

Policy Name	Public Benefit Concession Policy for Commercial Rate Payers
Policy Type	Finance
Responsible Officer	CEO
Version	1
Approval Date	20 May 2020
Renewal Date	January 2022



**Policy Number** FIN24

**Policy Name** Public Benefit Concession Policy for Commercial Rate Payers

## Summary

This public benefit concessions policy seeks to advance the following purposes under the *Local Government Act 2008*:

- (a) securing the proper development of council's area (section 167(1)(a)); and
- (b) promoting community health or welfare (section 167(1)(e)).

## Definitions

**Appropriate rent relief** means that the landlord has negotiated in good faith with their tenant for rent relief in line with the Code of Conduct, agreed to by National Cabinet.

**Commercial ratepayer** means a ratepayer for an allotment that is not classed as residential under council's assessment record (section 152).

**COVID-19 pandemic period** means the period (or reasonable subsequent recovery period) in accordance with the Code of Conduct, agreed to by National Cabinet.

**Eligible business** means a business that is eligible under the Relief Package, which is aligned with the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper programme.

**Hardship Register** means the register of eligible businesses that are assessed as meeting the requirements of the Relief Package.

**Relief Package** means the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan's Business Relief Support Package.

## Policy Statement

### 1. Eligibility criteria

A commercial ratepayer is eligible for rate concessions on an allotment if the ratepayer

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has a rates liability on the allotment for 2019-20 and / or 2020-21 and is:

- (a) an eligible business that has business premises on the allotment; or
- (b) a landlord that has provided appropriate rent relief to a tenant that is an eligible business that has business premises on the allotment.

## **2. Rate concessions**

On application by an eligible commercial ratepayer, the council will grant the following for each qualifying allotment:

- (a) for ratepayers who have paid their 2019-20 rates in full – a refund in part of rates paid for 2019-20 (issued as a grant from the council to the ratepayer); or
- (b) a waiver in part of rates owing for 2019-20 (with any excess rate waiver amount provided as a waiver in part of rates for 2020-21); or
- (c) a waiver in part of rates for 2020-21.

In addition, for all qualifying allotments, the council will grant a deferment of the obligation to pay rates declared for 2020-21 until 1 January 2021.

The total amount available under (a), (b) or (c) is to be equal to a three-month waiver on annual rates for the allotment in accordance with council's declaration of rates for 2019-20.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

*Chief Executive Officer*