

Intent

The intent of this policy is to establish guidelines for the provision of concessions for water usage charges for not-for-profit recreation and sporting clubs who irrigate sporting fields from the reticulated water network in the Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) area.

Scope

This policy applies to not-for-profit recreation and sporting organisations who irrigate active sporting fields and meet the requirements set out in this Policy.

Background & Supporting Information

1. The Local Government Regulation 2012, Chapter 4, Part 10 Concessions, gives local government the power to grant concessions for rates and charges.
2. A concession may be of the following types:
 - A rebate of all or part of the rates or charges
 - An agreement to defer payment of the rates or charges
 - An agreement to accept a transfer of unencumbered land in full or part payment of the rates or charges.
3. A further concession may be considered by TRC upon application due to extraordinary circumstances.
4. Concessions for water usage for irrigating sporting fields under this Policy are to be granted in addition to any other concessions that the not-for-profit recreation or sporting clubs may be eligible for.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a concession on water usage charges the organisation must:
 - i. Undertake sporting or recreational activities and rely on player and/or fees and community fundraising only
 - ii. Meet the definition of a not-for-profit organisation contained in the Rates and Charges Concession Policy
 - iii. Irrigate active sporting fields
 - iv. Own or lease and occupy the land on which the water usage charges are being levied
 - v. Be responsible for the payment of water usage charges
 - vi. Not utilise gaming machines to raise revenue for the operations of the recreation or sporting club

- I. Not have a liquor licence, except for a 'Community Club Licence' or 'Community Other Licence' or a 'Community Liquor Permit' or 'Restricted Liquor Permit'
- II. In its constitution clearly prohibit any member of the organisation making private profit or gain either from the ongoing operations of the organisation or as a result of the distribution of assets if the organisation was wound up
- III. Not be a religious body or entity or educational institution recognised under State or Federal statute or law.

Policy Statement

1. Water Usage Charges Concession

TRC acknowledges the community benefits provided by recreation and sporting clubs, and supports and promotes the efficient use of water resources for the long-term sustainability of the region. As such TRC will consider providing a **100%** concession to eligible recreation and sporting organisations under this policy for water usage charges for water used for the irrigation of active sporting fields as listed in **Table 1**.

Clubs are encouraged to investigate alternate water supplies to the reticulated water network and access these where feasible. The allowance for efficient irrigation is structured to allow clubs time to invest in water efficient irrigation equipment and practices.

Table 1: Allowance for efficient irrigation

Year	Allowance for efficient irrigation in ML per hectare
2022/23	7.5
2023/24	7.0
2024/25	6.5
2025/26	6.0
2026/27	5.5
2027/28 and following years	5

- 1.1 Eligible clubs will be responsible for the full payment of water usage charges over and above the allowance for efficient irrigation.
- 1.2 During periods where water restrictions are in place, water usage concessions may be reduced to encourage water conservation during dry periods.
- 1.3 Water usage concession will only be calculated on the water used in irrigation of an active playing surface. For clarity, water usage on areas outside of the active playing surface will be excluded from the calculation of water usage concessions including grassed areas surrounding playing fields, toilet blocks, canteens, car parks, gardens, and landscaping.

2. Assessment of Applications for Water Usage Charge Concessions

- 2.1 Applications for concessions will be considered at any time. Applications received after the start of a water billing period will be considered only from the commencement of the current billing period.
- 2.2 Concessions will not be applied retrospectively to prior billing periods.
- 2.3 Eligibility for a concession will be assessed by TRC on an annual basis prior to issue of the first rate notice each financial year.
- 2.4 An approved applicant is required to apply for continuance of the concession on an annual basis or as requested by TRC.
- 2.5 Initial applications must be accompanied by the following information:
- I. Dimensions and details of the active playing surface area under irrigation
 - II. Supporting evidence demonstrating that the irrigation of the active playing surface was undertaken efficiently and effectively (guidance can be found in Attachment 1 Active Playing Surfaces factsheet, Waterwise Queensland)
 - III. Examples of efficient and effective irrigation include not irrigating in unfavourable conditions such as rain or strong winds (a logbook of irrigation events can be used to demonstrate this), irrigating at night/evening or early morning (e.g., before 10am and after 5pm)
 - IV. Evidence that irrigation systems have been operated, maintained, and regularly inspected according to good industry practice
 - V. Evidence that active playing surfaces have been subject to good management practices including activities such as aeration, fertilisation, and soil moisture monitoring and records kept.
- 2.6 Water usage charges will be levied to the organisation and if a concession is granted a credit will be applied to the usage charges.
- 2.7 The initial application must be accompanied by any two of the following supporting documentation:
- A copy of the organisation's constitution or certificate of incorporation and minutes of its most recent annual general meeting
 - Incorporated groups are to provide a copy of their most recent audited financial statement (no greater than 12 months old), unincorporated groups are to provide a copy of their most recent reconciled financial statement (no greater than 12 months old)
 - Details of the organisation's not-for-profit status from the Australian Taxation Office or similar.

Context

Alignment to Risk Register

This policy mitigates the following corporate risks:

- COR6 – Ineffective corporate and operational planning
- COR7 – Inability to effectively engage with the community
- COR9 – Lack of capacity, skills or capabilities to meet emerging needs and impacts to service delivery
- COR15 – Infrastructure planning and delivery fail to meet community and service standards
- COR18 – Fluctuating demand for services not typically delivered by council.

Relevant Legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- Local Government Regulation 2012
- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*

Related Documents

- Code of Conduct
- Revenue Policy
- Rates and Charges Concession Policy
- Online form for Water Usage Concession for Not for Profit

Corporate Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following Corporate Plan 2025-30 strategic themes:

- Assets & Infrastructure Management
- Community Wellbeing
- Our Environment
- Our Economy

Human Rights Commitment

Tablelands Regional Council has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, TRC will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights.

Responsibility

Council is responsible for the adoption, amendment and repeal of this policy and the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the development and amendment of any associated procedures and guidelines relevant to the policy.

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended or repealed by resolution of Council.

Adopted By	Council	Responsible Officer	Manager Water & Waste
Adopted Date	26 June 2025	Review Date	30 June 2026
Version	3	This policy repeals any previous versions.	