

# Rates remissions

## How to apply for rates remission

The Rates Remission and Postponement Policy was reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 to take a practical and pragmatic approach to rating, recognising that there are a number of issues impacting the community. A new category for rates remission was added to the policy to assist ratepayers who have been affected by natural calamity events, such as the flood in July 2021 and more recently in February 2022.

To find out whether you are eligible, and how to apply, please refer to the following information.

### What is a rates remission?

A rates remission is the ability for a landowner to apply to Council to be exempt from paying rates on their property over a certain period of time. Council has 6 categories of rates remission or postponement including the remission of rates for land subject to natural calamity.

### How do I know if I am eligible to apply for the remission of rates for land subject to natural calamity?

A rates remission may be granted to rating units that are:

- Used principally for residential purposes by the owner/occupier and are subject to one of the following:
  - erosion;
  - subsidence;
  - submersion;
  - fire; or
  - other natural calamity that had the effect of rendering the residence uninhabitable or unusable, such as an earthquake.
- Uninhabitable or unusable for a period of greater than one month.

All properties that have been red or yellow stickered or have become uninhabitable as a result of a natural calamity event, such as the flooding in July 2021, February 2022 or the landslide in Waimangaroa in March 2022 may be eligible for a rates remission.

The rates remissions applies for the period that the residence is uninhabitable.

### How do I apply?

Council has written to all known red or yellow stickered ratepayers outlining the ability to apply for rates remission. However, we are aware that some of these letters have not reached our ratepayers.

If you have **not** received a letter, but believe that you are eligible to apply for a rates remission, complete an application form and return to us by:

**Post** West Coast Regional Council  
PO Box 66  
Greymouth 7805

**Email** [remissions@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:remissions@wrc.govt.nz)

The application must include the following supporting information:

- Details of the property;
- The description of the calamity or event;
- Steps taken, or that will be taken, to return the rating unit (residence) to an inhabitable or usable state; and
- An estimate of the time the rating units expected to be affected.

### What happens after I send my application?

All applications are reviewed to ensure that they provide all necessary information and meet the relevant criteria.

Council will contact you to advise whether your application has been approved.

Up to 100% of all rates may be remitted for the period during which the residence is uninhabitable or unusable.

### What if I have already paid rates while my residence is uninhabitable?

Please submit an application. A credit can be applied against future rate invoices.

### More information

For more information about Council's Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy, or to seek further remission or postponement, go to Council's website [www.wrc.govt.nz](http://www.wrc.govt.nz) and search 'Rates Remissions and Postponements Policy'.

Forms are also available at the Westport Flood Recovery Hub.

### Have further questions or need assistance

If you have any further questions about how to claim rates relief, contact Letisha Schutte on 0508 800 118 or email [remissions@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:remissions@wrc.govt.nz)