



- MEDIA RELEASE -
Issued on Monday 16 January, 2023

Council provides concession relief for ratepayers

Barkly Regional Council has listened to its ratepayers loud and clear and will provide further concessions to those affected by a sharp increase in their rates.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday, it was determined to provide further relief to ratepayers impacted by the revaluation of properties in the General Industry, Light Industry and Service Commercial categories.

The increase in this year's rates will now be capped at no more than a 15 per cent rise from the previous year's rates.

To further help impacted businesses and industries, Council amended its Rates Exemption and Concession Policy to ensure hardship concessions apply to all categories of ratepayers.

Local ratepayer Gail Oglesby was shocked when she received her rates notice last year and noticed it had risen by more than 100 per cent.

"We expected the rates to go up every so often but to double it in a year - that was a big shock to a lot of us property owners," said Ms Oglesby.

"There was no way we could have afforded to pay the full amount so we are grateful and relieved Council has helped us and provided the concession."

CEO Emma Bradbury said Council is acutely aware of the impact of the revaluation had on some ratepayers and the distress it had caused.

"We have worked hard to ensure we take a balanced approach to providing concessions and relief where applicable while still maintaining enough revenue to deliver our suite of services to Barkly communities," said Ms Bradbury.

In 2021, properties within the Council boundary were revalued by the Valuer-General which led to increases in the unimproved capital values (UCV) for certain classes of ratepayers causing significant increases in the general industry, light industry and service commercial.

In September 2022, Council approved a rate concession to these ratepayers which led to a lower amount of rates payable, however in some instances the value of the rates payable, even after applying the concession, remained high for some.

Council then resolved at its Ordinary Council Meeting in November 2022 to explore options to minimise the adverse impacts of rate increases on affected ratepayers and invited the Value-General to address Council.

Council has now appointed Mead Perry Group to undertake a full review of its rates strategy ahead of the 2023/24 rating period.

Applications for a rates concession must be made in writing, addressed to the CEO and emailed to ceo@barkly.nt.gov.au

Media contact: Tash Adams, email tash.adams@barkly.nt.gov.au

