

RATES REBATE ON LAND FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES POLICY

Policy Number:	4.1.11
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2025
Date of Next Review:	December 2027
Applicable to:	Natural Environment and Parks Business Unit Finance Business Unit
Responsible Officer:	Manager Natural Environment and Parks
Related Policies:	Climate Change and Sustainability Policy
Related Documents:	Nil
Statutory Reference:	<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.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	No changes applicable at this review.
1.1	December 2023	Date of Next Review updated to: December 2024. Minor formatting changes.
1.2	December 2024	Date of Next Review updated to December 2025.
1.3	December 2025	Date of Next Review updated to December 2027.