

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman & Members, Corporate Services Committee  
**FROM:** David Ward  
**DATE:** 15 July 2005  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of 2005/2006 Rate Remissions

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## INTRODUCTION

Council has an established policy which requires staff to communicate with those organisations who have previously received a rate remission or for whom a rate remission may be perceived to be available.

A letter and application form were forwarded to these groups asking for information on:

- Organisation objectives
- Details of membership
- Current financial information
- Any other relevant information

Today's meeting will consider those responses that have been received with remissions being considered against the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Council's policy on remissions for sporting, recreation and community groups.

## Current Council Practice – Discretionary Remissions

### a) Halls and Libraries

Halls are deemed to be providing a service at no cost to Council. None of the halls listed on the attached schedule are owned by Tasman District Council.

### b) Promotion of arts, recreation, health and education

Again Council's policy has been to provide relief on privately owned facilities which are offered for general use to the public at no cost to Council. Further consideration is given where it is perceived that there may be some financial pressure placed on the owners of such facilities if rates were collected in accordance with the amount directly levied.

### **c) Games and sports**

Clubs operating from Council reserves generally pay a lease to Council but receive no separate rating charge. In an attempt to equalise the position of sports clubs within the district it has been past practice to provide those clubs who either own their own property or who under the terms of their independent leases are responsible for rates, a 25 per cent remission.

### **d) Agricultural and Pastoral Societies**

Council policy has been to acknowledge the work of A & P Associations in a district with a significant rural economy.

### **e) Free maintenance and relief of persons in need**

Council recognises organisations which provide a free service to those in need in the community. While there are many organisations providing services in the district they mainly operate from non rateable premises. Organisations which rely on volunteers and donations may be given some rate relief at Council's discretion.

## **Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Council's LTCCP**

Attached to this report are a copy of Section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 – Remission of Rates, together with a copy of Council's policy on Remissions for Sporting, Recreation or Community Organisations. These are the statute and policy against which remissions will be considered at today's meeting.

Committee members should note that today's discussion and subsequent recommendation is specific to discretionary remissions only. Statute provides some mandatory remissions and these are noted in the schedule. Should the Committee agree with staff recommendations, the amount of remissions to be granted will be \$37,455.16. This figure is similar to the level of remission granted 12 months ago.

## **Responses Received and Levels of Remission**

We have included response details from those organisations seeking a rate remission for the 2005/2006 financial year. These are numbered in accordance with the application number indicated on the rate remission schedule. Financial details have been withheld from the public portion of this agenda but specific information can be tabled at the meeting in committee if requested.

Please note that the proposed rates may also include wastewater and water charges which are not eligible for any remission.

## **New Applicants**

There are three new applicants this year:

- Mapua Health Centre
- Murchison Toy Library
- Nelson Speedway Association

Staff will provide background information to these applicants, including non applicants with similar circumstances at today's meeting.

### **Recommendation**

The remissions can be considered as one group and the recommended resolution would be:

**That the remissions for the 2005/2006 financial year, as per the schedule contained in the agenda, be approved.**

David Ward  
Corporate Services Manager

Anthea Campbell  
Rates Officer