

# Half Yearly Rating

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Why is Council changing from Annual to Half Yearly Rating?

**Answer:** *Council has agreed to introduce Half Yearly Rating after receiving numerous requests from ratepayers who wanted to reduce the impact that an entire year's rates caused on their finances. This will bring Kingaroy in line with other Council's in the South Burnett who also issue rates Half Yearly.*

**Question:** When will I need to pay my rates?

**Answer:** *The first Half Yearly Rate Notice will be issued in August 2004. It will be due for payment in September 2004. The second Half Yearly Rate Notice will be issued in February 2005. It will be due for payment in March 2005.*

**Question:** How will Half Yearly Rates be calculated?

**Answer:** *Your Half Yearly Rate Notice will be ½ (one half) of your usual Annual Bill plus your Water Usage Charges, if applicable.*

**Question:** Has Discount been affected in any way?

**Answer:** *No! 10 % Discount is still being offered on most rates and charges provided payment is made by the due date. (The exclusion of discount from Water Usage Charges, Environmental Levy, Rural Fire Levy and State Fire Services Levy remains in place) Each Half Yearly Notice will have its own discount period of at least 30 days.*

**Question:** I'm a Pensioner and I have Pensioner Rebate deducted from my Rate Notice. Will this change?

**Answer:** *No. You previously received a concession of 20% of your rates up to a maximum of \$180.00 per year. This will now be split between each rate notice. That is, you will receive a maximum concession of \$90.00 each half year.*

**Question:** I'm used to paying my Rates annually. Can I still make just one (1) payment per year?

**Answer:** *If you normally receive just one (1) Annual Rate Notice per year, the answer is **Yes**. When you receive your 1st Half Yearly Rate Notice in August, all you need to do is Double the Net payment due. The overpayment will leave the rate assessment in credit until the next rate notice is issued in February 2005. At that time, the credit and discount will be automatically applied to the new levy.*

*However, if you also receive Water Usage Bills, then the answer is **No**, you won't be able to make just one (1) payment per year. This is because water usage charges will now be added to the Half Yearly Notice. Obviously if you pay double the Half Yearly rates in August, neither you nor Council is able to predict exactly how much water you are going to use until the water meter is read in December.*

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**Question:** How often will my Water Meter be read?

**Answer:** *Your water meter will now be read twice per year, in June/July and then again in December/January.*

**Question:** I'm a low-income earner and I currently pay my rates by monthly installments. Can I still pay my rates this way?

**Answer:** *Yes. Council will still accept payment by installments (rate arrangements) - but you forfeit the prompt payment discount. You must write to Council or fill in the reverse side of the remittance advice on your Rate Notice. You should send your first payment within 30 days of receiving your rate notice. Your rate arrangement must be approved in writing and conditions will apply. Provided payments are made in accordance with the arrangement, interest charges will not apply.*

**Question:** I currently pay \$50.00 a fortnight towards my rates in advance over the Internet via BPAY. Will the change to Half Yearly Rates affect me?

**Answer:** *No! Ratepayers can still pay their rates in advance prior to a Rate Notice being sent to them. The advance payments will be held on your Rate Assessment as a Credit, and will be deducted from the total of your next rate notice.*