

PENSIONER CONCESSION GUIDELINES

Table of Contents

Background.....	1
Am I eligible for the pensioner concession?	1
How do I apply for the pensioner concession?.....	1
How is this assistance calculated?	2
Does Council accept retrospective claims?.....	3
How do I provide my completed Pensioner Concession Application Form and/or Statutory Declaration to Council?	3
If I have any questions in relation to the Pensioner Concession who do I contact?.....	3

Background

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, eligible pensioners are entitled to receive an annual rebate of up to \$87.50 off their water account(s).

Am I eligible for the pensioner concession?

To be eligible for the pensioner concession, the:

- Applicant must hold a Centrelink Concession Card, a Department of Veteran's Affairs ('DVA') Concession Card, a letter from the DVA or be in receipt of another concession as outlined by the *Social Security Act 1991*;
- Applicant must be solely or jointly liable for the water charges; and
- Property must be the principal place of residence.

How do I apply for the pensioner concession?

To apply for the pensioner concession, you must complete the 'Pensioner Concession Application' form (Attachment 1) and provide a copy of the Centrelink or DVA Concession Card or letter from the DVA. You may provide this information:

- In person at Rous County Council's Administration Office, where a Water Billing Team member will take a copy of the card or letter; or
- As a copy sent via post or email.

Note: If you are providing a copy of your Pensioner Concession Card, please ensure that both sides of the card are copied and that all relevant information on the card is clearly visible.

Pensioner Concession Guidelines		
Approved by: GM	Date:	Version: 1.1
Review Date: Annually	File no: 20	Page number: 1 of 3
Contact Officer: Finance Officer (Revenue)		

How is this assistance calculated?

You will be provided a maximum rebate of \$87.50 per rating year. This is applied at a rate of 50% of the total water and facility charges until the entire rebate is used or the rating year finishes. For example:

EXAMPLE 1	
The calculation for this assistance is: [Total water and facility charges x 50% (up to a total of \$87.50 per rating year)]	
<u>Quarter 1 Water Account</u>	
47kL at \$2.00 per kL	\$ 94.00
Daily facility charge for 91 days at \$0.38 per day	\$ 34.58
Total water and facility charges	\$128.58
<i>Concession available</i>	
\$128.58 x 50% (up to a total of \$87.50 per rating year)	\$ 64.29
Concession remaining (\$87.50-\$64.29)	\$ 23.21
<u>Quarter 2 Water Account</u>	
64kL at \$2.00 per kL	\$128.00
Daily facility charge for 91 days at \$0.38 per day	\$ 34.58
Total water and facility charges	\$162.58
<i>Concession available</i>	
\$162.58 x 50% (up to a total of \$87.50 per rating year)	\$ 23.21
Note: The concession available is \$23.21 due to the balance of \$87.50 being applied against the Quarter 1 water account.	
Concession remaining	\$ 0.00
<u>Quarters 3 and 4</u>	
No concession is available in these quarters.	

Note: The above figures are calculated on Council's 2014/15 rates and charges.

Where applications are received for a property owned by two or more persons, the rebate will be limited to the proportion of interest held in the property by the eligible pensioner. For example, if a property is owned equally by two or more persons, one of whom is an eligible pensioner, the following concession will be available:

EXAMPLE 2	
The calculation for the proportionate concession is: [Total available concession x % of property ownership]	
\$87.50 x 50% = \$43.75	
Total concession available = \$43.75	

Does Council accept retrospective claims?

Yes. Council will allow retrospective claims for the previous two (2) financial years.

To request a retrospective claim, you must:

- Complete the 'Pensioner Concession Application' form (Attachment 1); and
- Complete a Statutory Declaration (Attachment 2) confirming the applicant's principal place of residence for the previous two (2) years and outlining the reasons for not submitting an application previously.

Each application for a retrospective claim will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Any Statutory Declaration that you provide must be signed by an 'authorised witness'. An 'authorised witness' may include:

- A Justice of the Peace;
- A Notary Public; or
- A solicitor or barrister with a current New South Wales or interstate practising certificate.

How do I provide my completed Pensioner Concession Application Form and/or Statutory Declaration to Council?

Please return your completed forms to Council via:

In Person: Rous County Council Administration Office, Level 4 218/232 Molesworth Street, Lismore.

Post: The General Manager, Rous County Council, PO Box 230, Lismore, NSW 2480.

Email: wb@rous.nsw.gov.au.

If I have any questions in relation to the Pensioner Concession who do I contact?

Please contact Council's Water Billing Team on (02) 6623 3800.