



# Rates Recovery Policy

**POL-028**

**VERSION:**  
8

**EFFECTIVE FROM:**  
1 July 2026

**REVIEWABLE FROM:**  
May 2027

## **INTENTION:**

This Policy outlines the process by which Weipa Town Authority (WTA) will recover outstanding rates from ratepayers in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) and *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld). WTA will pursue the collection of outstanding general rates and utility charges with due concern for any financial hardship faced by the relevant ratepayer. This policy is to be read in conjunction with POL-012 Revenue Policy.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all staff (including WTA Members) involved in the recovery of outstanding general rates and utility charges.

## **POLICY**

RTA Weipa Pty Ltd (RTAW), in its capacity as WTA exercising the powers and functions of a local government conferred in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld), is entitled to collect rates and charges from residents within the Weipa Township under the relevant provisions of the agreement annexed to the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement 1957 (Qld).

### **1. Recovery Process**

- 1.1. WTA follows an administrative process in the pursuit of rates recovery. The process includes:
  - a) written payment reminders
  - b) phone calls
  - c) further reminders
  - d) final notices
  - e) payment plans
  - f) charges on property
- 1.2. Ratepayers will not be contacted more than 2 times per week regarding their outstanding rates.
- 1.3. The privacy of ratepayers will be respected at all times. Debts will not be discussed (including the existence of the debt) with any person other than the ratepayer, without prior written authorisation from the ratepayer.
- 1.4. Ratepayers who are unable to pay the amount by the due date are encouraged to contact WTA to make a payment arrangement.
- 1.5. Interest on rates which remain unpaid for **60 days** or more will accrue at the rate of 12.12% p.a. compounded daily for 2025/26 and **12.19% compounded daily for 2026/27**.

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## 2. Payment Arrangements

- 2.1. WTA may, at its discretion, accept deferrals of overdue rates by entering into payment arrangements with ratepayers. WTA is guided by the following principles:
  - a) the amount and age of the debt
  - b) monthly minimum payment frequencies
  - c) payment arrangements must cover the outstanding amount within the agreed timeframe
  - d) arrangements >12months will only be considered in limited circumstances
- 2.2. Payment arrangements will be confirmed in writing.
- 2.3. Payment arrangements will not be entered into with ratepayers that have demonstrated delinquency in previously agreed payment arrangements.
- 2.4. If payments are not made within the agreed terms of the agreement, the recovery actions listed below may commence immediately.

## 3. Hardship

- 3.1. Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact WTA in writing as soon as possible after experiencing the hardship. WTA requires reasonable evidence of financial hardship.
- 3.2. Where WTA determines a ratepayer is in financial hardship, WTA may enter into a payment arrangement which do not meet the minimum requirements as stated above or take other steps as WTA considers appropriate.

## 4. Recovery Action

WTA has the following options available to recover outstanding rates, which it may be exercised with discretion:

- 4.1. Register a charge on the land

Overdue rates and charges are a charge on the land.<sup>1</sup> WTA may register a charge over the land through the registration of a 'Form 14 General Request' accompanied by a statement by the Chief Executive Officer / Superintendent.<sup>2</sup>

Such a charge will not act to immediately recover outstanding amount but acts as notice a charge exists. In the event of a sale, the purchaser will divert settlement funds to payment of rates.

- 4.2. Take a landowner to court to recover the rate

WTA may recover overdue rates or charges by bringing court proceedings for a debt against a person who is liable to pay the overdue rates or charges in accordance with section 134 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld).

- 4.3. Sell property to recover overdue rates

If some or all of the rates have been overdue for at least 3 years, a decision may be made by resolution to sell the land in accordance with section 140 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld).

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<sup>1</sup> *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) s 95(2).

<sup>2</sup> *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) s 95(3).

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## LEGISLATION AND COMPLIANCE

- *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld)*
- *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- POL-011 Revenue Statement 2026/27
- POL-012 Revenue Policy 2026/27
- POL-013 Rates Based Financial Assistance to Charitable Organisations Policy

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please consult with Supervisor Corporate Services.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Endorsed by	Effective From	Description of Amendment
1	Superintendent; WTA Members	1 July 2019	Creation of the policy to allow the recovery of rates and to align with the <i>Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)</i> and <i>Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)</i> .
2 - 7	Superintendent; WTA Members	1 July 2020 – 1 July 2025	Scheduled review of the policy to update interest on arrears rates.
8	Superintendent; WTA Members	1 July 2026	Scheduled review of the policy to update interest on arrears rates. Reformat of the policy and minor grammatical changes.

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