

Financial Hardship Assistance

Application Form



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

Council recognises that some ratepayers may be experiencing serious financial hardship, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to provide assistance, Council has adopted a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy. Under this policy, Council can provide relief from rates payments to those suffering genuine and serious financial hardship.

Eligible applicants can:

- Enter into a rates payment plan
- Have rates payments postponed (deferred) to a future date
- Have outstanding/postponed (deferred) rates payments exempt from interest charges
- Request a partial or full rates waiver (remission) *(only when an application for postponement of rates payments has previously been approved - refer to paragraph 4.8 of the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy)*

Applications are assessed in accordance with the criteria outlined in Council's *Financial Hardship Assistance Policy*. To view this policy online visit www.meander.tas.gov.au. **If you require a hardcopy of this policy or you need help completing this application form, please phone Council on 6393 5300**

Your Details

If the property (business or residential) is owned by more than one person, please list all owners (first name and last name) who wish to apply for financial hardship assistance.

Property Owner/s Names

Business Trading Name *(if applicable)*: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address: _____

Property Details

Applications are not accepted for investment properties. The property must be your primary residence or, in the case of business owners, the primary operating premises.

I/we confirm that the below property is my/our primary residence or place of business

Property Address: _____

What type of relief do you wish to apply for?

I/we would like to enter into a rates payment plan

Please provide details about how much you intend to pay and over what period of time you intend to make those payments:

- I/we would like to postpone (defer) payment of rates for up to three (3) months
- I/we would like to apply to have any outstanding or postponed (deferred) rates exempt from interest charges
- I/we have received approval to postpone (defer) payment of rates and would like to apply for a partial or full rates waiver (remission)

Reasons for experiencing financial hardship *(select all that apply)*

For more information about how hardship is assessed, refer to paragraph 4.2 of the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

- Public health declared emergency (including COVID-19 pandemic)
- Declared state of emergency
- Loss of employment affecting property owner, family member and/or primary income earner
- Serious illness affecting property owner, family member and/or primary income earner
- Family tragedy
- Family breakdown
- Natural disaster
- Other serious or complicating circumstances

*To support your application, please provide details about the reason(s) for experiencing financial hardship:
(if you require more space, please attach a separate sheet)*

Supporting Documentation *Select all that apply and submit copies of these documents with your application.*

For more information refer to paragraph 4.4 of the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

- Copy of an assessment by an independent, accredited financial counsellor that demonstrates both an inability to pay rates or to rearrange assets to facilitate payment of rates
- A Statutory Declaration from an appropriate and independent professional familiar with your circumstances *(eg. a bank official, insurance policy manager or a family doctor for health-related hardship)*
- Notice of termination or redundancy from your employer
- Evidence of pending disconnection of essential services such as water, electricity or gas *(this does not include mobile phone or internet bills)*
- Notice of impending legal action
- Notice from your bank citing overdraft call or property repossession
- Letter from doctor verifying inability to earn income due to illness or caring for a sick family member
- Evidence of overdue medical bills
- Letter from a charitable organisation regarding loss of employment or inability to provide for basic necessities
- Final notice from school regarding payment of mandatory fees
- Evidence of funeral expenses
- Repossession notice of essential items such as your primary vehicle (car or motorcycle)

Details of Weekly Income

Income received from wages or salaries: _____

Income received from retirement, compensation, insurance or superannuation benefits: _____

Income from your spouse or partner (also living at the property): _____

Income received from banks/financial institutions or dividends: _____

Other income (eg. rental income, child support etc.): _____

Total weekly income: _____

Details of Pension or Government Benefits

Type of pension/government benefit: _____

Amount received (weekly): _____

DVA or CRN Number: _____

Date of issue: _____ Expiry date: _____

Do you currently receive a Pensioner Rates Remission for your rates? Yes No

Details of Weekly Expenditure

Mortgage / home loan repayments: _____

Other mortgages / business loan repayments: _____

Other loans / credit card repayments: _____

Costs of utilities (electricity, water, gas, phone, internet etc.): _____

Insurance costs: _____

Living expenses (food, petrol etc.): _____

Total weekly expenditure: _____

Personal Information Protection Statement

The personal information that Council collects from you is deemed personal information for the purposes of the Personal Information Protection Act 2004. The intended recipients of personal information collected by Meander Valley Council may be:

- Officers within Meander Valley Council
- Data service providers engaged by Council from time to time

The supply of the information by you is voluntary. If you cannot provide or do not wish to provide the information sought, Meander Valley Council may be unable to process your application or request. Council is collecting this personal information from you for the purposes of managing, assessing, advising upon and determining the relevant application. You may make an application to access or to amend your personal information held by Council. Please direct any enquiries regarding your personal information in writing to:

General Manager, Meander Valley Council, PO Box 102, Westbury, TAS 7303.

I/we confirm that this application has been completed accurately and is a true reflection of my/our circumstances as at the date of submission

Signature of applicant/s:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

How to lodge your application



By mail: Mail completed form and copies of any supporting documents to:
Attn: General Manager, PO Box 102, Westbury Tasmania 7303



By email: Scan completed form and copies of any supporting documents and email
to mail@mvc.tas.gov.au



Need help? If you need help completing this application form, please phone Council on **6393 5300**