

Rates Rebate Scheme

The Rates Rebate Scheme was established in 1973 to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates. **The Government is increasing the rates rebate thresholds** – more people than ever before will be eligible for the rebate.

The following changes come into effect from 1 July 2006:

- Maximum rebate increased from \$200 to \$500
- Income threshold increased from \$7,400 to \$20,000
- Additional income allowance for dependants increased from \$156 to \$500 per dependant.

(This means the income threshold for a full rates rebate for the 2006/2007 year is \$20,000, and is increased by \$500 for each dependant in the household.)

Homeowners can apply for the new rebate from 1 July 2006, for the 06/07 rating year. The old rebate can still be claimed for rates paid in the 05/06 year until 30 June 2006.

How to apply

Ratepayers apply to their local council for a rates rebate. Complete the application form to apply. However, **please wait until you get your 2006 rates bill before you see your council about a rebate.**

When applying for the rates rebate you will need:

- Your rates notice (including your regional rates notice if billed separately)
- Information about what your income (before tax) was for the previous tax year
- Proof of your partner/joint homeowner's income if he/she lives with you.

Note: If your name is not on the rates bill you must have a letter from the person whose name is on the rates bill stating what the total rates are, and how much you pay towards them.

If you are granted a rates rebate the council will reduce your rates by the amount of the rebate, or send you a cash payment if you have already paid your rates.