

Remissions for community halls, community care organisations, sporting, branches of the arts or volunteer organizations

Objective

The remission of rates for community, sporting and other organisations is to facilitate the ongoing provision of non-commercial community services and non-commercial recreational opportunities for the residents of South Taranaki.

The purpose of granting rates remissions to an organisation is to:

- Recognise the public good contribution made by such organisations.
- Assist the organisation's survival.
- Make membership of the organisation more accessible to the general public, particularly disadvantaged groups. These include children, youth, young families, aged people, and economically disadvantaged people.

Conditions and criteria

The remission of rates will apply to land which is used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation, or community purposes. The policy does not apply to organisations operated for pecuniary profit. The policy does not apply to groups or organisations whose primary purpose is to address the needs of adult members (over 18 years) for entertainment or social interaction, or who engage in recreational, sporting or community services as a secondary purpose only.

Organisations making application should include the following documents in support of their application.

- Statement of objectives
- Financial assets
- Information on activities and programmes
- Details of membership or clients

Remission of rates on land protected for natural, historical or cultural conservation purposes

Objective

Rates remission is provided to preserve and promote natural resources and heritage by encouraging the protection of land for natural, historic or cultural

Conditions and criteria

Ratepayers who own rating units, which have some feature of cultural, natural or historic heritage, and which is voluntarily protected, may qualify for remission of rates under this policy. Land that is non-rateable under Section 8 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and is liable only for rates for water supply, wastewater disposal and waste collection will not qualify for remission under this part of the policy. Applications should be supported by documented evidence of the protected status of the rating unit, for example, a copy of the covenant or other legal mechanism.

In considering any application for remission of rates under this part of the policy, the Council will consider the following criteria:

- The extent to which the preservation of natural, cultural or historic heritage will be promoted by granting remission of rates on the rating unit.
- The degree to which feature of natural, cultural and historic heritage are present on the land.
- The degree to which features of natural, cultural and historic heritage inhibit the economic utilization of the land.
- The degree to which features of natural, cultural and historic heritage will be promoted by granting remission of rates on the rating unit.

Remission of uniform annual general charges on non-contiguous rating units owned by the same ratepayer

The Council will provide rates remissions of uniform annual general charges to all ratepayers who meet the objectives, conditions and criteria of this policy.

Objective

The remission of uniform annual general charges is to provide relief for rural land, which is non-contiguous, but farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.

Conditions and criteria

Ratepayers who occupy two or more separate rating units (and who do not qualify to be treated as one rating unit, pursuant to Section 20 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002), are entitled to have uniform annual general charges reduced for qualifying properties. All ratepayers will pay at least one full uniform annual general charge and then half charges for additional qualifying properties.

Remission

- Any applicant must be paying at least one full uniform annual general charge on one of the rating units involved in the farming operation.
- Additional rating units involved in the farming operation will be charged half of the uniform annual general charges in respect of each additional rating unit.

Remission of Penalties

The South Taranaki District Council will provide rate remissions of penalties to all ratepayers who meet the objectives, conditions and criteria of this policy.

Objective

The remission of penalties is to allow the Council to act fairly and reasonably in its consideration of rates which have not been received by the Council by the penalty date due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control.

Conditions and criteria

Remission of the penalty will be granted if the ratepayer, by written explanation, satisfies the Council that the late payment was due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control. Each application will be considered on its merit and will be granted where it is considered fair and equitable to do so.

In cases where ratepayers are in arrears with their rates, but have made acceptable arrangements for the payment of the current year's rates, together with reduction in the level of arrears, further penalties being incurred will be remitted under this policy.