required in the form of a copy of the will or contract of sale.
- If a pensioner owner is hospitalised or temporarily residing in a retirement village they are entitled to keep the concession on their home until such time as it is sold or rented out.
- In the case of a Family Law dispute where a partner has left the premises a full concession will be granted if a Statutory Declaration is provided by the remaining eligible pensioner stating that they are responsible for all the rates and charges payable on the property.
- For de facto relationships where both partners reside at the property. A full concession will only be granted if both people's names are on the pension card otherwise it is a percentage of the concession in accordance with their percentage of ownership.
- Married couples are entitled to a 100% concession even if only one name appears on the pension card and both reside at the property.

The amount of concession will be determined on the basis that:

- You own the property (or are liable for the rates) on your own. A statutory declaration will be accepted as evidence of liability if partners have separated; or
- You own the property (or are liable for the rates) with one or more eligible occupiers (an eligible occupier can be your spouse, another eligible pensioner and his or her spouse if they use the property as their sole or principal residence); or,
- You own the property (or are liable for the rates) with someone who is not an eligible occupier; or

Section 575 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 stipulates that the total amount by which:-

- (a) all ordinary rates and charges for domestic waste management services levied on any land for the same year are reduced is not to exceed \$250.00, and
- (b) all water supply special rates or charges so levied are reduced is not to exceed \$87.50, and
- (c) all sewerage special rates or charges so levied are reduced is not to exceed \$87.50

People who become, or cease to be, eligible pensioners during the year will receive a concession proportionate to the number of full quarters in which they are an eligible pensioner.

People who were and still are eligible, but for one reason or another had not applied for the pensioners concession, will on request be additionally allowed the rebate for rating year immediately preceding the current year.

Pensioners requesting a rebate are required to submit an application on the prescribed form which is available at Council's administration building, can be downloaded from Council's website or [here](#).

The declaration and consent must be signed by the applicant or a person holding power of attorney for the applicant; a copy of the Power of Attorney will be required. Applicants current Pensioner Concessions Card or a photocopy thereof should be produced with the application.

Department:	Corporate Services	Last Reviewed	Resolution Number
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