

Rates (Commercial Land) Exemption 2020 (No 2)

Notifiable instrument NI2020–338

made under the

Rates Act 2004, s 41 (Exemption from rates)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Rates (Commercial Land) Exemption 2020 (No 2)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument is taken to have commenced on 1 April 2020.

3 Exemption from rates—amount

(1) I declare that:

- (a) the eligible owner of a parcel of eligible land is exempt from the payment of a determined amount of rates for a specified quarter; and
- (b) if the rates for the specified quarter for that land are less than the determined amount for that specified quarter, taking into account any waivers, rebates or other exemptions applied to those rates (such as under the *Rates (Commercial Land) Exemption 2020*), any amount unused or not refunded (under part 4 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*) will be carried over to exempt rates for the owner of that parcel of land for following rates until the unused amount is exhausted.

4 Definitions

In this instrument:

Act means the *Rates Act 2004*.

AUV—see the Act, section 14 (3).

AUVU—see the Act, section 29 (5).

business income means GST Turnover as reported to the Australian Taxation Office on the Business Activity Statement.

business tenant means a person who:

- (a) occupies the eligible land under an agreement with the eligible owner; and
- (b) operates a Category 2 or Category 3 business on the eligible land; and
- (c) has had their rent on that land reduced (and not deferred) in accordance with the National Code as a result of the COVID-19 emergency; and
- (d) that reduced rent occurs or continues in the specified quarters.

cap means, for each specified quarter, the lower of:

- (a) the total rates for the specified quarter; or
- (b) where the determined amount includes Class B or Class D: \$8,000; or
- (c) where the determined amount does not include Class B or Class D: \$5,000.

Category 1 business means a business who suffers less than 30 per cent reduction in business income in 2019-20 financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19 financial year as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

Category 2 business means a business who:

- (a) suffers at least 30 per cent reduction in business income in 2019-20 financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19 financial year as a result of the COVID-19 emergency; or
- (b) otherwise satisfies the Commissioner that the business should fall within this category.

Category 3 business means a business who:

- (a) suffers at least 80 per cent reduction in business income in 2019-20 financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19 financial year as a result of the COVID-19 emergency; or
- (b) otherwise satisfies the Commissioner that the business should fall within this category.

commercial land—see the Act, dictionary.

Commissioner means the Commissioner for ACT Revenue under section 73 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*.

COVID-19 emergency means:

- (a) a state of emergency declared under the *Emergencies Act 2004*, section 156 because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); or
- (b) an emergency declared under the *Public Health Act 1997*, section 119 (including any extension or further extension) because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

determined amount means the aggregate of any of the following amounts, but not exceeding the cap:

- (a) where a business tenant operates on the eligible land:
 - (i) (**Class A**) a Category 2 business during a specified quarter: equal to 25 per cent of the total value of the reduction in rent for that specified quarter; or
 - (ii) (**Class B**) a Category 3 business during a specified quarter: equal to 50 per cent of the total value of the reduction in rent for that specified quarters; or

- (b) where the eligible owner occupies the eligible land and operates on that land for any length of time during any of the specified quarters:
- (i) (**Class C**) a Category 2 business: equal to 50 per cent of the rates for each specified quarter; or
 - (ii) (**Class D**) a Category 3 business: equal to 80 per cent of the rates for each specified quarter.

eligible land means a parcel of land that is commercial land with an AUV or AUVU of \$2 million or less for the 2019-20 financial year.

eligible owner is an owner:

- (a) who:
- (i) has a business tenant; or
 - (ii) occupies the eligible land and operates a Category 2 or Category 3 business;
- but does not include an owner to the extent to which they operate, or whose business tenant operates, a Category 1 business; and
- (b) who applies for an exemption by 30 September 2020, and has their eligibility confirmed, by the Commissioner.

National Code means the National Code of Conduct for SME Commercial Leasing Principles as set out in Schedule 1 of the *Leases (Commercial and Retail) COVID-19 Emergency Response Declaration 2020* (DI2020-92).

owner—see the Act, dictionary (a), and includes a unit owner.

parcel—see the Act, dictionary, and includes a unit.

Note Section 28 (2) of the Act provides that when applying the Act to a unit subdivision, a reference to a parcel of land in relation to the assessment or payment of rates is a reference to a unit.

rates means:

- (a) rates imposed on the eligible land by section 14 of the Act and payable by the owner of that land under sections 16 and 17 of the Act; and
- (b) where rates are described for a quarter, these rates are worked out in accordance with the payment of instalments under section 19 of the Act, whether or not the owner pays rates by instalment under section 18(1)(c) of the Act.

specified quarter means:

- (a) quarter 4 of the 2019-20 financial year; and
- (b) quarter 1 of the 2020-21 financial year.

unit—see the Act, dictionary.

unit owner—see the Act, dictionary.

Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer

18 June 2020