



SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Draft Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land Policy

Reason for the proposal

Council's Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land Policy is required under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002. With the specific requirements set out under section 108.

The policy provides for the fair and equitable collection of rates from Māori freehold land, recognising that certain Māori-owned freehold lands have particular conditions, features, ownership structures or other circumstances determining the land as having limited rateability under legislation. This policy also acknowledges the desirability of avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land.

Major changes to the Policy

- The removal of the requirement for land parcels to be under multiple ownership.
- Re-structuring the Policy to increase clarity.

Major aspects of the Policy

The major aspects of the Policy include:

Objectives

The Policy sets out ten objectives for rates relief for Maori Freehold Land. These include to support and take account of; the use of the land for traditional purposes, the relationship of Maori with their ancestral lands, avoiding further alienation of land, Waahi Tapu, the support for Marae, papakainga housing and Kaumatua housing, the importance of the natural environment, and legal access to land.

Conditions and Criteria

The Policy identifies three key conditions and criteria for eligibility for a rates remission:

- Unoccupied land
- Economic development
- Papakainga development.

Exclusions are specified – where the site contains a dwelling, the land is leased, or the land is used by one of the owners.

Procedural Matters

The Policy also sets out the procedure for the consideration of applications for rates remissions and rates arrears on Maori freehold land. There are no postponement of rates provided for under the Policy.

Submissions

Written submissions from the community are open until **noon 4 May 2018**.

Parties who make a written submission may also make an oral submission. Oral submissions are scheduled for:

- Taihape Council Chambers - 16 May 2018
- Marton Council Chambers – 17 May 2018

You need to indicate on your submission form if you wish to speak to your submission.

Further information

Further information, including the Statement of Proposal and a submission form, is available at the following places:

- Council's website www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- Council's libraries in Marton, Bulls and Taihape
- Council's Main Office in Marton
- By calling 0800 422 522

If you have any questions please contact Katrina Gray, Senior Policy Analyst/Planner.

