

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>24 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>3.3</b>
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## RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GENERAL POLICY

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council adopt the Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant concessions to ratepayers who satisfy eligibility criteria. The Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy establishes the guidelines and level of assistance Council will grant to eligible not for profit, sporting and community groups.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy was one of the policies transferred to Douglas through the de-amalgamation process. During budget deliberations for the 2015/16 Annual Budget, the content of this policy was reviewed in a Councillor Workshop and suggested changes have now been incorporated into this policy.

The revised policy will apply to all existing organisations that currently receive rating concessions and to any new applications received by Council.

### **PROPOSAL:**

The Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy



## RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GENERAL POLICY

**Intent** To establish a policy for the provision of rates based financial assistance to not for profit recreation, sporting and community groups.

**Scope** This policy will allow Council to consider applications for remissions of general rates and sewerage charges from not for profit community based organisations from recreation, sporting and community groups.

### REFERENCE

**Legislation:**

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### PROVISIONS

Under the provisions 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. This policy only applies to not for profit organisations, sporting and community groups who make an application for rating concession.

The applicant organisation must be the owner or lessee and occupier of the land with the rate notice being issued in the organisation's name. Furthermore the applicant organisation's constitution must prohibit any member of the organisation from making a private profit or gain, either from the ongoing operations of the organisation or as a result of the distribution of assets if the organisation is wound up.

The land for which an application is made must be used for the purpose to which the rating concession applies. Organisations that manage premises with gambling machines or whose main activity is gambling will not be considered eligible. Similarly, not for profit organisations, sporting and community groups will not be eligible if they have a contractual arrangement, either formally or informally, with a third party that derives an income or benefit from this arrangement.

Council may provide up to 100% concession of the general rate and up to 50% of sewerage charges for organisations that comply with the requirements of this policy.

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

**Manager Responsible for Review:**

**Manager Finance & IT**

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED:**

**CURRENT ADOPTION:**

**DUE FOR REVISION:**

**REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**