

Application for a Pensioner Rate Subsidy/Concession

Rates Property Number					Date of occupancy				
Address of Property									
Is this property your residential address? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, reason):									
Name of Applicant/s			Date of Birth		Pension Card Number				Card Start Date
A copy of <u>each</u> applicant's current pension card MUST be provided with this application. Copy attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes									
Current postal address									
Phone			Mobile			Email			
Are you the sole owner/s of this property on the Title Deed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No									
<i>If No: Please list name/s of property co-owners:</i>						<i>Relationship to you:</i>			
Are you a Life Tenant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No									
<i>If Yes: Life tenancy is effective only after the death of a property owner. Life Tenant applicants must provide a copy of death certificate of the property owner and a valid Will or family/supreme court order.</i>									
Are you solely responsible for the payment of rates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No									
List any current or previous addresses of properties owned within the Sunshine Coast Council Region with dates of ownership (List most recent first):									
Declaration of Applicant/s Information - Council will update your record with the contact details you provide on this form.									
I/we sincerely declare that the information provided on this form is accurate and I/we will notify Sunshine Coast Council immediately of any change in my/our circumstances that may affect my/our eligibility for rate subsidy/concessions.									
Signature			Date		Signature			Date	
Consent for Customer Pension Concession Entitlement Confirmation									
I/we (insert full names) _____									
authorise:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Sunshine Coast Council to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform a Centrelink/DVA enquiry of my Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs customer details and concession card status to enable the Sunshine Coast Council to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. Services Australia (the agency) to provide the results of that enquiry to the Sunshine Coast Council. 									
I understand that:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the agency will disclose personal information to Sunshine Coast Council including my name/address/payment type/payment status and concession card type and status to confirm my eligibility for pension rate concession/subsidy this consent, once signed, remains valid while I am a customer of the Sunshine Coast Council unless I withdraw it by contacting the Sunshine Coast Council or the agency. I can get proof of my circumstances/details from the agency and provide it to the Sunshine Coast Council so my eligibility for pension rate concession/subsidy can be determined. if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the pension rate concession/subsidy provided by the Sunshine Coast Council. 									
Signature			Date		Signature			Date	

Privacy

Council will use any personal information provided for the intended purpose only and for remaining in contact with you. Council is authorised to collect this information in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and other Local Government Acts. Your personal information is only accessed by persons authorised to do so. Your personal information is dealt with in accordance with council's privacy policy.

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au | mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au | T 07 5475 7272

Postal address Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560 | ABN 37 876 973 913

Caloundra office 1 Omrah Avenue Caloundra Qld 4551

Maroochydore office 10 First Avenue Maroochydore Qld 4558

Nambour office Corner Currie and Bury Streets Nambour Qld 4560

Application for Pensioner Rate Subsidy/Concession

Queensland government pensioner rate subsidy scheme and council pensioner concession policy

Guidelines

A subsidy of rates and charges shall be allowed to approved pensioners who have applied on or before 30 June or 31 December each year, under Chapter 4, part 10 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and in accordance with the eligibility criteria set out in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council 2022/23 Revenue Statement.

What rate Subsidy/Concession is available and how much is the Subsidy/Concession?

- The **Queensland Government** offers a 20% subsidy, capped at \$200.00 per annum for rates and charges, excluding the State Emergency Management Levy and miscellaneous property charges e.g. change of ownership fee.
- The **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services** offer a 20% subsidy based on the State Emergency Management Levy residential rate.
- The **Sunshine Coast Council** offers a rate concession of 25% of the General Rate to all recipients of a State Government pensioner subsidy provided they have owned property in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council local government area for the preceding 3 years, or for 5 of the last 10 years so long as the "gap" between ownerships in this period does not exceed 12 months. For the 2022/23 financial year council offers the following concessions on the general rate only:

Pension Rate	Sole title per property	Joint title per property
Maximum level of pension (Full)	\$271 per annum maximum	\$212 per annum maximum
Not Maximum level of pension (Part)	\$136 per annum maximum	\$77 per annum maximum

Animals: If you are the owner of an animal, you may be eligible for a council concession on registration fees. Please contact Customer Service on 5475 7272 to apply or update your existing animal details.

What are the eligibility criteria?

For Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy

The pensioner applicant:

1. Must possess a current, valid qualifying concession card, namely:
 - Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs, **OR**
 - Repatriation Health (Gold) Card - (for all Conditions) issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs; and
2. Must be the owner (either solely or jointly), or be an eligible life tenant, in accordance with the guidelines for the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy, of property within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council local government area which is their principal place of residence, AND must have (either solely or jointly with a co-owner/s), the legal responsibility for payment of rates and charges which are levied in respect of the said property by the council. In the case of joint ownership, the subsidy will apply only to the applicable rates and charges on the approved pensioners proportionate share of property ownership. Where the co-owner is a declared dependant displayed on the applicant's pension card, the declared dependant's proportionate share of property ownership is incorporated. For holders of the Repatriation Health (Gold) card issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs the co-owner defacto/spouse names are not listed on cards therefore are consequently incorporated; and
3. Must, if a 'first time' applicant, lodge and complete the prescribed application to be entitled to a Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy. The information on this application form will be used by council to verify the eligibility of all pensioners (Centrelink and Veteran Affairs pension recipients). Upon proof of eligibility, the entitlement to a subsidy will commence from either the card start date shown on the Pensioner Concession Card or the date of occupation of their principal place of residence or the start of the current rating period, whichever is the later date. Such entitlement will continue until the sale of that property or until the entitlement to a pension ceases to exist; and
4. Must, if an 'existing' applicant, lodge another application on the acquisition of a replacement property within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council local government area, OR if required by council; and
5. Pensioner Rate Subsidy will only be allowed where there is an approved habitable residence on the land which complies with the *Queensland Building Act 1975*.

For Sunshine Coast Council Pensioner Rate Concession

To qualify for additional Sunshine Coast Council Pensioner Rate Concession the ratepayer MUST ALSO qualify for the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy. In addition to the above criteria the applicant must:

6. Have owned property within the Sunshine Coast Council region for the preceding 3 years, or for 5 of the last 10 years so long as the "gap" between ownerships in this period does not exceed 12 months. If currently not eligible and upon meeting the qualifying period of 3 years, rating concession will be applied from the start of the next rating period. Discretion may be applied in relation to contribution to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council local government area regarding continuous residency, consistent with pensioner concession arrangements as listed above. For holders of the Repatriation Health (Gold) card issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs who have been classified as Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) the three year ownership provision is waived.