

Remission of rates penalties

Relevant Legislation

Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, section 85
Local Government Act 2002, section 109

Objective

To enable Council to act fairly and reasonably in its consideration of penalties for overdue rates, due to circumstances outside the ratepayer’s control or where there is limited financial impact on Council.

Eligibility criteria

Where there are circumstances outside the ratepayer’s control:

Remission of one penalty will be considered in anyone rating year where payment has been late due to significant disruption to the ratepayer’s circumstances. Each application will be considered on its merits and remission will be granted where it is considered just and equitable to do so.

Remission will be considered in the case of death, illness, or accident of a family member, within 60 days of the due date for payment of rates.

Council shall have regard to:

- Excellent payment history, In the instance where a penalty has been incurred within the previous five years staff have the discretion to assess this on a case-by-case basis
- Whether the ratepayer can provide evidence that their payment has gone astray in the post, or the late payment has otherwise resulted from matters outside their control.

Where there is limited financial impact:

At its sole discretion and without application by the ratepayer, Council may suppress penalties:

- Where trivial amounts are owing due to incorrect payment being made; or
- Where demonstrable progress is being made to pay both current rates and arrears (e.g. a fortnightly direct for a regular sum and period of time has been agreed with Council).

Policy procedures

Decisions under this policy will be delegated to officers in accordance with Council’s delegations register.

Group	Corporate Services	Contact	Finance Services Team Leader
Supersedes	Confirmed with adoption of the Annual Plan 2021-2022		
Creation Date		Resolution Reference	
Last Review Date	14 June 2022	Resolution Reference	
Review Cycle	<u>LGA s109 requirement to review at least once every 6 years</u>	Date	14 June 2030
Authorised by	<u>Council</u>	Date	26 September 2024