

## 6.7. RATES REBATE FOR PERMITS TO OCCUPY LAND ON THE DAINTREE RIVER POLICY

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>MANAGER</b>	General Manager TC Jasper Corporate and Communities
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Finance and Corporate Services

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council adopts the Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on Daintree River Policy.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Section 120-122, *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant concessions to ratepayers who satisfy eligibility criteria.

Council offers a rates rebate for Daintree River huts as outlined in Council's Revenue Statement. The Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on Daintree River Policy establishes the guidelines and level of assistance Council will grant to eligible ratepayers. The Policy was adopted on 23 February 2021 and is due for review. There have been minor administrative changes to the policy such as date changes and updating the name of the relevant government department.

### PROPOSAL

That Council adopts the Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on Daintree River Policy.

### FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary implications identified from the adoption of this policy.

### RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Complying with legislative requirements ensures Council mitigates any regulatory or reputational risk.

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

<b>Economic:</b>	The policies are reviewed to ensure they appropriately support the economic sustainability of Council as well as maintaining legislative compliance.
<b>Environmental:</b>	Nil
<b>Social:</b>	Nil

### CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

## Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

### Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

**Goal 1** - *We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

**Goal 3** - *We will make sound financial decisions by ensuring robust strategic planning, financial management and reporting.*

## Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

Legislative requirement.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Regulator</b>	Council has a number of statutory obligations detailed in numerous regulations and legislative Acts. Council also makes local laws to ensure that the Shire is well governed. In fulfilling its role as regulator, Council will utilise an outcomes-based approach that balances the needs of the community with social and natural justice.
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## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Rates team

**External:** Nil

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on Daintree River Policy [6.7.1 - 2 pages]



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### Intent

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process for the provision of a rates rebate on rateable land on the banks of the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River that are occupied by holders of Permits to Occupy (fishing huts) which have been issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development under the *Land Act 1994*.

### Scope

This policy only applies to holders of Permits to Occupy (fishing huts) for land located the banks of the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River.

### Provisions

Under the provision of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may resolve to grant a ratepayer a concession for rates and charges provided the specified criteria is met by the ratepayer. To be eligible for this rebate, the following conditions must be met:

- i. The property is located on the banks of the South Arm or the Heads of the Daintree River.
- ii. A permit to occupy for "fishing hut" has been granted by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development.

Council will provide a rates rebate of 50% of the general rate only. This rates incentive will be credited to the recipient's rates notice prior to being issued.

Any benefit provided to a landholder through the Rates rebate program must be repaid to Council from the date of revocation or cancellation of the permit to occupy, if the Permit to Occupy (fishing hut) has been revoked or cancelled by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development.

### Related Legislation and guidelines

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

*Land Act 1994*

### Related Documents

Douglas Shire Council Revenue General Policy

Douglas Shire Council Revenue Statement

Douglas Shire Council Utility Charges and Associated Rating matters

## Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed every four years/whenever legislation changes, or at the direction of the Chief Executive Officer.

## Policy Details

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on the Daintree River Policy</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	78
<b>Policy Version</b>	2
<b>Document Number</b>	995607
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Policy Type</b>	Council
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Council
<b>Date Adopted</b>	25/03/2025
<b>Time Period</b>	Four years
<b>Review Date</b>	01/02/2029
<b>Policy Department</b>	Finance and Corporate Services
<b>Link to Corporate Plan</b>	Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery
<b>Revoked/Superseded</b>	

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.