

**POLICY  
FOR  
ASSISTANCE UNDER FINANCIAL HARDSHIP  
(s567)  
(ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON 11 JUNE 1997)**

- \* An application for assistance under financial hardship provisions must be on the prescribed forms. These forms set out details/particulars so the application can be assessed.
  - \* If an application is successful the General Manager has the power, through the delegation approved by Council at its meeting on 11 June 1997 (Minute No 1329/1) to “write off accrued interest on rates or charges” in accordance with S567.
  - \* The General Manager in determining an application can consider recommendations made by an assessment panel consisting of the Rates Clerk, Rural Counsellor and Director of Finance and Administration.
  - \* Successful applications will not be eligible to re-apply for S567 assistance for a period of three years from the date of application.
  - \* Applicants have the right of appeal to Council's decision based on the following criteria:
    - (a) where it can be shown that Council was misinformed;  
or
    - (b) where circumstances have changed from the original application.
- These appeals must be on the prescribed forms and are to be considered by the assessment panel and a recommendation made to the General Manager.
- \* Information supplied in the application is strictly confidential. In accordance with this requirement only the General Manager and the assessment panel is privy to this information. Further that all reports be in Closed Council and a system established so no application details be placed in Council's general filing system.
  - \* That the General Manager make determinations on applications where the interest accrued and charges are less than \$5000 (in accordance with Council's policy and clause 11 of the Local Government (Rating & Charges) Regulation). However, an applicant can apply to have amounts less than \$5000 considered by the assessment panel even though total interest accrued is greater than \$5000.

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