

### Motion Form

<b>Council Name</b>	City of Parramatta Council
<b>Motion Category (highlight one)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic</li><li>• Infrastructure</li><li>• Planning</li><li>• Environment</li><li>• <b>Social &amp; Community</b></li><li>• Governance</li><li>• Accountability</li></ul>
<b>Motion Title</b>	Pensioner Concessions on Council Rates and Charges
<b>Proposed by</b>	Cr Patricia Prociv

### Motion Wording:

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes the history of cost shifting by state and federal governments to local councils, which is one of the most significant problems faced by councils in NSW, adversely affecting our ability to help our communities prosper.
2. Notes the increasing cost of living crisis facing Australians, and the significant impact this has on our communities, particularly pensioners, with many pensioners forced to make difficult choices, such as cutting back on essential items like food and medication, to make ends meet.
3. Notes the payment of the pensions is the responsibility of the Federal Government, designed to support the basic living standards of many Australians.
4. Noting these issues, calls on the Federal Government to fully fund the concessions available to eligible pensioners for their ordinary rates and domestic waste management service charges, or at a minimum, fund the 45 percent of the concessions currently borne by local councils, removing this unfair obligation on and cost-shift to local councils.
5. Calls on the State Government and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to also make representation to the Federal Government on this issue.

### Motion Background (maximum 1 or 2 paragraphs):

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* – SECT 575, eligible pensioners are provided concessions on their ordinary rates and domestic waste management services charges. The cost of providing these concessions is shared between the State Government (55%) and local councils (45%).

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 defines "eligible pensioners" as;

- the holder of one of the following:
  - Pensioner Concession Card (PCC)
  - DVA Gold Card embossed with 'TPI' (Totally Permanently Incapacitated)
  - DVA Gold Card embossed with 'EDA' (Extreme Disablement Adjustment), or

- a war widow/er or wholly dependent partner entitled to the DVA income support supplement.

Eligible ratepayers are entitled to receive subsidies of up to;

- \$250.00 on ordinary rates and charges for domestic waste management services;
- \$87.50 of their annual water rates and charges (where service is provided by council);
- \$87.50 of their annual sewerage rates and charges (where service is provided by council).

In the last four financial years, with an average of 7,900 eligible pensioners, the cost per year of pensioner concessions to the City of Parramatta Council on council rates and charges has averaged \$850,000 per annum.