

2 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PENSIONERS AND THOSE IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP - Councillor Dr Peter Kim

File Number: CLM/19/1/1/6 - BP19/840

BACKGROUND:

Up to the early 2000s, the City of Ryde had the “Voluntary Pensioner Rebate Scheme”. It is a grandfathered scheme where eligible pensioners (as at 31 December 1992) who lived in the City of Ryde for over 10 years were rewarded for their loyalty with \$80 per year discount in their Council rates. Would the resurrection of a similar scheme be financially viable? And if so, would it be given out to the qualifying residents in the form of geographically restricted Voucher to help the pensioner ratepayers to reduce the rising cost of living and to improve the local economy?

The amount of overdue rates and charges currently owed to Council is approximately \$3.9 million (as at 30 June 2019). This motion is seeking a report to understand the cause of debt accumulation, facilitate debt collection, and to identify and assist the ratepayers in genuine financial hardship.

MOTION:

That the General Manager organise a Confidential Councillor Workshop to report on the following:-

- (a) the feasibility of recommencing the “Voluntary Pensioner Rebate Scheme”.
- (b) the list or summary of overdue rates for more than three (3) years for residence and one (1) year for vacant land, with the analysis of reasons for late payment, to assess the people in genuine financial hardship, and to provide the options to assist those in financial hardship and to facilitate collection of outstanding debt.