

RATE REBATES

(1) Policy Statement

Council has decided to adopt a Rate Rebate Policy for all rateable land within the Council's area which is applied in accordance with Sections 159 to 166 of the Act. This Policy will assist the Council as a decision making function and is intended to provide guidance to the community as to the matters that the Council will take into account in deciding an application for a rebate.

The Policy also sets out the type of land use for which the Council must grant a mandatory rebate of rates and the percentage amount applicable, and those types of land use where the Council has the ability to grant a discretionary rebate of rates. Rebates will only be available when the applicant satisfies the requirements under both the Act and, where appropriate, the requirements of this Policy.

(2) Mandatory Rebates

Mandatory rate rebates will be granted by Council at the prescribed rate in accordance with Sections 159 to 165 of The Act.

S160 – Health Services 100% Rebate
S161 – Community Services (Including Housing Associations) 75% Rebate
S162 – Religious Purposes 100% Rebate
S163 – Public Cemeteries 100% Rebate
S164 – Royal Zoological Society of SA 100% Rebate
S165 – Educational Purposes 75% Rebate

Where the Council is satisfied from its own records, or from other sources, that a person or body meets the necessary criteria for a mandatory rate rebate, the Council will grant the rebate accordingly. Where the Council is not satisfied based upon the information in its possession or otherwise does not hold relevant information it will require the person or body to lodge an application in accordance with this Policy.

Where a person or body is entitled to mandatory rate rebate of 75% only, the Council may increase the rebate up to a further 25%. The Council may grant this further 25% rebate upon application.

Where an application is made to the Council for a rebate of up to a further 25% the application will be determined and written notice will be provided to the applicant of its determination of that application.

(3) Discretionary Rebates

A discretionary rate rebate may be granted by the Council at its absolute discretion up to and including 100% relief to any cases pursuant to Section 166 of the Act.

Any persons or bodies seeking a discretionary rebate, will be required to submit an application form to the Council and provide to the Council such information as stipulated on the application form and any other information that the Council may reasonably require.

(4) Application

The council will inform the community of the provisions for rate rebate under the Act by the inclusion of an advert in the local newspaper each year.

Application forms may be obtained from the Council office located at 245 Sturt Road, Sturt. The Council will advise an applicant for a rebate of its determination of that application in due course, after receiving the application and receiving all information requested by the Council. The advice will state –

- if the application has been granted, the amount of the rebate; or
- if the application has not been granted, the reasons why.

(5) In regards to prescribed discretionary rate rebates the Council will take into account, in accordance with Section 166(1a) of the Act, the following matters –

- The nature and extent of Council services provided in respect of the land for which the rebate is sought, in comparison to similar services provided elsewhere in the Council area;
- The community need that is being met by activities carried out on the land for which the rebate is sought; and
- The extent to which activities carried out on the land, for which the rebate is sought, provides assistance or relief to disadvantaged persons; and
- Such other matters as the Council considers relevant.

(6) The Council may take into account other matters considered relevant by the Council including, but not limited to, the following–

- Why there is a need for financial assistance through a rebate;
- The level of rebate (percentage and dollar amount) being sought and why it is appropriate;
- The extent of financial assistance, if any, being provided to the applicant and/or in respect of the land by Commonwealth or State agencies;
- Whether the applicant has made/intends to make applications to another Council;
- Whether, and if so to what extent, the applicant is or will be providing a service within the Council area;
- Whether the applicant is a public sector body, a private not for profit body or a private for profit body;
- Whether there are any relevant historical considerations that may be relevant for all or any part of the current Council term;
- The desirability of granting a rebate for more than one year;
- Consideration of the full financial consequences of the rebate for the Council;
- The time the application is received;
- The availability of any community grant to the person or body making the application;

- Whether the applicant is in receipt of a community grant; and
- Any other matters and policies of the Council, which the Council considers relevant.

All persons or bodies wishing to apply to the Council for a discretionary rebate of rates must do so on or before 1 May in that financial year for which the rebate is sought.

- The Council may grant a rebate of rates on such conditions as the Council thinks fit.
- The Council may, for proper cause, determine that an entitlement to a rebate of rates under the Act no longer applies.
 - Where an entitlement to a rebate of rates ceases or no longer applies during the course of a financial year, the Council is entitled to recover rates, or rates at the increased level (as the case may be), proportionate to the remaining part of the financial year.

It is an offence for a person or body to make a false or misleading statement or representation in an application, or to provide false or misleading information or evidence in support of an application made (or purporting to be made) under the Act.

The maximum penalty for this offence is \$5,000.

If a person or body has the benefit of a rebate of rates and the grounds on which the rebate has been granted cease to exist, the person or body must immediately inform the Council of that fact and (whether or not the Council is so informed) the entitlement to a rebate ceases. If a person or body fails to do so that person or body is guilty of an offence.

The maximum penalty for this offence is \$5,000.

(7) Delegation

The Council has delegated its power, pursuant to Section 44 of the Act, to grant applications for mandatory rebates that meet the requirements of the Act, to the Chief Executive Officer. The Council has delegated its power, pursuant to Section 44 of the Act to determine applications and to grant a discretionary rebate of rates, to the Chief Executive Officer subject to the following condition:

- Where the discretionary rebate is not more than \$5,000.

(8) Review of Rebate

A person or a body aggrieved by a determination of the Council in respect of an application for a rebate may, within 14 days of the date of the notice of determination, seek a review of that decision in accordance with the Council's Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy.

(9) Community Grants

If an application for a rebate is unsuccessful, the Council has an absolute discretion to then treat the application as one for a community grant and to determine it in accordance with the Council's Community Grants Policy.

(10) Availability of Policy Documents

Policy documents are available for inspection at the Council offices and on the website at www.marion.sa.gov.au. Persons may obtain a copy of any Policy document upon payment of the fee set by the Council.

DISCLAIMER

A rate cannot be challenged on the basis of non-compliance with this Policy and must be paid in accordance with the required payment provisions.

Where a ratepayer believes that the Council has failed to properly apply this Policy they should raise the matter

with the Council. In the first instance contact the Council's Team Leader – Rating Services on 8375 6617 to

discuss the matter. If, after this initial contact, a ratepayer is still dissatisfied they should write to the Chief

Executive Officer, City of Marion, PO Box 21, Oaklands Park, SA 5046.