

Remission of Water Rates Attributable to Leakage

Purpose:

From time to time water consumers experience a loss as a result of leaks or damage to their water supply system. It is the normal practice for the consumer to be responsible for the maintenance of the reticulation from the water meter to the property, and to account for any consumption of water supplied through the meter. This is currently enforced through the Water Supply Bylaw 9.13.5.

Council has taken the view that some consumers may experience an occasional water leak without them being aware of the problem. They have therefore decided that it would be reasonable to allow for a reduction in charges to these consumers in certain circumstances. This policy statement addresses that decision.

Principles and objectives:

To standardise procedures to assist ratepayers who have excessive water rates due to a fault (leak) in the internal reticulation serving their rating unit. Whilst at the same time ensuring the consumers retain responsibility for the maintenance of their private reticulation, as required by the Water Supply Bylaw 9.15.

Scope

The Council may remit the excess water rates where the application meets the following criteria.

- the policy will apply to applications from ratepayers who have excess water rates due to a fault(s) in the internal reticulation
- that all applicants are requested to submit their application in writing before the due date of an invoice
- that a report from a registered plumber be supplied stating that the property has experienced a water loss as a result of a leak
- that proof of the repairs to the internal reticulation be submitted for verification (i.e. plumber's repair account) within 60 days of the due date of an invoice
- that the ratepayer be charged the full charge for normal consumption
- the maximum relief that will be provided will be 50% of the difference between the normal consumption and the actual water consumption for that period
- any remission under this policy will be limited to one application within any two year period for any particular rating unit
- the Corporate Services Manager be delegated authority to consider applications for remission of excess water rates and, if appropriate, approve or decline them

Definitions:

1. "Internal reticulation" refers to the underground and indoor pipe work and specifically excludes irrigation and leaking toilets, taps etc.
2. The "normal consumption" will be calculated at Council's discretion from the information available.
3. No adjustment shall be backdated beyond the current period invoiced.
4. This is a financial remission only based on the volumetric charge and does not apply to any base charge or allocation.