



## **APPLICATION FOR PENSIONER SUBSIDY ON RATES**

Assessment No: ...../...../.....

Govt Sub:..... CouncilSub:.....%

### **CONFIDENTIAL PARTICULARS TO BE SUPPLIED IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATION FOR SUBSIDY ON RATES**

Name(s) of Applicant(s) in full: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address of Applicant(s) .....

Property Address: .....

Description of Property: .....

Phone Number: .....

Type of Card Held:  
(Please tick)

**Pensioner Concession Card**

☐

**Centrelink**

**Repatriation Health Card (Gold)**

☐

**Department of Veteran's Affairs**

### **NB: PENSION CARD MUST BE PRESENTED WITH LODGEMENT OF APPLICATION**

Card Number: ..... Issue Date: ...../...../.....

..... Issue Date: ...../...../.....

Are you the Owner (either Solely or Jointly) of the property (YES/NO)

Have you the legal responsibility for payment of Rates and Charges levied in respect of the property (YES/NO)

Is the property your PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE (YES/NO)

Do you receive any rent income from this property (YES/NO)

Do you own any other properties for which you are claiming Government Subsidy (YES/NO)

If yes do you claim Government subsidy on any of the other properties (YES/NO)

This consent will be used for the sole purpose of authorising Centrelink to provide information to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council to assess your eligibility in relation to concessions or services provided by Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

### **Customer Confirmation**

I.....authorise

- The Blackall-Tambo Regional Council to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform a Centrelink/DVA enquiry of my Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs Customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service.
- The Australian Government Department of Human Services (the department) to provide the results of that enquiry to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

I understand that:

- The department will use information I have provided to the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council to confirm my eligibility for concession on Rates, and will disclose to the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council personal information including my name, address payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while I am a customer of Blackall-Tambo Regional Council unless I withdraw it by contacting the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council or the department.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from the department and provide it to Blackall-Tambo Regional Council so that my eligibility for relevant concession can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the concession provided by Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

Signed and declared by:.....

**APPLICANT**

this ..... day of..... 20....., in the

presence of..... **WITNESS**

## **GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY COUNCIL TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF PENSIONER FOR REMISSION OF GENERAL RATES**

- (1) To qualify for Council Pensioner rebate on general rates and or charges, a pensioner must also be eligible for a rebate under the State Government Pensioner Rebate Scheme.
- (2) A Pensioner shall not be eligible for a rate remission until he/she has paid all arrears owing from previous years.
- (3) As with the State Government rebate scheme, the residence for which a rebate is being applied for must be owned by, and be the principal place of residence of, the pensioner.
- (4) Council reserves the right to grant a remission of rates where it is deemed just in relation to persons receiving a pension benefit but who are not the holders of entitlement cards under the State Government rebate scheme.
- (5) Council reserves the right to refuse any application for any reason where the circumstances dictate that a remission is not justified. This includes income earned or received from any source and which is considered to be over and above reasonable levels.
- (6) Notwithstanding any of the above conditions, Council reserves the right to grant a remission to any person where, in the circumstances, it is considered just and appropriate to do so. Each such case to be treated on its merits.

## **GUIDELINES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR SUBSIDISATION OF RATES AND CHARGES PAYABLE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES BY APPROVED PENSIONERS**

**Approved pensioner is defined as: A pensioner who: -**

- (A) is and remains an eligible holder of a Queensland "Pensioner Concession Card" issued by Centrelink on behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services, or the Department of Veteran's Affairs, or a Queensland "Repatriation Health Card - For all Conditions" (Gold Card) issued by the Department of Veteran's Affairs; and
- (B) is the owner or life tenant (either solely or jointly) of the property which is located in Queensland and which is his/her principal place of residence; and
- (C) has, either solely or jointly with a co-owner, the legal responsibility for the payment of rates and charges as defined herein, which are levied in respect of the said property by the Local Government in whose area the property is situated.

**Note 2 (A)** In cases of co-ownership, the State Government subsidy will apply only to the approved pensioner's proportionate share of the gross rates and charges. For the purposes of determining proportionate share, a Local Government shall have regard to conveyancing practice that requires the nature and extent of co-ownership to be recorded on the Transfer (Form 1) lodged in the Titles Office and the Property Transfer Information (Form 24) forwarded to Local Government for change of ownership and rates purposes.

The above method of determining an approved pensioner's proportionate share shall apply except where the co-owners are:

- (i) and approved pensioner and his/her spouse; or
- (ii) an approved pensioner and a bank, other financial institutions, or government department where the latter holds joint title for debt security purposes and has no responsibility for rates, charges or other costs of maintaining the property.

In either of these situations, the tenure may be treated as sole ownership and the subsidy approved in full.

(To be retained by the customer)

It is not a requirement for the spouse to also reside at the property but it must be established in these cases that the approved pensioner is wholly responsible for the payment of all rates and charges levied in respect of the property. The approved pensioner's responsibility for payment of all rates and charges in this circumstance must be established to the satisfaction of the Local Government by sighting and placing on file a copy of a court order or statutory declaration completed by the applicant.

**Note 2 (B)** Under no circumstances is a pensioner to be regarded as an owner or co-owner unless:

- (i) his/her name appears as such on the Certificate of Title of the property; or
- (ii) it can be clearly established that the title to the property is held in the name of a bank, other financial institution or government department for debt security reasons and the pensioner has not been relieved of the responsibility to pay all rates and charges levied in respect of the property.

**Note 2 (C)** The criteria for determining eligible life tenants will be that:

- (i) the property in respect of which the rates are levied must be the principal place of residence of the pensioner and the pensioner must actually reside on the property (ie. A life tenant cannot reside in a nursing home and claim the subsidy, as may occur with ordinary home ownership); and
- (ii) the pensioner must not have a major interest in any other residential property; and
- (iii) the life tenancy must be created by a valid Will which applies to the property in question, or by a Supreme or Family Court Order; and
- (iv) there must be no provision in the Will or Court Order which would relieve the life tenant of the obligation to pay the rates and charges levied in respect of the property.

(To be retained by the customer)