

Seniors Rates Postponement allows seniors to postpone payment of Council rates amounts over \$500 per year for an indefinite period. This can assist eligible ratepayers who have a high level of equity in their home but are on limited incomes.

Who is eligible?

Seniors Rates Postponement is available for ratepayers who hold a state government-issued Seniors Card. Rates postponement is only available on the principal place of residence and there must be no other property owners (spouses excepted).

How does Seniors Rates Postponement work?

Liability for Council rates in excess of \$500 per annum is deferred for an indefinite period (up to when the property is sold). This means that eligible ratepayers will pay a minimum of \$500 per year toward their Council rates with payment of the remaining balance postponed until their property is sold or eligibility ceases.

Under the *Local Government Act 1999*, amounts over \$500 can be postponed subject to the prescribed interest rate. Any amount(s) postponed will attract interest at a rate prescribed by Section 182A (12) of the Act. This rate is the current cash debenture advanced rate + 1%, and is compounded monthly.

Due to these financial implications, we strongly encourage ratepayers to seek independent financial advice before entering into an arrangement to postpone Council rates.

What does it cost?

There is no application cost, however ongoing interest will be accrued on postponed amounts.

How do you apply?

Please complete the [Application for Seniors Postponement of Rates form](#) and return to Council. Once received, your application will be assessed, and Council will contact you to advise you of the outcome. An interview for further discussion may be requested.

Please note:

- You only need apply once
- Once approved, rates postponement on eligible amounts will be automatic, and will continue until you advise Council about circumstances affecting your eligibility, or that you wish to exit the system
- Quarterly rates notice will show postponed amount details, and any accrued interest that has been applied, giving you the total amount owing. Flexible payment options can be arranged if a quarterly deadline is not able to be met
- Overdue fines will be applied if rates remain unpaid after the due date stipulated on the Rates Notice