



## Frequently Asked Questions about your rates

### Why do we pay Council rates?

So Council can facilitate the management of the area by maintaining and improving services for the community. These services include infrastructure maintenance and renewal, community services, recreation and sporting, environmental planning, public health, stormwater and waste services.

### How does Council decide how much you have to pay in rates and charges?

The State Government advises the amount Council can increase its income by each year either by the rate pegging limit or by a special variation. Council's revenue policy sets the rates and charges each year and how they will be calculated and is set out each year in its Draft Management Plan.

Rates are based on the land value, category of your property, a fixed base charge or minimum charge. Residential properties will also pay a Domestic Waste charge for garbage collection and recycling. Council also has an Environment and Infrastructure Levy and Stormwater Management Charge to fund specific infrastructure works programs.

### Who Sets Land Valuations ?

The land value is set by the Valuer General, and is generally provided to Council for rating purposes every 3 - 4 years. A Valuation notice is provided to the owner at the time advising them of the new value. You have 60 days from receiving your notice to object to the Valuer General if you disagree with the value.

### How does Council decide which category your property is in?

There are four categories for rating purposes: - residential, business, farmland and mining. Most properties in the area attract a residential category. If you are not satisfied with your category you can apply to Council for a review.

### Can I claim a Pensioner rebate?

If you receive a pension from Centrelink or Department of Veteran Affairs and have a Pensioner Concession Card you may be eligible for a concession on your rates. Application forms are available from Council.



