

## RATES REBATE ON LAND FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES POLICY

<b>Policy Number:</b>	4.1.11
<b>Approved by:</b>	Council
<b>Date Approved:</b>	December 2023
<b>Date of Next Review:</b>	December 2024
<b>Applicable to Unit(s):</b>	Natural Environment and Parks Finance
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Natural Environment and Parks
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Climate Change and Sustainability Policy
<b>Related Documents:</b>	Nil
<b>Statutory Reference:</b>	<i>Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>

### OVERVIEW

This policy aims to incentivise and support responsible land holders who manage a portion or the whole of their land in a manner that preserves, restores, or protects the natural environment through the entering into of a formal conservation agreement.

### THE POLICY

Council has committed to providing assistance for the conservation of environmentally significant land in private landholdings.

Requirements for eligibility for the concession are as follows:

- a) That the rebate applies only to the land that is affected by a covenant as described in the covenant document.
- b) The rebate will apply once notification from Trust for Nature is received by Council and will be pro-rata from the date the deed was signed from the commencement of the current rating year.
- c) All rebates will be given in the form of a credit against the general rates. If the rates have been paid in full, the credit balance will be carried forward to the next rating year.
- d) Concession will continue until the provisions of the covenant are extinguished, breached or expired.

Rate concession will apply as follows:

The rebate of \$15 per hectare, with a minimum rebate of \$100 and a maximum equal to the annual general rate on the property.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding environmental and climate change principles as outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Climate Change Act 2017* and referred to in the Council's *Environmental Sustainability Policy*. The Environmental Sustainability Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold sustainability principles.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council’s Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council’s policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

**REVISION HISTORY**

VERSION	DATE	MAJOR / MINOR UPDATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	Not applicable	No changes applicable at this review
1.1	December 2023	Minor	Date of Next Review updated to: December 2024 Minor formatting changes.