

# Proposal to amend the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

## About the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

The Rates Remission and Postponement Policy provides financial assistance to ratepayers, and addresses inequities in how rates are applied. Full details of the council's current the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy can be viewed [here](#).

## What we need your feedback on

Auckland Council proposes to amend its Rates Remission and Postponement Policy so that the Uniform Annual General Charge and other targeted rates assessed as fixed rates are remitted for the following land used by religious organisations for:

- presbytery/manse used to house clergy which is onsite or adjacent to the place of religious worship
- halls and gymnasiums used for community not-for-profit purposes
- not-for-profit childcare for the benefit of the community
- libraries
- offices that are onsite and which exist for religious purposes
- non-commercial op-shops operating from the same title
- car parks serving multiple land uses but for which the primary purpose is for religious purposes

Land used for commercial purposes including car parks, gyms, cafes, and op shops that are operated as a commercial activity will continue to be charged the Uniform Annual General Charge and other targeted rates assessed as fixed rates.

Auckland Council also proposes to amend its Postponement of rates for residential properties scheme to make renewing eligibility easier for ratepayers. The proposed change removes the requirement for a statutory declaration for ongoing proof of eligibility and enables applicants to complete their annual declaration without requiring an authorised witness such as a Justice of the Peace or solicitor.

For more information about the proposed amendments, please see pages [\[links to relevant pages of the supporting information containing discussion of options relating to the above-listed amendments\]](#) of the Supporting Information for the Annual Budget 2019/2020.

If the changes to the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy are not made then the council will be unable to fully implement the proposed changes to rating of religious use properties in the Annual Budget 2019/2020.

## When you can have your say

Submit your feedback on the proposed Rates Remission and Postponement Policy from 17 February to 17 March 2019.

Alternatively, you can have your say on the proposed amendments to Rates Remission and Postponement Policy by attending one of the Have Your Say events. Have Your Say Events provide an opportunity where Aucklanders have spoken interaction with council representatives.

## What happens next

Your feedback will be analysed and reported to the Governing Body for its consideration before it adopts any amendments to the policy in June 2019.