

RATING EXEMPTION POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles and methodology used when exercising the Council's powers in determining the granting of an exemption, concession or waiver on the payment of rates whilst ensuring an equitable distribution of rating is achieved across the community.

Definitions

The **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Council Member means a person who is currently serving a term of office as an elected member of the Council in accordance with the Act.

Not for Profit (NFP) Community Group is an organisation of people who are formed (including a group that is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporations Act 2015*) to promote a community or sporting activity which has a positive effect on the community of the City of Karratha.

Policy Principles

1. Exemptions from rates

The City requires organisations seeking exemption from rates ~~in accordance with~~under Section 6.26 of the ~~Local Government Act 1995~~ to make application in accordance with the Application for Rate Exemption form ~~attached to this policy available from the City's rates department~~. The exempt properties are to be reviewed annually for continued eligibility.

In the situation where a rateable property is being leased to a not-for-profit (NFP) community group that meets Council's rate exemption criteria, consideration will be given to providing a rate exemption proportional to the area leased by the NFP tenant e.g. if 30% of the property is leased to a not-for-profit community group, then the property owner will be considered for a 30% rate exemption.

2. State Agreements

The City will continue to work collaboratively with State Government and the Resource Industry to challenge rate exemption clauses from State Agreements. Those now and in the future, that have a rate exemption clause contained within them, will continue to reduce the capacity of the City to raise revenue to achieve a balanced budget, maintain service delivery and ensure ~~long term~~long-term financial sustainability. Two of the Principles of Rating, being fairness and equity ~~and Benefit~~, can be compromised in this instance.

3. Concession/Waiver on rates

The City will accept applications from ~~not-for-profit~~NFP community groups within the City of Karratha and consider granting a concession or waiver of rates annually in accordance with its discretionary powers provided by Section 6.47 of the ~~Local Government Act 1995~~.

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Any rate waivers or concessions for the next financial year will be subject to consideration at the time of adopting the annual budget. Initial applications by not-for-profit community groups for a waiver or concession will be accepted or rejected subject to the applicant providing information as detailed on the Application for Rate Waiver/Concession Not-for-Profit Community Groups form, ~~attached to this policy.~~

Not-for-Profit Community Groups ~~including Sporting Associations~~ will be rated in the following cases:

- Where a club or group hold a ~~licence~~ issued under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1988*, the licensed area and any residential area of the property only is rated.
- Where a club or group provides accommodation for members, guests or staff, the accommodation area only is rated; and
- Where land is undeveloped or not used in the delivery of the group's services.

~~Not for Profit Community Group is defined as an organisation of people who are formed (including a group that is incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act) to promote a community or sporting activity which has a positive effect on the community of the City of Karratha.~~

4. CEO Delegation

~~The CEO has delegation to accept applications out of budget cycle and will assess on an individual basis.~~

4. Application of the Policy

- ~~1. The application form will be lodged annually as advertised.~~
- ~~2. Applicants need to provide clear and concise information regarding the nature of their activities to illustrate eligibility for the waiver/concession to facilitate Council's decision making.~~
- ~~3. The application will be assessed and if the application meets the criteria to be considered as outlined in the Application for Rate Waiver/Concession Not for Profit Community Groups form, attached to this policy, a report will be presented to Council through the annual budgeting process.~~
- ~~4. In accordance with Section 6.47 of the Local Government Act 1995, the Council will consider granting the waiver/concession based on the criteria in the report.~~
- ~~5. All rate waivers and concessions are subject to annual review.~~
- ~~6. The Council decision will be actioned by the officers and a note will be made against the property assessment.~~

Related Documents

Legislation & Local Laws	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> <i>Associations Incorporations Act 2015</i> <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1988</i>
Relevant Delegations	1.20 Rate R ecord objections
Strategies & Plans	Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 Long Term Financial Plan City of Karratha Annual Budget
Related Council Policies	CF 11 Rating Policy CF-10 Rating Policy

This policy takes effect from the date of approval by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted. It is subject to change and uncontrolled when printed.

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Procedures,
Documents &
Forms

Enterprise budgeting process
[Concession & waiver application form](#)
[Exemption application form](#)
[...](#)

Policy Owner

Directorate *Corporate & Commercial*
Department *Financial Services*

Review Management

Next review due: *January 2029*

Version Management

Version	Date	Council Resolution #	Description
1.0	Mar 1992	5462	Original Policy Adopted
2.0	Sept 2002	12738	
3.0	Oct 2004	13497	
4.0	Oct 2007	14223	
5.0	Feb 2013	152396	
6.0	Apr 2015	153108	
7.0	Apr 2017	153768	
8.0	Jul 2019	154386	Current Version
9.0	Jan 2025		