

HEAD OF POWER

- *Local Government Regulation 2012, part 10*

INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate a means for Council to provide relief to ratepayers by partially remitting water consumption charges in respect of kidney disease patients who are undergoing home haemodialysis treatment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to ratepayers within Bundaberg Regional Council who may experience hardship as a result of paying or having an obligation to pay or share in the cost of paying, additional water consumption charges arising from home haemodialysis treatment.

DEFINITIONS

Home haemodialysis patient means those persons within the Bundaberg local government area, who are registered with the Home Dialysis Unit, Bundaberg Hospital Kidney Services, as receiving home haemodialysis treatment.

Regulation means the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

POLICY STATEMENT

Bundaberg Regional Council is committed to supporting ratepayers in our designated water service area who are undergoing haemodialysis treatment within their home.

Water consumption relief will only be available to freehold land owned and occupied by the resident who meets the eligibility criteria of this policy or where there is evidence that a tenant meets the eligibility criteria of this policy.

A part rebate of water consumption will be applied subject to the following criteria:

1. The person requiring home haemodialysis resides permanently at an address within the Bundaberg Regional Council designated water service area.
2. The person requiring home haemodialysis receives their regular medical treatment at home, and not through a hospital or other haemodialysis centre.
3. An application for relief is made to Council in writing, and supported documentation by a doctor, renal specialist or a Queensland Health hospital or haemodialysis department confirming details of the patient receiving home haemodialysis and the property address that the home haemodialysis is being used.
4. The application defines the date that home haemodialysis commenced use at the property.
5. That the water is used by the home haemodialysis mechanical device.

Approved applications will be granted a rebate of water consumption charges, as per below, from the date the application is approved until the home haemodialysis device ceases to be used at the property.

- water consumption below 200kL in any 6 month meter reading period, the rebate will be the actual water consumption;
- water consumption above 200kL in any 6 month meter reading period, the maximum rebate of 200kL is applied.

Approved applicants who cease to use a home haemodialysis device must notify Council as soon as practicable to ensure the rebate is removed from the property. Council will contact the Home Dialysis Unit, Bundaberg Hospital Kidney Services annually to confirm it has up to date haemodialysis property details.

Haemodialysis patients need to ensure that they have been suitably trained by their dialysis care providers on how to manage interruptions to their water supply.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Revenue Policy
- Revenue Statement

DOCUMENTS CONTROLS

Council will review this policy biennially or in response to changes in law or best practice.

POLICY OWNER

Chief Financial Officer.