

STAFF REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee
FROM: Cameron Fraei, Rates Officer
DATE: 26 August 2009
SUBJECT: **Late Applications for 2009/2010 Rate Remissions**

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Councils are able to consider rate remissions for sporting and community groups under their remission policy contained in the LTCCP (Policy attached).

These policies require Rates staff to communicate with these organisations who have previously received a rate remission or for whom a rate remission may be perceived to be available.

A letter and application form was forwarded to these groups asking for information on:

- Organisation objectives
- Details of membership
- Current financial information
- Any other relevant information

2. CURRENT COUNCIL PRACTICE – DISCRETIONARY REMISSIONS

a) Promotion of Arts, Recreation, Health and Education

Council's policy has been to provide relief on privately owned facilities which are offered for general use to the public at no cost to Council. Further consideration is given where it is perceived that there may be some financial pressure placed on the owners of such facilities if rates were collected in accordance with the amount directly levied.

b) Games and Sports

Clubs operating from Council reserves generally pay a lease to council but receive no separate rating charge. In an attempt to equalise the position of sports clubs within the district it has been past practice to provide clubs who either own their property or who under the terms of their independent leases are responsible for rates, a remission.

3. RESPONSES RECEIVED AND LEVELS OF REMISSIONS

Two late applications have been received:

- Nelson Scout Zone, Friends of Gilbert Lodge
- Nelson/Waimea Gun Club

The applications are late due to changes in Treasurer and Club Committees.

4. PROPOSED REMISSIONS

a) Nelson Scout Zone, Friends of Gilbert Lodge

It is proposed to apply a 100% remission as we have in previous years.

b) Nelson/Waimea Gun Club

It is not proposed to offer any additional remission as the Gun Club is already 50% non-rateable as per Schedule 1 Part 2(2) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

A schedule listing the rates totals and a copy of the applications are attached. Please note that financial details have been withheld from the public portion of this agenda, but specific information can be tabled at the meeting, in committee, if requested.

Recommendation

That Nelson Scout Zone, Friends of Gilbert Lodge be granted a 100% rate remission for the 2009/2010 financial year.

That Nelson/Waimea Gun Club be declined any additional remission.

Cameron Fraei
Rates Officer