SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN THE RATES ASSESSMENT RECORD

city of PALMERSTON
'A Place for People'

COUNCIL POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the guidelines that apply to a person seeking to access information on a property within City of Palmerton pursuant to section 230, Rate Assessment, of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT).

PRINCIPLES

Section 230 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (NT) provides a person with a sufficient interest in a property the ability to inspect or copy a rate assessment record held by Council.

Council is committed to facilitating appropriate access in line with this policy and the Local Government Act 2019 (NT) to an assessment record.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

TERM	DEFINITION
Adjoining land	Any parcel of land that directly touches or shares a common boundary line. A property separated by a road reserve or laneway is not considered an adjoining property.
Allotment	A parcel of land or part of a parcel of land.
Assessment Record	Description of each allotment and Unimproved Capital Value, including name and postal address of owner(s), principal ratepayer (if not the owners) and rating category recorded in Council's rate system.
Sufficient Interest	Personal or professional justification for accessing private property details of adjoining properties.
Rates search	Information as per the Assessment Record plus the rates and charges for the current financial year, including payments received and balance remaining.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Criteria

City of Palmerston will use the below criteria to determine whether a person has a sufficient interest in the assessment record in relation to an allotment:

1.1. The person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner;

1.2. The person is an owner, occupier, lessee or agent of the owner of the adjoining land;

1.3. The person is a legal practitioner or a licensed conveyancer requesting a rates search on behalf of a purchaser of an allotment;

1.4. The requester is the Chief Executive Officer of a Commonwealth, State or Territory government agency.

2. Determination

2.1. City of Palmerston will take into account the public interest and the risk of detriment to the owner or principal ratepayers in granting access to the assessment record.

2.2. All persons requesting information must apply in writing to Council.

2.2.1. A reasonable explanation, whether personal or professional in nature, for making a request to inspect the assessment record and what the information will be used for must be provided.

2.2.2. It is not considered to be sufficient interest if the interest is commercial in nature.

2.2.3. The information inspected and/or copied from the assessment record must not be used for any other purpose that has not been identified in the reasons provided under 2.2.

2.3. If deemed necessary, City of Palmerston reserves the right to seek approval from the owner/ratepayer prior to releasing access to the assessment record.

2.4. City of Palmerston must, at the request of a person to whom an entry in the assessment record relates, supress the persons contact details from the publicly accessible copy of the record.

2.5. City of Palmerston will take into account any considerations prescribed by regulation or required by the relevant legislation that requires the application of the Privacy Principles

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Sufficient Interest in Assessment Form

REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 2019* (NT)
- *Information Act 2002* (NT)
- *Privacy Act 1988* (Commonwealth)

POLICY DETAILS

OWNER	CEO	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	General Manager Finance & Governance
APPROVAL DATE	5 May 2026	NEXT REVIEW DUE	Term of 12th Council
RECORDS NUMBER	513756	COUNCIL DECISION	11/0367