



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

RATES REBATE SCHEME CONSERVATION STRATEGY - POLICY CS15

SECTION 1

NAME:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

..... Postcode

PROPERTY ON WHICH RATES REBATE IS BEING CLAIMED

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Lot No. Plan No.

RATE ASSESSMENT NO:

ROAD NAME: HOUSE.

LOCALITY: AREA:(ha)

AREA OF LAND BEING CLAIMED FOR REBATE:

SECTION 2

Please complete the relevant section by circling the appropriate response or answering question.

NATURAL AREA CONSERVATION SCHEME

What are the key features of the land you wish to seek rates rebate for:

- Remnant or Ecotonal
- Rainforest
- Riparian Ecosystem Melaleuca Wetlands etc

Wildlife Habitat or Corridor Species:

- Rare or Endangered Species
- Old Growth Forest
- Scenic Landscape
- Other:
.....



COUNCIL POLICY

Conservation Strategy

POLICY NO	015
DEPARTMENT	Corporate Services
PROGRAM	Financial Services

1.0 Scope

This policy applies to all applications for rate relief for Nature Conservation or Nature refuge areas.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage and increase the amount of land set aside for nature conversation through the provision of rate relief.

3.0 Reference

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulation 2010

4.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

Council shall mean Mackay Regional Council.

Act shall mean the Local Government Act 2009.

Regulation shall mean the Local Government (Finance, Plans & Reporting) Regulation 2010.

5.0 Background

Environmental problems in the form of land degradation and loss of natural habitats continue to be an ever increasing issue faced by residents of the Mackay Region. In an effort to encourage proactive conservation practices Council consulted with a number of agencies in order to explore possible solutions. This consultation highlighted that there would be significant benefit gained by the community if Council provided assistance to private landholders that encouraged the preservation and conservation of land.

6.0 Policy Statement

6.1 Rates Relief Scheme

Council's rates rebate scheme aims to encourage both the conservation of high value vegetation and wildlife habitats on private land. The rates rebate scheme acknowledges the broader community benefits associated with natural area conservation including:

- Improvements to overall catchment health
- Enhanced landscape qualities
- Retention of critical habitats
- Reduced erosion
- Improved water quality

A range of areas have been identified as suitable for conservation including:

- Conservation of remnant rainforest and ecotonal forest
- Conservation of riparian ecosystems including melaleuca wetlands
- Conservation of ecological linkages and wildlife habitats
- Preservation of natural scenery of the city through forestry and conservation

All applications will be assessed against specific criteria established in association with relevant State Government Departments and industry groups. The amount of rebate will be proportional to the area of land covered by specific conservation or farm forestry agreement and initial applications to Council should be made on the approved form in Appendix One.

Any changes made to the provisions of this policy will only apply to remissions granted after the date that the amendment has been adopted by Council.

6.2 Nature Conservation Areas

General requirements for attracting the rebate include:

- (a) The subject site is to meet the selection criteria identified for Nature Conservation Areas;
- (b) A Conservation Agreement or Nature Refuge Agreement will be entered into, over the property or that part of the property subject to the rates reduction application, between the owner and the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (c) Rates relief will commence from the beginning of the financial half year during which the Environmental Protection Agency has advised Council that following an initial inspection they have determined that it is appropriate to enter into a Conservation Agreement or Nature Refuge Agreement for the subject land and that the procedure to enter into such an agreement has commenced.

(d) Rates discount will apply as follows:

Less than 10% of the assessment area	10% of overall general rates to a maximum of \$371 per annum.
10% to less than 20% of rate assessment area	15% of overall general rates to a maximum of \$613 per annum.
20% to less than 40% of rate assessment area	20% of overall general rates to a maximum of \$922 per annum.
40% or greater of assessment area	25% of overall general rates to a maximum of \$1,226 per annum.

- (e) Rates relief will continue for at least a minimum of a three (3) year trial period or until the provisions of the Conservation or Nature Refuge Agreement are breached;
- (f) Should a Conservation Agreement or Nature Refuge Agreement not be finalised, within eighteen (18) months of advice from the Environmental Protection Agency that procedures to enter into an agreement has commenced, the full amount of any relief granted will be recoverable from the owner of the land, in addition a schedule of repayment ratios for failure to honour the agreement will be negotiated through the preparation of the Conservation Agreement or Nature Refuge Agreement.

7.0 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than two years.



Expressions of Interest : Rates Rebate Scheme

Section 1

Name _____

Postal Address _____
_____ Post Code _____

Property which rates rebate is being claimed _____

Real property description _____

Rates Assessment No. _____

Road Name _____ House No. _____

Locality _____ Area: _____ (ha)

Area of land being claimed for rebate: _____

Section 2

Please complete the relevant section by ticking the appropriate response or answering question.

Natural Area Conservation Scheme

What are the key features of the land you wish to seek rates rebate for:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remnant | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecotonal | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainforest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Ecosystem | <input type="checkbox"/> Melaleuca Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat or Corridor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old Growth Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Landscape` | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare and/or Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | | |

