

MEETING: Ordinary Meeting of Council
DATE: 19th December 2023

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
OFFICER: Director of Finance

REPORT ITEM	13.1	
REPORT TITLE	Request for Waiving of Fines and Interest	
Budget Impact	Allocated: Nil	Spent: Nil
File Reference	Assessment 41870	
PILLAR Objective	NA	

RECOMMENDATION:

That the request for the waiving of fines and interest by Adrian O'Neill on assessment A41870 be denied.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached is the following request from Adrian O'Neill – ratepayer - No 3 Third St Terowie for the waiving of fines and interest on Assessment A41870.

PURPOSE

Attached is a financial printout of the rates history on Assessment 41870 from 2016 to 2023.

In June 2017 the fourth quarter payment of \$572.75 on A41870 was not paid and a fine was incurred. No rate payments were made on A41870 until October 2018 when Mr. O'Neill contacted Council and requested a payment plan of \$60 per week. Mr. O'Neill paid \$240 per month from November 2018 until November 2019. From December 2019 to October 2020, Mr. O'Neill made irregular payments of varying amounts. The rates and charges debt as at November 2020 was \$6,744.05.

Mr. O'Neill made a further payment of \$1,000 in August 2021. Mr. O'Neill has contacted Council Staff periodically over the past 2 years regarding his outstanding rates and he has been advised by staff to pay his outstanding rates or he will incur fines and interest if he doesn't meet the quarterly payment deadline. He has been advised by staff that the dispute he has with council over compliance issues and concreting work is a different matter and should be treated as such.

*REF: ICOR112022-2977 - 15.11.2022 - Director of Finance notes below
Returned call to Adrian - he stated that he would not pay his rates until council finished work on his property - I stated that they are two different matters and he needs to pay his O/S rates.
He stated that he had called Tony Brooks about the matter and Tony is going to present his case at the 22 November Council Meeting.*

In February 2023 Mr. O'Neill made a further payment of \$7,000 on A41870 and stated that he would pay the balance of the outstanding rates in May 2023 – this did not occur. Prior to the raising of the

2023/24 rates in July 2023, the outstanding rates including fines and interest on A41870 was \$4,817.85.

In October 2023 Council staff engaged a debt collection agency in order to an attempt to either enter into a payment arrangement plan with Council or pay the outstanding rates and charges balance in full.