

Payment of Rates and Charges Policy

City Policy

Responsible Directorate: Corporate Services

Objective: To enable flexibility and choice, appropriate for the needs of the community, in the payment of rates and charges established by the City.

1. Statement:

The City of Joondalup recognises that individual financial circumstances differ across the community and that, as a government organisation, it has a fiscal responsibility to meet the community's service expectations with regard to flexible options for the payment of rates and charges that it establishes.

This Policy seeks to guide Council in determining alternative payment options for rates and charges as part of the *Annual Budget* process.

2. Details:

2.1. General Payment Options:

- a. In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and as part of the budget adoption process, the City will offer instalment payment options for the payment of annual rates and services charges, with instalment payment schedules prescribed at the time the Annual Budget is adopted each year. If an administrative charge is associated with each instalment option, this will be set annually by Council in the Schedule of Fees and Charges adopted as part of the Annual Budget.
- b. Alternatives to standard instalment options comprising weekly, fortnightly or monthly special payment arrangements will be offered each year as part of the Annual Budget adoption by Council. Any associated administrative charges will be set annually by Council in the Schedule of Fees and Charges adopted as a part of the Annual Budget.
- c. As part of the budget adoption process, the Council may also determine incentive options for early payment of rates and charges.

2.2. Financial Hardship:

- a. The City recognises its responsibility in responding to the needs of ratepayers experiencing severe financial hardship by ensuring that they are treated with respect, dignity, fairness, equity and confidentiality.
- b. The City's approach to rates financial hardship is outlined in the Rates Hardship Policy.

Creation Date: June 1999

Amendments: CJ121-06/02, JSC30-08/04, CJ206-10/05, CJ093-05/12, CJ069-05/21

Related Documentation:

- *Annual Budget*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Register of Delegation of Authority*
- *Rates Hardship Policy*