

Policy

Hardship Natural Disaster & Health Pandemic – ordinary rates and annual charges

Responsible Manager (Title)	Manager Finance & Supply		
Adopted by Council	Date: 28/04/2020	Minute Number: 6c.20.037	
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Document(s) this policy Supersedes	Hardship Natural Disaster – ordinary rates and annual charges V1.0 (adopted 17/12/2019)		
Community Plan Linkage	5 Leadership		
	5.2 We will have an effective and efficient organisation		
	5.2.1 Operates in a financially responsible and sustainable manner		

1. Purpose

This policy provides that consideration is given to easing the financial burden on ratepayers who may face financial hardship when natural disaster or health pandemic occurs.

2. Definitions

Localised – relating to the Clarence Valley local government area.

Natural disaster – bushfire, flood, storm event declared so by the State government.

Health Pandemic – declared by Federal or State government

3. Background/legislative requirements

This policy is enacted when a localised natural disaster or health pandemic is declared under State or National legislation.

Local Government Act NSW 1993

Rural Fires Act NSW 1997

Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989

4. Policy statement

Council will not take debt recovery action and will waive the interest charged on overdue rates and annual charges for properties directly affected by a declared event, when the applicant who is the owner, or part owner, of the affected property enters a Hardship Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic payment plan.

5. Implementation

Applicants who are owners, or part owner, of property that is directly affected by Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic declared events are eligible.

The applicant must submit a Hardship Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic form detailing the payment schedule that ensures full payment of all rates and annual charges over a 48 months period.

The Hardship Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic payment plan may spread payment of rates and annual charges over a 48 month period. That is, payments may be less in the first instance and increase over the period of the plan to ensure completion in 48 months.

When preparing a payment plan, applicants should consider CPI rate and annual charge increases across forward years.

Payment plans must include quarterly payments at a minimum. Adjustments to the payment plan are to be by submission from the applicant.

Interest will be waived on completion of the payment plan as agreed, annually.

Council reserves the right to charge interest and commence debt recovery action if the agreed payment plan is defaulted.

Sale of the property subject to a Hardship Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic payment plan will complete the payment plan.

6. Appeal/objections process

Nil

7. Related Documents

Privacy Management Plan

8. Attachment

Hardship – Natural Disaster or Health Pandemic payment plan application form