

Rate Remission Policy (PO79)

Keywords: Rates, Remission

Strategic Plan:	Accountable Leadership – 1.3 Focus on delivering financial sustainability and responsible asset renewal. 2.3 Foster a culture of excellence and continuous improvement across all aspects of Council. 3.4 Position council as a trusted and reliable service provider for the community, with decision making based on the best outcomes for the Community
Classification:	Executive and Corporate Services – Rates – Rates Remission Policy
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Responsible Officer(s):	Rates Officer, Finance Manager, General Manager Corporate & Community Services
Council File Reference:	7.1.1
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999, Section 182 (1) & 182 (4)
Relevant Policies:	Rates & Charges-Financial Hardship, Rate Capping Rebate Policy
Related Procedures:	Forms part of the Council's Annual Business Plan Documents
Delegations:	Berri Barmera Council Delegations Register

1. Introduction

This document sets out the Policy of the Berri Barmera Council for the application of a rate remission against the general rates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the Council's Rates & Charges – Financial Hardship Policy and the Council's Rate Capping Rebate Policy, both of which outline other economic support measures available.

2. Definitions

Act	The <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> (SA)
Rates	rates constitute a system of taxation for local government purposes
Remission	the cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty.
Council	Means Berri Barmera Council

Rate Payer	means a person who appears in the assessment record as the owner or occupier of rateable property;
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3. Principles

This Policy has been developed in accordance with section 182 of the *Local Government Act 1999* which permits the Council to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates.

4. Policy Statement

RATE REMISSION – General Rates,

Council will remit a portion of the rates payable by the Principal Ratepayer of an assessment on application to the Council, where the payment of those rates is deemed to cause hardship.

To be deemed to cause hardship and for the remission to apply the assessment must be subject to the following criteria for the 2026/2027 financial year:

- The property is the principal residence of the ratepayer;
- The ratepayer is able to produce one of the following identification cards;
 - Pensioner Concession Card – Centrelink (blue Card)
 - Pensioner Concession Card – Veteran Affairs
 - T.P.I. Card – Veteran Affairs;
- Or they can demonstrate to Council that they are a self funded retiree(s) with a combined income of less than \$40,500 per annum. An example of a statement of earnings could be but not limited to;
 - Financial Institution notification
 - Centrelink Statement
 - Notice of Assessment – Australian Taxation Office

The amount agreed to be remitted, in accordance with this policy, for the 2026/2027 financial year is \$55 per annum of the general rates.

RATE REMISSION – Primary Production Properties

For the 2026/2027 financial year and taking into account the economic impacts suffered by primary production properties within the Council's area as a result of the economic downturn of wine grapes, the Council will, on application, grant a remission on grounds of financial hardship of primary production properties that are eligible, as follows:

- \$200 per annum for general rates

To be deemed to cause hardship and for the remission to apply the assessment must be subject to the following criteria for the 2026/2027 financial year.

- Primary Production Property
- Land Use : Wine grapes
- Can provide evidence of hardship.

An example of evidence could be but not limited to

- Producing the Farm Allowance Card from Centrelink evidencing receipt of farm household allowance
- Letter from a rural financial counsellor or welfare agency.

Applications for a remission must be in writing, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Berri Barmera Council, PO Box 229, Berri SA 5343 and include sufficient details to identify the relevant property and support the application.

Alternatively, an application form is included with this policy and can be accessed from Council's website at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au

5. Further Information

For further information about the procedure and options available in relation to the above policy, please contact the Rates Officer, Berri Barmera Council, PO Box 229, Berri 5343, Telephone 8582 1922, or email bbc@bbc.sa.gov.au.

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Date	List of amendments
April 2026	Minor Updates & amendment to Policy Statement terms