



**SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND
PUBLIC NOTICE**

24/20

28 May 2020

SHIRE COVID 19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY ADOPTED

The Shire of Christmas Island adopted the SOCI COVID19 Financial Hardship Policy at its Ordinary Council Meeting of 26th May 2020. Residents who are undergoing financial hardship related to COVID19 during this and the following financial year may request to meet the CEO to discuss a range of options to assist with rates and local government service charges.

The Shire recognises that the pandemic affect households in a variety of ways and will adopt a flexible approach to individual circumstances including, but not limited to

- Recent unemployment or under-employment
- Sickness or recovery from sickness
- Low income or loss of income
- Unanticipated circumstances such as caring for and supporting extended family

The policy applies to outstanding rates and service charges and rates and service charges to be levied in the 20/21 financial year. The CEO will work on an extended agreed payment plan with affected residents. The COVID19 Financial Hardship Policy would be in force which gives a total waiver of interest charges on any current late payments owing to the Shire that would otherwise be accrued from the date of lodgement of the Financial Hardship Application form.

A deferment of rates is available for persons who have a pensioner card, state concession card, Commonwealth senior health care card or seniors card. Deferments will also not attract penalty interest charges.

The [Financial Hardship Application form](#) is available on the Shire website and at the front desk at the George Fam Centre.

David Price
Chief Executive Officer