



COMMUNITY RATE SUPPORT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. OBJECTIVE

The Balonne Shire Council Community Rate Support Program seeks to:

- Support the viability of community owned facilities
- Encourage the provision of services and facilities by not-for-profit community groups to the Balonne Shire's communities
- Support community organisations experiencing financial hardship

2. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

Community organisations which:

- pay general rates or sewerage and cleansing utility service charges to Balonne Shire Council
- are based in the Balonne Shire or able to demonstrate that the project, program, or activity will directly benefit Balonne Shire residents.
- are an approved charity or an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.
- have public liability insurance

3. INELIGIBLE GROUPS

- Individuals
- Organisations that are operationally funded by State or Federal Governments (e.g., An aged care service conducted by an approved provider under the *Aged Care Act 1997*)
- Gaming machine licensed organisations.

4. FUNDING DETAILS

Funding as approved in Council's annual budget for the Community Rate Support Program will be available for community organisations that are liable to pay general rates and/or sewerage and cleansing utility service charges in the same financial year.

Remissions for service charges relate to cleansing and sewerage charges only. No remissions are provided for water service charges.

Successful organisations with a sport and recreation focus may receive up to 25% of their annual general rates and/or sewerage and cleansing utility service charges. Organisations with a charitable or community service focus may receive up to 50% of their general rates and/or sewerage and cleansing utility service charges.

The actual level of support / remission of rates approved will be at the discretion of Council. A cap may be applied to organisations with multiple service charges limiting the maximum amount of remission available. The remission of rates will normally be processed as a credit on rate accounts; however, Council may refund rate payments which have already been paid.

No remission will be granted on arrears, interest amounts, water service charges, excess water charges or balances resulting from missed discounts.



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5. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Completed application forms and supporting documentation must be submitted to Council before the due date.
- Late applications may only be considered under extreme circumstances.
- Applications must be submitted within the financial year for which a remission of rates is requested.
- Council may include a remission of rates for identified organisations in future Revenue Polices and Statements to negate the need for these organisations to apply annually for a remission of rates under this program.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO:

Chief Executive Officer
Balonne Shire Council
PO Box 201
ST GEORGE QLD 4487

Email: council@balonne.qld.gov.au

For assistance or enquiries about this application process, please contact the Rates Officer: 07 4620 8888