

Pensioner Information Sheet

2 May 2016

The purpose of this information sheet is to inform and assist eligible and or entitled persons on registration and information on rebates offered by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

Concessions are also available from the Water Corporation and other Government agencies. For full details of these concessions please visit the State Government web-site www.communities.wa.go.au services. The Shire encourages you to contact the relevant Government bodies to determine if you are receiving ALL of the concession cards that you may be entitled to. Contact details are located at the bottom of this information sheet.

State Government Pensioners and Seniors Rebate Schemes

(Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992

The purpose of these schemes is to provide concessions to pensioners and seniors on their annual local government rates and service charges levied where only the charges of rates, emergency service levy and underground electricity charges are eligible for either a rebate on, or the deferment, of these charges.

To receive a concession a person must hold one or more of the appropriate Pensioner or Seniors cards and, on 1 July of the financial year, own and occupy **residential** property as their **ordinary place of residence** (the address for which you are enrolled to vote with the WA Electoral Commission).

How do I apply for a concession?

To register your entitlement for a rebate, you may apply using either of the following methods:

- Phone the Water Corporation on 1300 659 951, even if your home is not serviced by the Water Corporation, they accept all applications on behalf of all Local Governments.
- On-line at the Water Corporation website watercorporation.com.au.
- In person at the Margaret River Civic Administration Centre (**applies to Department of Transport concessions**).

Your application for registration will be effective from the date that the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River receives a completed registration form. For a rates concession you can only claim a concession on one property in any one financial year, being the property owned and occupied on 1 July.

Concession Eligibility

To receive a concession you must:

- hold an appropriate Pensioner OR WA Seniors card and;
- on 1 July of the current financial year own and occupy the property as your "ordinary place of residence".

To own means you must:

- be the owner or co owner of the property registered on the Certificate of Title or
- have a "right to reside" at the property under the terms of a Will (provided a copy of the appropriate documents are provided) or
- hold a long-term lease in a retirement village, park home park, lifestyle village or caravan park.

Concessions available to card holders

The following concessions are available to holders of a:

- **WA Seniors Card (SC)**
 - Entitled to receive up to a 25% rebate (**capping applies**) on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
 - The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
 - The deferment option is **not** available.
- **WA Seniors Card (SC) AND a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC)**
 - Entitled to receive up to a maximum of \$750 rebate on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
 - The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
 - May be entitled to defer your rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy. Service Charges of Rubbish, Recycling and Waste Facility Maintenance aren't deferable.
- **Pensioner Concession Card (PCC)**
 - Entitled to receive up to a maximum of \$750 rebate on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
 - The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
 - May be entitled to defer your rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy. Service Charges of Rubbish, Recycling and Waste Facility Maintenance aren't deferable.
- **Dept of Veterans Affairs**

Pensioner Concession Card – Issued by DVA
Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card – War Widow (WW)
Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card – Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI)

 - Entitled to receive up to a maximum of \$750 rebate on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
 - The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
 - May be entitled to defer your rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy. Service Charges of Rubbish, Recycling and Waste Facility Maintenance aren't deferable.

Eligible cards



SHIRE of AUGUSTA
MARGARET RIVER

Margaret River
Monday to Friday: 9am – 4pm
Phone inquiries: 8am – 4:30pm
Ph: +61 8 9780 5255

Augusta
Monday to Friday: 9am – Noon, 1pm – 4pm
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Non Eligible card



To Obtain a Rebate

Registered Owners

You must pay the amount of annual rates by 30 June of the current financial year.

Leaseholders in Retirement Villages, Park Home Parks, Lifestyle Villages or Caravan Parks

You must pay according to the terms of your lease.

To Defer your Rates

Your annual rates, underground power and emergency services levy will be automatically deferred, where you are eligible, if the amount required to be paid to receive a rebate is not paid by 30 June of the current financial year.

Rubbish, Recycling and Waste Facility Maintenance fees are NOT deferrable and must be paid before 30 June of the current financial year, otherwise your rebate will be lost and you will be required to pay the full amount prior to acceptance of any further entitlements.

The deferment option is not available where the property is:

- occupied under a life tenancy or right of residency under the terms of a Will of a deceased estate;
- subject to co-ownership (other than spouse/de facto); or
- subject to a long-term lease in a retirement village, park home park, lifestyle village or caravan park.

Please note, if the deferment option is not available, and you do not pay your rates or charges before 30 June of the current financial year, you will lose your rebate and you will be required to pay the full amount.

Deferred charges

- remain as a debt on the property until paid;
- are not required to be paid until your entitlement to defer ceases;
- may be paid at any time, but you do not receive any concession when they are paid; and
- do not incur interest charges.

Pro-Rata Provisions

If you become eligible to hold either a SC, PCC, SCC or a SC together with a CSHC during the year, you can still obtain a pro-rata rebate on your rates and charges for the current financial year from the date you register with either the Water Corporation or your local government.

Arrears

Where arrears on your local government rates exist, a rebate or deferment may only be available where you enter into, and comply with, a payment arrangement to clear the arrears.

Change in circumstances

You must immediately advise both the Water Corporation and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, if your circumstances change at any time as penalties may apply for providing false or misleading information. For example, notification is required if:

- you are issued with a new card or your card is cancelled or expires;
- your original application details will change or have changed;
- you sell or transfer an interest in all, or part, of your property or move to another address;
- you or your spouse ceases occupation of the property; or
- as a WA Seniors Card holder you become an eligible pensioner or the holder of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.



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Where can I get more information about the cards?

You will need to contact one of the following organisations about concession cards:

Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card or Seniors Health Card

Centrelink (Seniors Line)
Phone: 13 23 00

Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs

Veterans' Access Network

Tel: 133 254 Country Callers: 1800-555-254 (non-metropolitan)

Fax: (03) 9284 6841

GPO Box 9998 In Your Capital City

GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au | www.dva.gov.au

WA Seniors Card

WA Seniors Card Centre, Level 1 Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street, PERTH WA 6000
Phone: 6217 8855 or 1800 671 233 for country callers

The Department of Local Government and Communities has available a Seniors Card Discount Directory, to obtain a copy you can order by phoning the WA Seniors Card Centre on (08) 6551 8800 or 1800 671 233 (country free call) between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm weekdays.

The directory is also available on the Department's website.

State Concession Card

Department for Child Protection (WA Government)
Phone: 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258 for country callers



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