



# Rate Rebate for Conservation Covenant Policy

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| <b>Policy No:</b>                | 3.9   |
| <b>Approved by Council:</b>      | April 2024  |
| <b>New Review Date:</b>          | April 2028  |
| <b>Minute No:</b>                | C95/7-2024  |
| <b>ECM File No:</b>              | 12.106  |
| <b>Version:</b>                  | 5.0   |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>      | Manager Finance   |
| <b>Strategic Plan Reference:</b> | 3.3 Council is able to demonstrate strong environmental stewardship and leadership. |

### 1. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1.1 Council recognises that the protection of our natural environment is a strategic objective and aspiration of the Kingborough community, this policy plays a part in achieving that objective.

### 2. OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 Where land has been assessed as having a high conservation value, in return for the landowners agreeing to a conservation covenant being placed on the title, Council will provide a financial incentive by way of a rate rebate.

### 3. SCOPE

- 3.1 This Policy applies to ratable land that has been covenanted in perpetuity under either the Private Forest Reserves Program or the Protected Areas on Private Land Program.

### 4. PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)

- 4.1 On application by the ratepayer and subject to Council's approval, a rebate of the General Rate that would otherwise be payable will be granted subject to the following.
- 4.2 The rate rebate for the 2023/24 financial year will be \$7.50 per hectare and will be indexed annually by the percentage increase in the Residential General Rate.
- 4.3 The rate rebate for 2023/24 will be of a minimum annual value of \$150 and a maximum annual value of the lesser of either \$750 or three-quarters of the General Rate that would otherwise be payable on the entire property. These minimum and maximum values will also be indexed by the percentage increase in the Residential General Rate.
- 4.4 The rate rebate will remain in place for each property for five years provided that the intent of the covenant is fully complied with, and thereafter will be subject to review and renewal at the discretion of Council.
- 4.5 The rate rebate may be forfeited or suspended if the rates on the property are not fully paid by the due date. The General Manager has the delegated authority to determine the application of this provision. This authority may be sub-delegated by the General Manager to any other officer.
- 4.6 New and renewed applications will be subject to sufficient funding being allocated and available in the Estimates.
- 4.7 In considering applications, Council may take into consideration the assessment of conservation values as determined by the covenant, and/or the advice of other appropriately qualified officers.
- 4.8 A quarterly report will be provided to Council of rebates provided under this Policy.

### 5. COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 Members of the public.
- 5.2 Councillors.
- 5.3 Council Staff.

### 6. LEGISLATION

- 6.1 Section 129 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.