

**Item 3.1 Council Plan 2021-31, Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan,
Revenue & Rating Plan and Budget 2021/22: Adoption**

Question from Councillor Pearl

Councillor Pearl provided two examples of unemployment and asked if they would qualify as 'unemployed' in relation to item 3.5.3 (a) of the recommendation.

Response

Now that Council has approved a variation to the "Rates waiver" provisions of the Financial Hardship Policy regarding 2021/22 Rates, Officers will work over the next 6-8 weeks to redraft the Policy to reflect the decision. The mechanism for Ratepayers to apply for a one off waiver of up to \$1,500 to a maximum of 50% of General Rates and indeed the eligibility criteria will be finalised and clearly communicated with our Community.

The recently published Report of the Ombudsman on her investigation of the Local Government Sector and its response to Financial Hardship along with best practice in Utilities and Government entities in this area will inform

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*