

5.10. RATES REBATE FOR DAINTREE RIVER HUTS POLICY

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DEPARTMENT	Finance and Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Rates Rebate for Daintree River Huts Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Section 120-122, *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant concessions to ratepayers who satisfy eligibility criteria. The Rates Rebate for Daintree River Huts Policy establishes the guidelines and level of assistance Council will grant to eligible ratepayers.

BACKGROUND

Council offers a rates rebate for Daintree River huts as outlined in Council's Revenue Statement.

A formal policy has been drafted to outline the guidelines and levels of assistance of this rates incentive. Several other types of rate rebates/incentives are offered by Council. It is proposed to adopt a formal policy for each of these commencing from 1 July 2021.

PROPOSAL

The Rates Rebate for Daintree River Huts Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

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

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

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:

Regulator 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.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Rates team

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on Daintree River Policy [5.10.1 - 2 pages]

78. RATES REBATE FOR PERMITS TO OCCUPY LAND ON DAINTREE RIVER POLICY

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, Mines and Energy 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, Mines and Energy.

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, Mines and Energy.

Related Legislation and guidelines

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Land Act 1994

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

Policy Name	Rates Rebate for Permits to Occupy Land on the Daintree River Policy
Policy Number	78
Policy Version	1
Document Number	995607
Endorsed by	Chief Executive Officer
Policy Type	Council
Approval Authority	Council
Date Adopted	
Time Period	Four years
Review Date	1/12/2024
Policy Department	Finance and Corporate Services
Link to Corporate Plan	Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery
Revoked/Superseded	

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