

Minister for Finance
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Sport and Events

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Mr Simon Behrakis
Member for Clark

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Behrakis

Thank you for your constituency question on 19 June 2024 to the Acting Minister for Local Government, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, regarding how older Tasmanians can access financial support to assist them with their rates payments.

I acknowledge that there are some Tasmanians who are doing it tough right now, and we are working hard to help them. In the Local Government spere, eligible pensioners (including health care card holders) are entitled to a rates remission the lesser of 30% of their rates or the 'prescribed maximum amount', the latter being adjusted each financial year under the provisions of the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991*.

The maximum amount for 2023-24 is \$368 if you are a TasWater client or \$542 if you are not a TasWater client. In 2022-23 the amounts were \$345 for TasWater clients or \$507 for non-TasWater clients.

The rate remission scheme is funded by the Tasmanian Government and administered by local councils. I encourage your constituents to contact their local Council if they have any questions about making an application.

You can also direct them to find further information about the pensioner rate remission scheme, including eligibility requirements, on the State Revenue Office website at www.sro.tas.gov.au/pensioner-rates-remission.

Thank you again for raising this matter with me. I hope the information I have provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Local Government

9 July 2024