



Shire of Denmark

Discover Denmark

953 South Coast Highway (PO Box 183), Denmark WA 6333

Ph. (08) 9848 0300 Fax: (08) 9848 1985

Email: enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au

Website: www.denmark.wa.gov.au

State Government Rebate Applications Information Sheet

(this Information Sheet applies to your Shire of Denmark Rate Notice only)

Am I eligible for a rebate?

You must hold one of the following concession cards:

- Pensioner Concession Card [“pensioner”]
- WA State Concession Card [“pensioner”]
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card **WITH** a WA Seniors Card [“pensioner”]
- WA Seniors Card **only** [“senior”]

AND

- On 1 July of the current financial year, own and occupy the property as your ‘ordinary place of residence.’ Your ‘ordinary place of residence’ has a broad meaning, and may include situations where the owner is not able to occupy the property due to circumstances beyond their control, which include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - an owner residing in a nursing home due to ill-health and frailty
 - a natural disaster destroying a residential dwelling, or preventing the owner returning to the property.

To ‘own the property’ means you must meet one of, but is not limited to, the following eligibility requirements:

- Registered on the Certificate of Title as the owner, or co-owner, of the property
- Have a ‘right to reside’ at the property, per the terms of a Will, and be responsible to pay a rate notice
- Hold a long-term lease in a retirement village, park home park, residential park or caravan park
- Be the beneficiary owner of a Public Trustee held property, per the terms of a Court Order or trust document.

The property **must** contain an approved residential dwelling.

What types of rebates are available from the Shire of Denmark?

Annual Rebate

An annual rebate is available on your rate charge and emergency services levy (“ESL”). **No** rebate is available on your kerbside waste collection charges, and/or other charges showing on a rate notice. The rebate on the rate charge only is capped at a maximum amount set by the WA State Government.

Deferment

Deferring your rate charge and ESL, for payment after the current financial year, is **only** available to eligible pensioners. Deferment is **not** permitted for your kerbside waste collection charges, and/or other charges showing on a rate notice.



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How much is the rebate?

Pensioner Concession Card

- Entitles you to receive **up to** a 50% rebate, subject to the State Government capping.
- You **may** be entitled to defer these charges.

State Concession Card

- Entitles you to receive **up to** a 50% rebate, subject to the State Government capping.
- You **may** be entitled to defer these charges.

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card WITH a WA Seniors Card

- Entitles you to receive **up to** a 50% rebate, subject to the State Government capping.
- You **may** be entitled to defer these charges.

WA Seniors Card only

- Entitles you to receive **up to** a 25% rebate, subject to the State Government capping.
- You are **not** entitled to defer these charges.

If the property is also used for a commercial purpose, then such activity may reduce the amount of rebate that you receive. Please contact Shire of Denmark Rating Services, or please refer to Shire of Denmark Policy P030102 "*Pensioner/Senior Rebate Entitlement Calculation (Commercial Use)*", in the Shire of Denmark Policy Manual available online at www.denmark.wa.gov.au/governance-documents-and-forms.aspx.

How do I choose the rebate option?

Registered Owners

- You **must** pay the amount due on your rate notice by 30 June of the current financial year.

Leaseholders in Retirement Villages, Park Home Parks, Retirement Parks or Caravan Parks

- You **must** pay according to the terms of your lease.

Normal instalment due dates do **not** apply during the current financial year, and interest does **not** accrue, on current financial year charges (rate charge and ESL only).



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How do I choose the deferment option (for pensioners only)?

If you are eligible, and if you do **not** pay the amount due on your rate notice by 30 June of the current financial year, then you will **lose** your rebate, and your full rate charge and ESL **may** be automatically deferred. Your kerbside waste collection charges, and/or other charges showing on a rate notice, **must** be paid by 30 June of the current financial year, and are **not** permitted to be deferred.

The deferment option is **not** permitted where the property falls under one of, but is not limited to, the following categories:

- Occupied under a life tenancy, or right of residency, under the terms of a Will of a deceased estate
- Subject to co-ownership (except where co-owner/s are pensioners, or is a spouse, who occupy the property)
- Subject to a long-term lease in a retirement village, park home park, residential park or caravan park
- The likely net sale value of the property would be insufficient to cover the deferred amount at sale
- The property is owned under a Department of Housing Shared Equity Scheme, or similar
- A commercial use is actually occurring on the property.

Please note: If the deferment option is **not** available, and you do **not** pay the amount due on your rate notice by 30 June of the current financial year, you will **lose** your rebate. You will then be required to pay the full amount of your rate charge and ESL immediately. Interest will begin to accrue, and your entitlement to a rebate in the next financial year **may** not be available.

What happens to my deferred charges?

The deferred charges will remain as a debt on the property until paid in full. The charges are not required to be paid until your entitlement to defer **ceases**. Entitlement ceases in such circumstances as, but not limited to:

- death of the eligible pensioner (in some circumstances the surviving spouse may retain the eligibility on behalf of the deceased);
- cessation of the eligible pensioner's entitlement to the land, such as a sale; and,
- the eligible pensioner or senior ceasing to occupy the property as their ordinary place of residence (in some circumstances the deferred amount may still remain deferred).

The deferred charges may be paid at any time, but you do **not** receive any rebate when they are paid.

The deferred charges do **not** incur interest while deferred. Once your entitlement to defer **ceases**, interest **will** begin accruing on the full balance of the deferred charges, from the beginning of the current financial year.



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How do I apply for a rebate?

You can register for a rebate on your annual rate notice by applying with either the Shire of Denmark, **OR** the Water Corporation, as follows:

Shire of Denmark

- You **must** submit a completed application form, only available in person from the Shire of Denmark Administration Centre, along with **one (1)** photocopy of **both** sides of your concession card.

Water Corporation

- You can apply by phoning 1300 659 951, or online at www.watercorporation.com.au, even if your property is not serviced by a water mains.

Your application will be registered at **both** the Shire of Denmark and the Water Corporation (if applicable). Your application will be effective from the earliest date that either organisation receives your application.

You can only claim a rebate or deferment (where eligible) on **one** property in any **one** financial year, in Western Australia. The property **must** be owned and occupied by you on 1 July of that financial year.

If your property has any charge in arrears, then a rebate or deferment (where eligible) **may** only be available where you enter into, and satisfy, a custom instalment agreement to clear the arrears.

What happens if I become a pensioner or senior during the financial year?

You can apply for a pro-rata rebate from the date you register, as long as you owned and occupied your property on 1 July of the current financial year.

What should I do if my circumstances change?

You **must** immediately advise **BOTH** the Shire of Denmark and the Water Corporation when your circumstances change at any time. The following are just some of the changes in circumstances that need to be notified to both organisations:

- You are issued with a new concession card
- Your current concession card is cancelled or has expired
- Your original application details have, or will soon have, changed
- You sell, or transfer, an interest in all, or part, of your property
- You, or your spouse, cease occupation of the property
- Your contact details change



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Where can I get more information?

If you would like an application form, or are seeking further information about your application for a State Government Rebate, then please contact the Shire of Denmark. For information about rebates available from the Water Corporation, please contact them on 1300 659 951, or access their website at www.watercorporation.com.au. Further information is available from the Office of State Revenue on 08 9262 1373, or online at www.finance.wa.gov.au (click on the "State Revenue" tab), or can be requested via email at pensionerconcessions@finance.wa.gov.au.

For further information about each concession card, including how to apply and the eligibility requirements, please contact the relevant organisation listed below.

Pensioner Concession Card / Commonwealth Senior Health Card

- Call the Department of Human Services on 13 23 00. Information is also available online at www.humanservices.gov.au.
- Call the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 1800 555 254. Information is also available online at www.dva.gov.au, then click on the "Benefits and Payments" tab at the top of the screen, or can be requested via email at GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au.

WA Seniors Card

- Call the WA Seniors Card Centre on 1800 671 233. Information is also available online at www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au, or can be requested via email at seniorscard@dlgc.wa.gov.au.

WA State Concession Card

- Call the Department for Child Protection and Family Support on 1800 622 258. Information is also available online at www.dcp.wa.gov.au, then under the heading "Supporting Individuals and Families" click on "State Concession Card", or can be requested via email at css@dcp.wa.gov.au.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this information sheet is issued for guidance purposes only. It is not an exhaustive explanation of the State Government Rebate Scheme. The Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992 is the governing legislation for this scheme. The provisions of that Act override any information that may be incorrect, or may become outdated, in this information sheet.