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APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP	SF239
	Responsible Officer: Senior Rates Officer
	Issue Date: 23/8/2019
	Next Review Date: August 2023

Legislation

Deferment of Rates, and Remittance of Interest & Fines on the basis of financial hardship are provided for under the Local Government Act 1999 section 182. Further reference is available in the Customer Hardship policy, division 5 section 37 (clauses 1-5) under the Water Industry Act 2012 and Yorke Peninsula Council's PO060 Rates Relief Policy.

Property valuation and rates payable

As rates are based on property value, prior to lodging any application for deferment, the ratepayer should first determine if they consider their valuation to be a fair assessment of their property. **If the valuation is considered to be incorrect, and objection to valuation must be lodged through the State Valuation Office within 60 days after the service of the first rate notice for the current year.** Please telephone the State Valuation Office on 1300 653 345 to discuss valuation issues.

Application for Deferment of Rates

To apply for a Deferment of General rates or remittance of Interest & Fines please complete all sections of the attached form. All details supplied are confidential.

Rates Deferment or Remittance – financial hardship

Council will accept applications for deferment of Rates, & remittance of Interest & Fines from ratepayers suffering financial hardship, and will consider each application on its own merits. In most instances:

- Applicants will be required to attend an accredited financial counsellor who must prepare a current income and expenditure statement (this service is available free of charge through some charitable organisations e.g. Uniting Communities).
- The counsellor must review the income and expenditure statement and prepare a suggested budget (where appropriate).
- The counsellor must prepare a letter for Council substantiating the current financial circumstances, indicating any advice, assistance provided to the ratepayer and their reasons supporting that a rate deferment be granted.
- A copy of these documents must be provided to Council to support the deferment application.
- Other information or evidence may also be requested in certain circumstances.

Payment of rates pending processing of hardship application

Where a ratepayer has applied for a deferment of rates, amounts due as agreed must be paid as invoiced or statutory fines and interest will apply. Where a rates deferment is granted, the applicant will be advised in writing and the adjusted amount will be reflected in the following rate notice.

SECTION A – Ownership/Ratepayer Details

Name of ALL ratepayer(s):	
Postal address:	
Daytime telephone:	
Email:	
Name of owner of property: (Complete only if different to Ratepayer details or indicate 'as above')	
Property address:	
Assessment number:	
Purchase date of property:	
Is this your principal place of Residence?	Yes No
Please list ANY other properties owned: Assessment Number Valuation Number (attach list if insufficient space provided)	

SECTION B – Occupant details

Please provide details of all occupants of the property

For the column marked 'Status' – please indicate if this person is employed, unemployed, pensioner, SFR concession holder, dependent child or other suitable description (attach list if insufficient space).

Name	Relationship (spouse etc)	Status
	Owner/Occupant	

SECTION C – Concession details

Please provide details of any concession for which all ratepayers/occupiers are/may be eligible.

Concession Types = Pensioner, SFR concession, Centrelink beneficiary, health care card holder.

Occupant Name	Concession Type	Pensioner, Seniors Card, Centrelink or card number (shown on your card)	Date of grant or date benefits commenced

SECTION D – Rates/Fines & Interest Remittance

Are you requesting Fines & Interest be remitted? **Yes** **No** (Please circle answer)

Amount of Fines & Interest you wish to have remitted \$

Are you requesting a Deferment of Rates? **Yes** **No** (Please circle answer)

Amount of rates you wish to have deferred \$

Please state the reason for this request – THIS INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION (If insufficient space attach a separate sheet)

Please complete the following questions

Do you consider the Capital Value shown on your annual rate notice to be a fair assessment for the property? **Yes No** (please circle response)

Have you lodged an objection to the valuation with the State Valuation Office for the current financial year? **Yes No** (please circle response)

Please note: If you have responded 'No' to both of the above questions you must lodge an objection to valuation (please see instructions on the back of your rate notice). Applications for financial hardship will not be considered unless any issues with the valuation have been resolved.

Have you previously received deferment/remittance of rates on the basis of financial hardship? **Yes No** (please circle response)

Legal Declaration

I wish to apply for a deferment of rates or remittance of fines & interest based on financial hardship for the current financial year and declare that the information shown above is true and correct:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Assessment of your application

Your application will be assessed and if approved, will be confirmed in writing to you and all owner/s of the property.

If your application is denied, you will be advised in writing of the reasons for the denial.

Please forward the completed application to:

Email: admin@yorke.sa.gov.au

OR

**Yorke Peninsula Council
Senior Rates Officer
PO Box 57
MAITLAND SA 5573**