

# COVID-19 Short Term Rates Deferral Policy



## 1. Context

This policy is subordinate and complementary to the Gore District Council Remission of Rates Policy as contained in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.

## 2. Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide short term relief to ratepayers who have been financially disadvantaged by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequential economic restrictions, by deferring up to six months of rates payments.

## 3. Conditions and criteria

- (a) All ratepayers of the Gore District Council are eligible for relief under this policy.
- (b) Ratepayers must apply on-line on the prescribed form. The form can also be accessed via your smart phone. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Council office and a copy of the form will be sent to you.
- (c) A rate payment deferral of up to two instalments will be permissible under this policy.
- (d) A declaration to be provided by the applicant that he/she has experienced financial hardship must be made.
- (e) Applicants who are residential ratepayers must own and occupy the property for which rating deferral assistance is sought.
- (f) Payment plans must be entered into with the Council Rating Officer and be maintained throughout the Covid-19 alert level restrictions and beyond;
- (g) Rates deferral will only be available to customers who are not in arrears with the Council as at 1 July 2019, with arrears being defined as no more than 1 instalment owing.

## 4. Operative date

This policy will come into effect on Friday 24 April 2020.

## 5. Expiry date

This policy, being short term, will expire on 31 August 2020.

This policy was adopted by the Gore District Council at its extraordinary meeting held on 22 April 2020