



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

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New Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

The West Coast Regional Council has recently reviewed its Rates Remission and Postponement Policy and widened the categories for which ratepayers can apply to seek financial assistance for the payment of rates.

The six categories include:

1. Remissions for land 50% non-rateable
2. Remission of penalties on rates
3. Remission of rates on land protected for natural, historic, or cultural conservation purposes
4. Remission of rates on land subject to natural calamity
5. Postponement due to financial hardship
6. Remission and postponement for business and economic development.

Acting Chief Executive Heather Mabin said that Council wanted to take a practical and pragmatic approach to rating, recognising that there were a number of impacts affecting the community that required a new way of looking at things.

“We have had a major flooding event in Westport, we see the impact of a pandemic on business and we have new responsibilities for new regulations. Council is very aware of the hard decision it made to increase rates by so much and the flow-on impact on ratepayers.

As a result we have introduced a category relating to the impact of a natural calamity such as the recent flooding in the Buller district and revisited the requirements around financial hardship.

Council is very mindful that these are all challenging circumstances for our ratepayers so we have looked at ways in which we can make this easier for them.”

The Policy outlines the conditions and criteria that are required for a remission or postponement of rates with applications considered on a case-by-case basis to establish if they meet the conditions.

At the other end of the spectrum, Council has also introduced a category of remission and postponement for business and economic development.

“This is a time when we need to encourage new business and opportunities to help offset some of the effects COVID-19, and other events, have had on communities. This is a small incentive that may just make the difference in encouraging new business to take a chance here on the Coast, or an existing one to expand,” Ms Mabin said.

Applications for categories 1, 3 and 6 must be received prior to the due date for the first rates instalment in the case of the 2021/22 financial year – 20 November 2021. For future years, the application must be received before 1 July of the rating year.

For more information about applying for rates remission or postponement go to www.wcrc.govt.nz and search 'Rates Remissions and Postponements Policy' or call Council on 0508 800 118.

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