

Report No:	RCN11-06-17
File No:	
Date:	7 June 2011
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Tasman District Council
Meeting Date: 30 June 2011
Subject: Rate Remissions 2011/2012
Report Author: Murray Staite, Corporate Services Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The policy applies to land owned by Council and/or owned and occupied by a non-profit organisation which is used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation or community purposes under the following categories:

- Hall or library
- Promotion of arts, recreation, health or education
- Games or sports
- Agricultural and Pastoral Society
- Free maintenance and relief of persons in need.

The authority to consider and approve remissions is delegated to the Corporate Services Manager subject to all remissions granted being confirmed by Tasman District Council in open meeting.

Today's meeting will consider those responses that have been received with remissions being considered under the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Council's policy on remissions for sporting, recreation and community groups.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the draft resolution containing the remissions be adopted.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider remissions for sporting and community grounds under Council's Policy on Remissions in the LTCCP, pursuant to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council's policies require staff to communicate with organisations who have previously received a rate remission or for whom a rate remission may be perceived to be available.
- 2.2 A letter and application form was sent to these groups asking for information on:
- Organisation objectives
 - Details of membership
 - Current financial information
 - Any other relevant information
- 2.3 Today's meeting will consider those responses that have been received with remissions being considered under the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Council's policy on remissions for sporting, recreation and community groups.

3. Matters to be Considered

a) Halls and Libraries

Halls and libraries are deemed to be providing a service at no cost to Council. None of the halls or libraries listed on the attached schedule are owned by Tasman District Council. All are operated as a non-profit organisation for

members of the community. Generally a 100% remission is granted but this is at the discretion of the Council.

b) 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.

c) 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, either a 50% or a 25% remission, dependent upon individual situations.

d) Agricultural and Pastoral Societies

Council policy has been to acknowledge the work of A & P associations in a district with a significant rural economy. Council has traditionally granted a rates remission of 25%.

e) Free maintenance and relief of persons in need

Council recognises organisations which provide a free service to those in need in the community. While there are many organisations providing services in the district they mainly operate from non-rateable premises. Organisations which rely on volunteers and donations may be given some rate relief at Council's discretion. A 25% remission has traditionally been granted.

RESPONSES RECEIVED AND LEVELS OF REMISSIONS

Included are response details from those organisations seeking a rate remission for the 2011/2012 financial year. These are numbered in accordance with the application number indicated on the rate remission schedule and total \$45,983.76. 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.

The proposed rates may also include wastewater, water services and refuse/ recycling collections which are not eligible for any remission. In addition to this some properties are already 50% non-rateable as they meet the requirements of Schedule 1 Part 2 - Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

OPEN SPACE QEII COVENANTS

This policy is to preserve and promote natural resources to encourage the protection of land for natural purposes. Concurrent to the annual rate remission exercise, Council is also required to pass a resolution to acknowledge the granting of rate remissions specific to registered QEII Covenants. Remissions will be granted on receipt of notification that a covenant is in place. A schedule of those qualifying applicants, totalling \$69,700.27, is attached to this report.

4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations

- 4.1 The financial effect of these remissions has been included in the Annual Plan 2011/2012.

5. Options

- 5.1 Approve the remissions as recommended.
- 5.2 Decline the remission on the attached schedule. To do so may place the organisation which has applied under more financial pressure.

6. Significance

- 6.1 This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Significance Policy.

7. Recommendation/s

That the draft recommendation containing the remissions be adopted.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 When the remissions have been approved a letter will be written to the applicants advising them of Council's decision.

9. Draft Resolution

That Tasman District Council:

- a) receives the Consideration of 2011/2012 Rates Remissions Report RCN11-06-17**

- b) approves remissions in accordance with Tasman District Council's Policy on Remission for Sporting, Recreation or Community Organisations for the 2011/2012 financial year, as per the schedule contained in the agenda;**

- c) approves remissions for Open Space QEII Covenants for the 2011/2012 financial year, as per the schedule contained in the agenda.**

Appendices:

Rate Remission Schedule

Open Space QEII Covenants - Schedule