

Policy on Rates Remission including on Māori Freehold Land

Consultation Document

We're proposing some changes in our draft policy on rates remission including on Māori freehold land. and we want to hear what our community thinks.

This document provides a quick overview of the changes and a form for your feedback. The full draft policy is available at ItsOurPlace.nz

We are accepting feedback until Sunday 28 April 2024

Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Policy on Rates Remission including on Māori Freehold Land

We're proposing some changes in our draft policy on rates remission including on Māori freehold land. We want to hear what our community thinks so find out more and have your say.

We are accepting feedback until Sunday 28 April 2024.

Introduction

Council is proposing to amend its Policy on Rates Remission including on Māori Freehold Land. We have undertaken a full review of the policy and would like to propose few changes to make it more robust and clearer.

What are we proposing?

Proposal 1:

Council proposes to exclude Waste Collection charges from remissions.

Why?

- Council offers part or full remission of rates to qualifying properties under specific circumstances. The current policy provides 100% or 50% rates remission including on targeted rates such as water and wastewater but is unclear on whether waste collection charges are included.
- Council is proposing to exclude Waste Collection service charges from remission and make it clear in the policy.
- Under section 9 of the Rating Act allows council to receive targeted rates for its services like water, wastewater, waste collection charges.

What impact will this have?

The proposal will affect following rates remission circumstances.

- Memorial and Community Halls
- Community and Recreational Facilities
- Properties Natural, Historic, and Cultural Conservation Purposes
- Separately Inhabited Dwellings occupied by a dependent family member subject to Private & Non-Profit Use.

Proposal 2:

Council is proposing to include a detailed policy section on rates remission for Māori Freehold Land.

Why?

- This policy enables council to fulfil its statutory obligations. As part of the overall policy redrafting and reformatting, we have drafted a detailed policy section on rates remission on Māori Freehold Land.

What impact will this have?

- The proposal will enable rates remission on Māori Freehold Land with certain special features such as Hakatere Marae where applicable.

Proposal 3:

Under our rates remission policy for water rates, we are proposing to include a procedural clause stating that council will only consider one remission on any excess charge due to leakage for one billing period only within a 12-month period.

Why?

- The objective of this policy is to incentivise ratepayers to get their water leaks repaired. The proposed clause consolidates the objective of this policy and provides procedural clarity for staff and applicants.

What impact will this have?

- The proposal will impact ratepayers facing excess water bills due to leakages in internal reticulation network by encouraging them to get the leak fixed in order to qualify for remissions.

Draft policy

The full draft policy is available at itsourplace.nz

Review process and timeline

We're accepting feedback from the community until Sunday 28 April 2024.

From 13-16 May, submitters will have the opportunity to present their views to Council in person at the hearing, after which Councillors will consider and deliberate on all the submissions received.

Wednesday 27 March – Sunday 28 April 2024
Community Consultation

13-23 May 2024
Submission hearings and deliberations

May – June 2024
Policy finalisation

June 2024
Final Policy adoption

Have your say

Your feedback will help us to know whether we are on the right track.

Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

The easiest way to provide your feedback is online at itsourplace.nz

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached submission form and getting it back to us using one of the following methods:

Freepost to	Ashburton District Council Freepost 230444 PO Box 94 Ashburton 7740
Email to	submissions@adc.govt.nz
Hand in to	Council reception at Te Whare Whakatere, Baring Square East

You have until Sunday 28 April 2024 to get your feedback in.

Please note that by making a submission, your information will be used in the following ways:

- Submission material, including your name and organisation (if applicable) but excluding your contact details, will be included in material available to Council, media and the public at our office and on our website.

- The contact details you provide will be used for administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.

- The information you have provided will be stored and held by Council. If you would like to request access to, or make a correction to your personal information, please contact the Council staff.

Submission Form – Rates Remissions Policy

Your details

Name*_____

Organisation (if appropriate)

_____

Address

_____

Phone

_____

Email*

_____

these fields are required

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(if no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ **Yes:**

The hearing will be held at Hine Paaka (the Council Chamber) between 13-16 May.

If yes, do you wish to be heard: ☐ **In-Person** or ☐ **Virtually**

☐ **No:**

I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question and you can comment on any aspect of the draft policy. You can provide attachments to support your submission. The full draft policy is available at itsouplace.nz

Questions

1. Do you support the exclusion of waste collection charges from the rates remissions policy?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't Know

Comments:

_____

_____

_____

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_____
_____

2. Do you support the inclusion of the section of rates remissions policy for Māori Freehold Land?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't Know

Comments:

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3. Do you support the proposed clause to improve procedural clarity under policy of rates remission on water rates?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't Know

Comments:

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4. Any other comments?

Comments:

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