POLICY			
TITLE:	**RATING WAIVERS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**	**CODE:**	**FM.10**
PURPOSE or OBJECTIVE:	To establish a governing framework for consistent application of granting a full rating waiver to Community Groups, including Sporting Groups.		
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	*Local Government Act 1995* s 2.7 (2)(b), and 6.47 *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 r.26 and 27*		

POLICY STATEMENT
To recognise the benefit of Community Groups and Sporting Clubs by waiving the rates on the facilities they use.

1. Scope

The application of a full waiver of rates applies to the use of land and buildings used by Community Groups, including Sports Clubs and Resident and Ratepayer Associations only.

Any portion of the land and/or buildings leased to a commercial third party business will be subject to the appropriate rating category and not covered by this policy.

Other City charges or levies (i.e. Waste and Security Levies) and State imposed charges (i.e. Emergency Services Levy) that apply are not the subject of this policy.

2. Definitions

Term	Definition
Community Group	Is an entity whose primary objective is not directed at making a profit and has the principal aim of encouraging and organising community participation of a non-sporting nature.
Sporting Clubs	Is an entity that has the principal aim of encouraging and organising community participation in sport.
Commercial purpose	Means for the purpose of this policy to conduct an activity in or on the property that is subject to a rates waiver that makes a profit that is distributed to a third party.
Ancillary service	Means a service provided for the benefit of members and visitors (for example: canteen, bar service, club rooms, hiring of rooms).
Other Charges and levies	Includes, but not limited to, electricity, water and gas charges, ESL (Emergency Services Levy), and waste collection charges, as applicable to each property.
Approving officer	Means any Officer the CEO has authorised to implement this policy. The officer authorised must apply the policy in its entirety and no discretion is provided to vary the criteria for applying this policy

3. Qualifying Criteria

Subject to qualifying criteria, a full waiver of annual rates shall be applied (Churches are recognised as a charitable organisation, therefore, are exempt under section 6.26 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*).

Each property owned or leased by the organisation will be assessed on its own merits, on a case-by-case basis.