



Government Gazette

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The New South Wales Government Gazette is the permanent public record of official NSW Government notices. It also contains local council, non-government and other notices.

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To submit a notice for gazettal, see the Gazette page.

Singleton Council

ROADS ACT 1993

Naming of Roads

Notice is hereby given that Singleton Council, pursuant to section 162 of the *Roads Act 1993*, has officially named the road(s) as shown hereunder:

Name	Locality
Radford Parkway	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 665m within Lot 300 DP 1248134 off Elderslie Road, heading in a westerly direction	

Name	Locality
Robinia Drive	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 440m within Lot 300 DP 1248134 off Proposed Road Radford Parkway, heading in a northerly direction	

Name	Locality
Pistacia Grove	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 420m within Lot 300 DP 1248134 off Proposed Road Radford Parkway, heading in a north, then westerly direction	

Name	Locality
Claret Avenue	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 740m within Lot 300 DP 1248134 off Proposed Road Radford Parkway, heading in a north, then westerly direction	

Name	Locality
Pyrus Avenue	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 790m within the subdivision Radford Park off Proposed Road Radford Parkway, heading in a southerly direction to the finish in a cul de sac at Lot 23 DP 1166072	

Name	Locality
Pin Oak Circuit	BRANXTON
Description	
Approximately 1270m within the subdivision Radford Park off Pyrus Avenue, heading in a westerly direction, then a complete circle ending at Lot 202 DP 1248133	

JASON LINNANE, General Manager, Singleton Council,
PO Box 314, SINGLETON NSW 2330

Local Government Act 1993

Notice of guideline under section 409(6)(a)

I, The Hon. Kevin John Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water, with the concurrence of the Minister for Local Government, under section 409(6)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* make the Guidelines for council dividend payments for water supply or sewerage (the Guidelines) at Schedule 1.

All previous guidelines made under section 409(6)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* are repealed.

Dated 15 July 2022

The Hon. Kevin John Anderson, MP
Minister for Lands and Water

Schedule

1. Guidelines for council dividend payments for water supply or sewerage services

1 Guidelines for council dividend payments for water supply or sewerage services

Under section 409(5) of the Local Government Act, a council may pay an annual dividend from its water supply and sewerage business surplus to its council. A dividend is a return on investment paid to the 'shareholder', which in this case is the council responsible for managing and investing in the local water utility's water supply and sewerage functions. Such dividends may be paid for each business at the end of the financial year after meeting these Guidelines (see section 409(7)(a) of the Local Government Act).

A county council may pay a dividend to its constituent councils on a pro-rata basis, based on the number of assessments.

NSW Local Government has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy, which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government', which should be read in conjunction with the department's '[The Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality](#)' (July 1997).

These documents set competitive expectations of council-owned water utilities depending on revenues. Specifically, a Category 1 utility, with water revenues greater than \$2 million, should separate its accounts, implement a complaints-handling mechanism, and set prices so annual cost recovery by a council's water supply or sewerage business includes taxes or tax-equivalents (excluding income tax).

The dividend comprises 2 parts: a dividend calculated for tax-equivalents, and a dividend calculated from the surplus.

These Guidelines sets out the requirements that a council must meet to pay a dividend.

1.1 Dividend for tax-equivalents

All council-owned water supply or sewerage businesses must make a dividend payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax-equivalent payment.

The tax-equivalents are reported in council's water supply and sewerage businesses' special-purpose financial statements (SPFS) in their annual financial reports.

The upper limit for tax-equivalent dividend payments from each of a council's water supply or sewerage businesses is set at \$3/assessment.

The council may apply the dividend for tax-equivalents for any purpose under the Local Government Act or any other act, including local community and charitable purposes.

To ensure ongoing commercial viability, prices should be set so annual cost recovery by a council's water supply or sewerage business includes taxes or tax-equivalents (excluding income tax).

1.2 Dividend from surplus

Before taking a dividend payment from a surplus of the council's water supply and/or sewerage business, a council must:

1. calculate any dividend payment in accordance with the methodology in section 1.2

The methodology for the calculation of surplus and payment of dividend from a surplus of the water supply and/or sewerage business is set out in section 1.3 of these Guidelines.

2. be able to demonstrate there is a surplus

The council must demonstrate there is a surplus in the council's water supply and/or sewerage business.

3. demonstrate full cost-recovery pricing and developer charges

The council must demonstrate full cost-recovery pricing and cost-reflective pricing including developer charges in place for the water supply and/or sewerage business.

4. have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning in accordance with Appendix A of these Guidelines

The council must have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning, as set out in Appendix A of these Guidelines.

5. demonstrate financial reports are a true and accurate reflection of the business

The council must demonstrate with an unqualified financial audit report of the special-purpose financial statements for the water supply and/or sewerage business, that the water supply and/or sewerage special-purpose financial reports are a true and accurate reflection of the business.

6. demonstrate that the overhead reallocation charge is a fair and reasonable cost

The council must demonstrate with an independent audit report of cost allocation of the water and/or sewerage business, that the overhead reallocation charge to the water supply and/or sewerage businesses is a fair and reasonable cost.

1.3 Calculation of surplus and maximum dividend

The calculation of surplus and payment of dividend from a surplus of the council's water supply and sewerage businesses is subject to the following conditions:

- The dividend must be calculated based on the income statement of the business activity in council's audited special-purpose financial reports. The department's dividend payment form gives a step-by-step process for calculating maximum dividend from surplus.
- The dividend from surplus must not exceed 50% of this surplus in any one financial year.

- The dividend from surplus must not exceed the number of water supply or sewerage assessments as of 30 June of the relevant year multiplied by \$30 less the dividend for tax equivalents.
- The total dividend from surplus paid in each rolling 3-year period must not exceed the total relevant surplus in the same period.

Councils facing major capital expenditure for new or replacement water supply and/or sewerage infrastructure should defer paying a significant dividend from their surplus. Such a payment would directly increase the customers' bills. Such capital expenditure in any financial year is defined as that which exceeds 3% of the current replacement cost of the council's water supply or sewerage assets.

1.4 Provision of information to the department

Following council indicating in an open meeting of the council as required by s.409(7) of the Local Government Act that section 1.2 and 1.3 of these Guidelines and any direction under s 409(6)(b) of the Local Government Act have been complied with, a council should give to the department:

- council's minutes resolving achievement of required outcome (as per section 1.2) and its decision of payment of dividend, including the amount of dividend
- statement of compliance and statement of dividend payment
- dividend payment form with its calculation of maximum dividend
- council's special-purpose financial statements for the dividend year
- unqualified independent financial audit report for water supply and/or sewerage business(es)
- independent audit report verifying that overhead reallocation charges are fair and reasonable.

The department will access the local water utility's current strategic planning assessment and pricing outcomes to confirm the council has in place effective, evidence-based local water utility strategic planning, in accordance with this regulatory and assurance framework.

The department will assess the information supplied and give advice to council and/or the minister of any non-compliance with these Guidelines.

Appendix A: Strategic planning assurance

Councils making a dividend payment

Councils making a dividend payment from a surplus of their water and/or sewerage business must meet the expectations set out in these guidelines. This section is consistent with section 3 of the Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities.

Local water utilities can best meet the needs of their customers, and manage key risks, when their decisions and activities are based on effective, evidence-based strategic planning. Strategic planning is crucial to identifying and managing key risks to:

- water security
- water quality
- the environment
- assets and infrastructure
- customers
- their financial sustainability.

The department is committed that all local water utilities should do effective, evidence-based strategic planning. This will ensure utilities deliver safe, secure, accessible, and affordable water supply and sewerage services to customers and can manage key risks now and into the future, and in the event of significant shocks. Local water utilities remain responsible for conducting strategic planning.

Local water utilities' strategic planning contributes to the water security of their regions and the entire state. The department will work in partnership with local water utilities to support integration of state, regional and local water utility strategic planning. We will play a leadership role and give access to our resources (including models and data) as appropriate.

The department's assurance role gives assurance of effective, evidence-based strategic planning and effective management of key risks to service provision.

Under this assurance role, the department establishes what outcomes it expects effective, evidence-based strategic planning to achieve (see section 2.2) and assesses whether a local water utility's strategic planning achieves these outcomes to a reasonable standard (see sections 2.3 and 2.4).

From time to time, the department may request information from utilities to complete this assessment. While it cannot compel utilities to comply with these requests, the department expects that most utilities will, given the mutual benefits associated with the department's ability to

accurately assess the strategic planning done by local water utilities and make informed suggestions about their activities.

We then communicate the result of our assessments publicly so that the utility, its community, financiers, regulators, and other stakeholders are assured that effective, evidence-based strategic planning is in place (see section 2.5). Publishing the result of assessments is also a key incentive tool available to the department. In addition, we will write to general managers, councils, or boards about the result.

The department acknowledges it is not expressly empowered under legislation to regulate strategic planning or to enforce compliance. The department seeks to provide assurance of the effectiveness of strategic planning conducted by local water utilities to ensure that utilities address customer needs and key risk proactively. This also allows the department to meet its full suite of legislative responsibilities for local water utilities.

The department's review of the effectiveness of strategic planning done by local water utilities is important to:

- inform the department's regulatory roles
- inform the policy, strategy and funding roles of the department
- ensure communities, decision-makers and other local water utility stakeholders have appropriate insight about the effectiveness of the utility's strategic planning and ability to deliver safe, secure, accessible, and affordable water supply and sewerage services to customers and manage key risks now and into the future, and in the event of significant shocks
- enable the department to give adequate advice and support to local water utilities.

Before council takes a dividend payment under s 409(5) of the Local Government Act, its local water utilities must have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning in accordance with this section. This section has been gazetted in accordance with that provision.

The department's strategic planning assurance role will work in tandem with our separate advisory and support role. As outlined in section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities (the regulatory and assurance framework), we give guidance, advice, and support to local water utilities to help them have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning.

In addition, the Safe and Secure Water Program provides co-funding to eligible utilities to do strategic planning, including regional town water strategic planning.

To enable local water utilities to meet the expectations set out in the assurance framework, we will produce:

- Guidance that gives more detail on the expectations for achieving strategic planning outcome to a reasonable standard. The purpose of this guidance is to make expectations clear and enable the department to assess if the outcome is achieved to a reasonable standard.

- Optional ‘how-to’ guidance, which demonstrates how strategic planning outcomes can be achieved to a reasonable standard using the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework for council under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- Optional templates, case studies and tools to support utilities in achieving the strategic planning outcomes to a reasonable standard.

Gaps in a local utility’s strategic planning may expose regional communities to risks. The department will proactively support utilities to identify any gaps. Where gaps are identified, we will help local water utilities by giving appropriate advice and guidance in a collaborative way. This will help local water utilities reduce risks and strengthen their strategic planning over time.

2.1 Local water utilities decide how to achieve effective, evidence-based strategic planning

While the department sets expectations for the outcomes that strategic planning needs to achieve to be effective and evidence-based, utilities can decide what approach to take to meet them. Generally, the department will not specify the approaches, processes, and tools that a utility should use for strategic planning. Local water utilities are responsible for developing and implementing their own strategic planning. There is no single best-practice way for this work to be delivered, although the department will give ‘how to’ guidance, templates, case studies and tools to facilitate a streamlined process. Our overall priority is to ensure strategic planning outcomes (outlined in section 2.2) are achieved to a reasonable standard.

Local water utilities vary in size, geography, demographics, challenges, and organisational arrangements, which means strategic planning approaches and outputs can be significantly different across regional NSW.

For example, many council-owned water utilities have expressed interest in using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework of the Local Government Act as a vehicle for local water utility strategic planning. The value of the IP&R framework as a standardised and well understood approach to strategic planning and reporting is widely recognised by the local government sector. We acknowledge that some councils have already incorporated elements of the IP&R framework into their local water utility strategic planning. For others, the IP&R framework may not be an appropriate or desirable approach. In some instances, the framework may need to be supplemented to adequately cover key outcomes of local water utility strategic planning (such as understanding water security).

We will give ongoing support to ensure that local water utilities can do planning in a way that will meet the outcomes set by the department. A local water utility can also specifically request advice and support from department staff. In addition, when the department identifies (through data analysis and engagement) that a local water utility may face challenges in its strategic planning activities, we may give support on a proactive basis.

2.2 Strategic planning outcomes

For effective, evidence-based strategic planning to occur, the department expects it to achieve the following outcomes to a reasonable standard:

Understanding service needs

- What are customers' needs, values, and preferences?
- What current and future demands are placed on water supply and sewerage systems?
- How will the local water utility consider and address objectives, priorities and evidence of other relevant state or regional strategic planning, including the NSW Water Strategy and regional water strategies?

Understanding water security

- What is the local water utility's access to current and potential water supply sources?
- How will the local water utility address current and future risks around continuity and reliability of access to water supply sources?

Understanding water quality

- How will the local water utility address current and future water quality risks in its supply systems?
- How will the local water utility meet relevant regulatory standards, such as on drinking water quality management?

Understanding environmental impacts

- How will the local water utility address current and future environmental impact risks in its sewerage systems?
- How will the local water utility meet relevant regulatory standards, such as licence requirements set by the environmental regulator?

Understanding system capacity, capability and efficiency

- What is the capacity and capability of systems to deliver water (and future capacity and capability needs)?
- What is the capacity and capability of its systems to collect and treat sewerage (and future capacity and capability needs)?
- How will the local water utility consider water efficiency in its systems?

Understanding other key risks and challenges

- How will the local water utility address other key risks in its systems now and into the future?
- How will the local water utility meet relevant regulatory standards (for example, such as on dam safety)?
- How has the local water utility considered climate risks?
- How is the local water utility planning for drought?
- How is the local water utility planning and preparing for incidents, emergencies, and extreme events and ensuring continuity of service?

Understanding solutions to deliver services

- How are options for delivering services and managing risks analysed?
- How are supply and demand side options for water supply identified and evaluated?
- How are assets managed over their life cycle to ensure service levels are met?
- How are the preparedness and resilience management during extreme events considered?

Understanding resourcing needs

- What resourcing is needed to deliver services and manage risks?
- What are the life-cycle costs of managing assets?
- What are the technical and operational skills needed to deliver services and manage risks?
- How does the local water utility do workforce planning?

Understanding revenue sources

- What are the revenue sources available to fund the delivery of services?
- What is the customers' ability to pay for services?
- What is the customers' willingness to pay for services?

Make and implement sound strategic decisions

- Based on its understanding of, and adequate consideration of, service needs, risks, and resources, how does the utility set service levels and efficient revenue requirements for providing services over an adequate forward period to capture asset lifecycle?
- How are customers engaged in decision-making and informed of choices between service levels, risks, and cost?
- How does the local water utility ensure its long-term financial sustainability, including managing unexpected financial shocks in future periods without having to introduce substantial or socially destabilising revenue or expenditure adjustments??
- How does the utility implement service levels and monitor, and report on, performance to understand if it is meeting service levels and managing risks?

Implement sound pricing and prudent financial management

- How does the utility set and structure its water supply and sewerage pricing to recover its revenue requirement, promote efficient use of water, and achieve equitable and affordable pricing and intergenerational equity?
- How does the utility implement a cost-reflective and consumption-based tariff structure, and long-term stable price path?
- How does the utility set appropriate developer charges to recover the infrastructure cost of servicing growth?
- How does the utility consider payment of tax equivalents and dividends?
- How does the utility consider affordable access to essential water services for all customers?

- How does the utility ‘ring-fence’ the water supply and sewer business fund from council’s general-purpose fund?

Promote integrated water cycle management

- How are urban water cycle outcomes including water security, public health, environmental and urban amenity and liveability identified, achieved and funded?
- How does the utility consider opportunities and methods to increase resource efficiency and recovery in urban water management?
- How is the local water utility supporting customers to increase water literacy and support water efficiency measures?

2.3 Achieving outcomes to a reasonable standard

The department will assess whether a local water utility’s strategic planning achieves the outcomes described in section 2.2 to a reasonable standard.

The department will consider that a reasonable standard for each outcome is met if the utility considers and addresses an outcome in a way that is:

- **sufficient** – underpinned by evidence-based analysis that supports the conclusions reached
- **appropriate** – underpinned by relevant departmental guidance and industry standard approaches to conduct planning and reach conclusions
- **robust** – underpinned by evidence that draws on appropriate sources, and recognises and rebuts potential alternative interpretations.

The considerations we will apply to the reasonable standard test and how these may be addressed are set out in more detail in Table 1. Importantly, ‘sufficient’, ‘appropriate’, and ‘robust’ are 3 separate but interlinked characteristics we assess when considering whether strategic planning outcomes are achieved to a reasonable standard, rather than tiered levels of assessment outcome (see Figure 1 **Error! Reference source not found.**).

Figure 1. The 3 considerations comprising the ‘reasonable standard test’

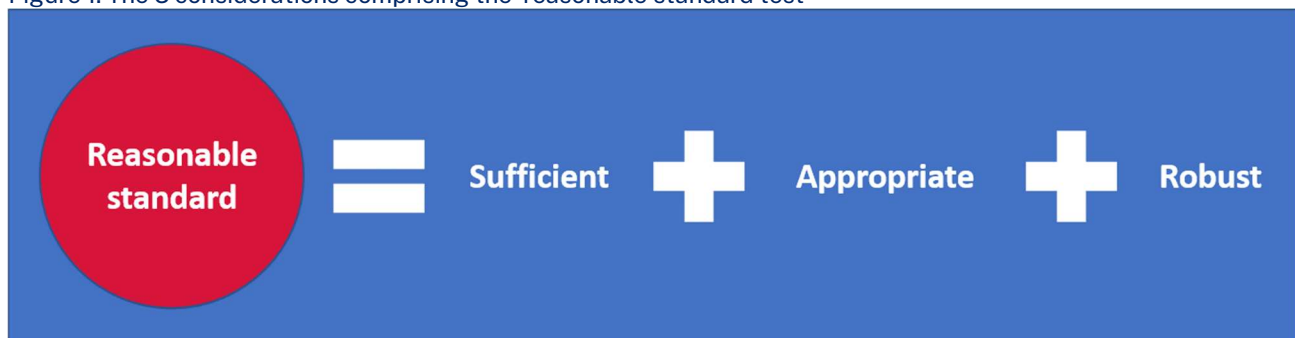


Table 1. Assessment of the 3 considerations of reasonable standard

Consideration	Sufficient	Appropriate	Robust
<p>Applied by department</p>	<p>The evidence that underpins each strategic planning outcome gives objective support for the conclusions reached</p> <p>We will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether objective evidence has been given for each of the strategic planning outcomes • whether the evidence given supports the conclusions drawn • the extent to which any gaps in available evidence can be justified. 	<p>Use of standardised approaches to planning and reaching relevant conclusions</p> <p>We will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether regulatory, legislative, industry or other standards or methodologies apply to the aspect of strategic planning under consideration • if such standards or methodologies apply, whether the local water utility has both used those standards or methodologies and applied them correctly • if such standards or methodologies apply and the utility has either not used them or not applied them correctly, whether there is any reasonable justification for this. 	<p>Evidence draws on appropriate sources that recognises and rebuts potential alternative interpretations.</p> <p>We will consider whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the evidence presented was generated or prepared in an impartial manner to support the conclusion reached • alternative constructions of the evidence presented have been considered (that is, if the evidence is open to interpretation, have all interpretations been considered and/or rebutted).

Consideration	Sufficient	Appropriate	Robust
Ways to substantiate	Evidence includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expert advice or input (for example, reports from consultants, analysis on demographic projections) audited materials (for example, financial statements) external accreditation (for example, meeting ISO standards) public data (for example, NSW Common Planning Assumptions, ABS demographic projections) observations by the department's staff of processes and approaches where appropriate. 	Local water utilities should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlight what standards or methodologies they think apply outline how these standards or methodologies have been applied the extent to which they departed from these standards or methodologies and an explanation for that departure. 	Local water utilities should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> highlight what evidence has been used to support what conclusions outline the analysis of that evidence done to support the conclusions reached highlight any alternative interpretations of the evidence available Outline why the local water utility has reached the conclusion that it has.

The department will produce guidance that gives more detail on the expectations for achieving strategic planning outcome to a reasonable standard.

The department is available to give guidance, advice, and support to local water utilities to help them understand and meet strategic planning outcomes to a reasonable standard. More detail on this advisory and support role is given in section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the regulatory and assurance framework.

2.4 Strategic planning assurance – assessment process and result

To provide assurance whether effective, evidence-based strategic planning occurs, the department will consider:

- if the strategic planning the local water utility does achieves each outcome to a reasonable standard

- based on its assessment of outcomes, whether the local water utility has in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning
- if we wish to make any recommendations to the utility, and if so, what these are.

The department will maintain an up-to-date public register of its assessment results.

The department acknowledges that, apart from issuing a direction to a council before the council may take any further dividend payments under section 409 of the Local Government Act, it does not have the legislative or regulatory authority to impose enforcement or compliance measures for the outcomes of its assessment of strategic planning.

2.4.1 Maintaining currency of assessment result

Local water utilities may request an initial assessment of the effectiveness of their strategic planning. They may also request a re-assessment at any time, to get an assessment result and maintain its currency. Initial and requested assessments will be conducted in line with the process outlined in section 2.4.2.

Local water utilities may also opt to participate in an annual 'check-in' process to ensure their assessment result remains current. This process is outlined in section 2.4.3.

The department may request an assessment at any time if it becomes aware of significant factors that suggest the local water utility may no longer have in place effective strategic planning. This assessment will be conducted in line with the process outlined in section 2.4.2.

Assessments consider whether the strategic planning a utility does is effective and evidence-based, including for the overall assessment and the assessment of individual strategic planning outcomes.

The department publishes assessment results on its website and will update these in accordance with the outcome of any assessment. Assessment results will reflect if a local water utility opts out of the annual check-in process or assessments requested by the department.

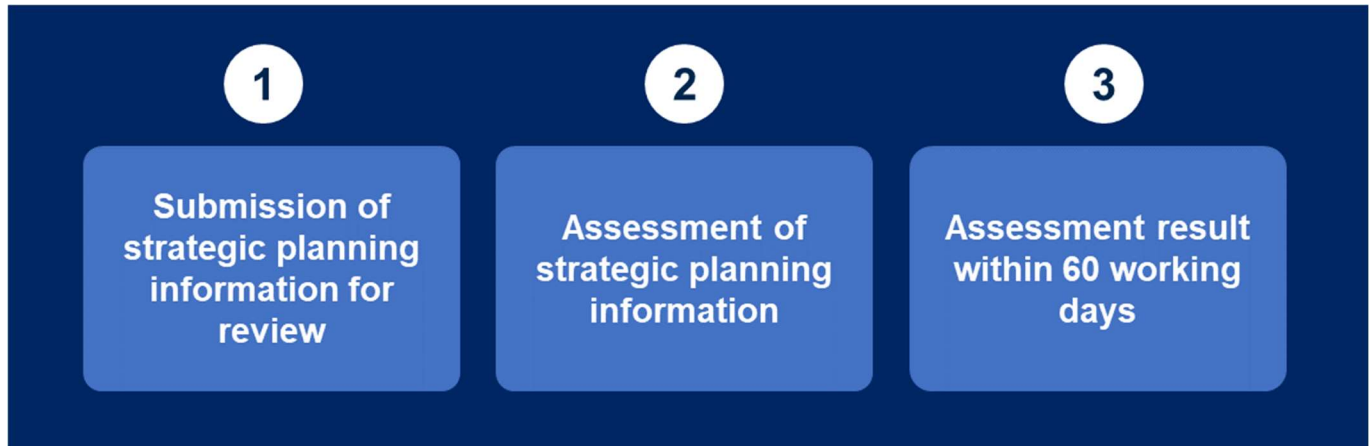
The department will also work with local water utilities to support the ongoing achievement of strategic planning outcomes to a reasonable standard. This work will include meetings and performance monitoring as required.

In addition to the assessment and annual check-in processes, we have access to a range of sources of information on the performance of local water utilities (through performance and risk monitoring, information provided by other regulators, and statewide and regional datasets). As part of our risk-based approach, we will draw on information collected directly from local water utilities (as outlined in this section) as well as other sources to inform our assessment, and our advisory, support, and regulatory activities.

2.4.2 Strategic planning assessment process

The assessment process that applies to both an initial assessment or requested re-assessment is outlined at Figure 1 and explored in more detail below.

Figure 1. Strategic planning assessment process



The process ensures we will give a decision about the assessment of a local water utility’s strategic planning within 60 working days of receiving a review request accompanied by the relevant information (see phases 2 to 4 below).

If we need additional information for our assessment, we will request it in writing, update the public register status and ‘stop the clock’ until the local water utility supplies the information.

If a utility is unable to provide requested information, we may reach an assessment of ‘unsatisfactory due to incomplete information’.

Phase 1 – Submission of strategic planning information for review (starts the clock)

We encourage local water utilities to liaise with us before submitting their strategic planning information for assessment. We can give informal advice to help utilities supply information that is fit-for-purpose and includes all required information.

The department will accept a range of information as evidence. There is no expectation that a single comprehensive document will detail the local water utility’s ‘strategic plan’. Rather, our emphasis is on ensuring effective, evidence-based strategic planning that best integrates with a local water utility’s frameworks.

We encourage local water utilities to draw on existing materials wherever possible. There is no expectation that new information should be generated. Where information is published online, local water utilities can share a link to the information.

The associated information should include links or attachments for all relevant materials and supporting documentation.

Phase 2 – Assessment of strategic planning information

We will consider the information the utility supplies, and other information on the performance of local water utilities that is available to the department, and make an assessment. Where we consider performance information the utility did not supply, we will share that information with them and seek a response.

All assessments will consider the strategic planning outcomes expected by the department and if the outcomes are achieved to a reasonable standard.

If necessary, we may request additional information in writing to the utility. We will update the public register to 'status of assessment incomplete' and 'stop the clock' until we receive that information. Additional information given to the department is assessed as part of the application.

We or the local water utility may initiate further meetings to clarify an information request.

Subject to a threshold test related to factors such as cost, risk, and complexity of an approval or related project, decisions may be subject to an internal peer-review process. Where this process is triggered, the initial decision-maker must give another departmental staff member the opportunity to review the submission and decision. The department will give detailed guidance on factors that will trigger a peer review. This peer-review process is distinct from the formal decision-review process detailed in section 9 of the regulatory and assurance framework.

While other regulators are responsible for overseeing and supporting local water utilities within their own regulatory frameworks, there are consistency benefits when all a utility's regulators have a coherent perspective. To enable this, we will share information on a utility's strategic planning with other regulators as appropriate. We will also seek advice from those regulators on how the information supplied by the local water utility aligns with their regulatory work.

If other regulators need additional information to clarify matters before giving us advice, we will communicate this request in writing to the utility. We will update the public register to 'status of assessment incomplete' and 'stop the clock' until we receive that information.

Phase 3 - Assessment result within 60 working days

Once we have analysed the strategic planning information supplied, we will assess it and give our reasons to the local water utility in writing.

Where we consider making an assessment different to that requested (where the review is requested by utility) or changing the current assessment (where review is requested by the department), we will notify the utility of this intention and give the utility the opportunity to respond.

Final assessment decisions will be made by a senior executive within the department. The assessment will include written reasons. Where necessary, we will give recommendations or guidance for potential improvements.

2.4.3 Annual 'check-in' process

We expect local water utilities to monitor any changes to their key assumptions, objectives or context that would trigger the need to update any part of their strategic planning. The department is available to give support and advice to ensure that strategic planning continues to be effective and evidence-based.

Local water utilities may opt to do an annual 'check-in' process to support this monitoring, report to the department on key changes in their strategic planning, and maintain currency of the assessment result. The process is outlined in Table 2.

The annual 'check-in' is designed to minimise the time and resource impost on local water utilities. We will work with individual local water utilities to identify a specific time for conducting an annual check-in, where possible taking capacity and resourcing constraints of both the department and local water utility into consideration.

Table 2. Annual review process

Step	Description
<p>1. Templated annual return</p>	<p>The department will send the local water utility a templated annual return that helps us and the utility understand whether strategic planning should be reassessed and potentially updated.</p> <p>The annual return will ask local water utilities to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the key assumptions and information underpinning strategic planning still current, effective, and appropriate? 2. Are there any new strategic or operational events that need investigation or major changes? 3. Are there any new strategic directions set by council or the Board, including within the IP&R framework? 4. If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of questions 1 to 3, does the local water utility intend to update any of its strategic planning documentation in the next year? If not, why not? 5. Has any relevant strategic planning information been updated in the last year? 6. How has the local water utility implemented any recommendations made by the department?
<p>2. Analyse responses</p>	<p>The department will collate annual return information and analyse them to identify where strategic planning may need updating, where the current assessment may need revision and any trends across a region or the local water utility sector.</p>
<p>3. Proactively engage</p>	<p>The department will apply risk-based principles to identify local water utilities that may benefit from engagement on strategic planning issues. The department will then schedule meetings as required.</p>
<p>4. Communicate annual ‘check-in’ outcome</p>	<p>Based on the annual return information and any further discussions, the department will communicate its view on any gaps or risk profile issues to each local water utility for formal reporting to the council or Board. This will enable timely input into the organisation’s overall strategic planning work.</p> <p>After we assess any strategic planning information supplied, the department will make an assessment in writing.</p> <p>Where the department considers changing its assessment result, it will notify the utility of its intention and give the utility the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>The department will consider the response and include its consideration in the reasons for the assessment.</p> <p>Final assessment decisions will be made by a senior executive within the department. The assessment will include written reasons. Where necessary, the department will give recommendations or guidance for potential improvements.</p>

2.4.4 Review of departmental decisions

Section 9 of the regulatory and assurance framework outlines the process, scope, and rationale of the internal review mechanism that water utilities may use to have departmental decisions reviewed.

A local water utility can seek a review of the department's strategic planning assessment if it believes that, in making the decision, the department made a mistake or considered:

- matters outside those set out in this regulatory and assurance framework
- information that was irrelevant and/or misinterpreted by the department
- information that was not provided as part of the assessment
- information that was not requested to be provided by the local water utility
- information that was not provided by other local water utility regulators in response to the application.

This will help to ensure that that we make decisions that are consistent between any local water utilities seeking assessment of their strategic planning.

The strategic planning assessment that the department gives will be accompanied by guidance outlining how it can be reviewed.

2.5 Publishing and public reporting

The department will publish on its website a register that tracks the assessments of local water utility strategic planning.

This will include:

- our assessment of whether the department considers that a local water utility has in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning and achieves strategic planning outcomes to a reasonable standard
- the results of reviews and annual 'check-ins' done.

The register will identify:

- local water utilities that have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning
- local water utilities that do not have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning and any recommendations to be actioned by the utility
- local water utilities that have opted not to participate in assessment processes or have not submitted sufficient information on their strategic planning.

We will also publish on our website our performance against the committed assessment 'clock' of 60 working days.

Where a local water utility does not have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning, the department may elect to write to the local water utility's senior representatives (such as senior executive, council, the Board or an audit, risk and improvement committee) or other stakeholders to highlight the need for strategic planning.

In publishing this information, the department acknowledges that it does not have the legislative or regulatory authority to conduct enforcement or compliance measures for the outcomes or publishing of its assessment of strategic planning. Any publishing will occur as part of the department's assurance role.

2.6 Regionally based local water utility strategic planning

Groups of local water utilities may decide to work together to do certain elements of strategic planning on a regional basis. This could occur through joint organisations of councils or other groups of local water utilities facing similar strategic and operational issues.

These strategies may help address broader issues across local water utility boundaries, such as providing urban water security, water supply services or sewage management services across a region. Similarly, there may be efficiencies that groups of utilities could obtain by taking a regional approach to strategic planning (for example, combined scoping or procurement of data modelling services).

Critically, we recognise that such an approach could help to better integrate strategic planning of individual local water utilities with relevant regional water strategies and improve coordination of the delivery of regional water strategy outcomes at both the regional and local level.

A regional town water strategy could include:

- identification of local and regional cross-boundary options and development of effective and efficient regional solutions to address water security risks
- identification, assessment, and development of regional cross-boundary options for drinking water treatment, sewage treatment and reuse
- assessment of how regional cross-boundary solutions can be integrated into each local water utility's own strategic planning, including governance, asset ownership and ongoing management and pricing arrangements. Regional, catchment-based data collection or analysis could inform individual a local water utility's strategic planning, especially water security analysis
- identification, assessment, and development of options and processes to integrate with priorities identified in regional water strategies
- development of regional contingency and emergency response planning, including water restriction rules, and resource sharing.

On request, the department can assess if a regional town water strategy meets the criteria of sufficient, appropriate, and robust input to achieve the strategic planning outcomes (see section 2.2) covered by the regional town water strategy, using the same process outlined in this section.

Walgett Shire Council

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates – under Section 713 of Local Government Act 1993

NOTICE is hereby given to the persons named hereunder that the Walgett Shire Council has resolved pursuant to Section 713 of the Local Government Act 1993 to sell the land described hereunder (of which the persons listed are owners or appear to have an interest) and of which rates and charges remain outstanding as of 9 August 2022.

Owner or person having interest in land	Property description	Rates & charges outstanding over 5 years	Interest/legal outstanding over 5 years	Total rates & charges outstanding	Total legal & interest outstanding	Water consumption outstanding	Total amount due
Peter Brian BROWN Leslie Rhonda BROWN	50 Wilson Street COLLARENEBRI Lot 2 DP 450053	\$7,518.12	\$8,070.75	\$17,976.03	\$12,682.31	\$0.18	\$30,658.52
Peter Brian & Leslie Rhonda BROWN	46-48 Wilson St. Collarenebri Lot 2 Sec 13 DP 758262	\$5,241.04	\$11,560.56	\$18,308.07	\$13,544.64	\$0.00	\$31,852.71
ESTATE of Keith Patrick BRADLEY	76 Euroka Street WALGETT Lots 32 & 35 DP 807917	\$5,804.38	\$1,087.87	\$18,163.99	\$4,782.48	\$231.18	\$23,177.65
ESTATE of Keith Patrick BRADLEY	45 Duff Street WALGETT Lots 26 and 27 DP264538	\$5,211.62	\$1,038.69	\$16,172.21	\$4,341.05	\$0.35	\$20,513.61
Jean TYSON	73 Peel Street WALGETT Lot B DP 440817	\$5,434.89	\$619.10	\$14,757.76	\$3,750.44	\$300.78	\$18,808.98
Robert Angus KELLY Ernest ATKINSON Ernest Oscar EVANS	Meadow Plains Road COME BY CHANCE Lot 7A DP 316821	\$1,451.77	\$356.57	\$2,311.33	\$951.79		\$3,263.12
Bianca Jean JACKY National Australia Bank Limited	27 Sutherland Street WALGETT Lot 7 Section 46 DP 759036	\$8,950.29	\$4,712.74	\$20,695.08	\$9,937.92	\$6,556.89	\$37,189.89
Tanya Marie MORGAN Peter John WINTERS Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Commission	9 Sutherland Street WALGETT Lot 3 Section 47 DP 759036	\$4,904.98	\$3,463.02	\$16,727.45	\$7,527.13	\$19,416.31	\$43,670.89
ESTATE of Donald HUGHES Avco Financial Services Limited	86 Warrena Street WALGETT Lot 11 DP 1100332	\$1,295.37	\$136.96	\$11,927.22	\$2,127.40	\$1,628.59	\$15,683.21
Ricky John ALSOP	15 Inkermann St BURREN JUNCTION Lots 9-10 Section 4 DP 758199	\$282.29		\$5,061.89	\$1,869.16	\$0.00	\$6,931.05

The National Trading Corp Pty Ltd	Colin Street CARINDA	\$734.97	\$2,915.17	\$1,778.83	\$3,309.54	\$0.00	\$5,088.37
Bartercard Exchange Ltd	Lot 7 Section 17 DP 758227						
The National Trading Corp Pty Ltd	Wilga Street CARINDA	\$686.38	\$2,240.38	\$1,730.24	\$2,618.92	\$0.00	\$4,349.16
Bartercard Exchange Ltd	Lot 10 Section 17 DP 758227						
Kit Wit CHONG	18-20 McNamara St. CARINDA	\$2,817.13	\$2,683.36	\$5,562.99	\$4,248.99	\$0.00	\$9,811.98
Caveat-Australian Mineral & Energy Pty Ltd	Lot 1 Section 14 DP 758227						
Caveat- official Trustee in Bankruptcy							
Paul James GAKOWSKI	Shakespeare Street CARINDA	\$1,128.23	\$1,811.97	\$3,529.91	\$3,970.30	\$0.00	\$7,500.21
Jayne Michelle THOMAS	Lot 30 DP 751556						
ESTATE of Ernest Frederick AMIET	19 Warren Street CARINDA	\$4,168.84	\$1,614.52	\$9,414.70	\$3,734.56	\$0.00	\$13,149.26
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Lot 5 Section 1 DP758227						
Caveat-State Bank of New South Wales Ltd							
ESTATE of John Walford	72 Wilson St. COLLARENEBRI	\$7,703.36	\$1,827.06	\$20,232.92	\$6,184.61	\$37.68	\$26,455.21
	Lot 1 DP 508211						
TCB ALWAYS AUSTRALA MONITORING PTY LIMITED	Colless Street COME BY CHANCE	\$649.29	\$105.02	\$1,466.53	\$441.89	\$0.00	\$1,908.42
	Lot 1 DP 226811						
ESTATE of Douglas William TURNER	12 Middle Street ROWENA	\$5,090.81	\$1,196.55	\$10,556.56	\$3,630.67	\$3.13	\$14,190.36
	Lot A DP 410823						
Estate Ida Gertrude MOHI	15 Cedar Street WALGETT	\$8,169.06	\$4,679.47	\$22,339.23	\$10,047.00	\$6,556.23	\$38,942.46
	Lot 32 DP 230360						
Kris ALLEN	125 Eureka Street WALGETT	\$463.71	\$1,347.12	\$9,640.19	\$2,938.83	\$13.36	\$12,592.38
	1/504050,22/587336,7/23/759036						

In default of payment to the Council of the amount stated in the Total column above and any other rates and charges (including extra charges) becoming due and payable after publication of this notice, or any arrangement satisfactory to the Council for payment of all such rates being entered into by the rateable person before the time fixed for the sale, the said land will be offered for sale by Public Auction at the Walgett Shire Offices, 77 Fox Street Walgett on Saturday 10th December 2022 at 10.00am.

Michael Urquhart
General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31, Walgett NSW 2832

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

ROADS ACT 1993

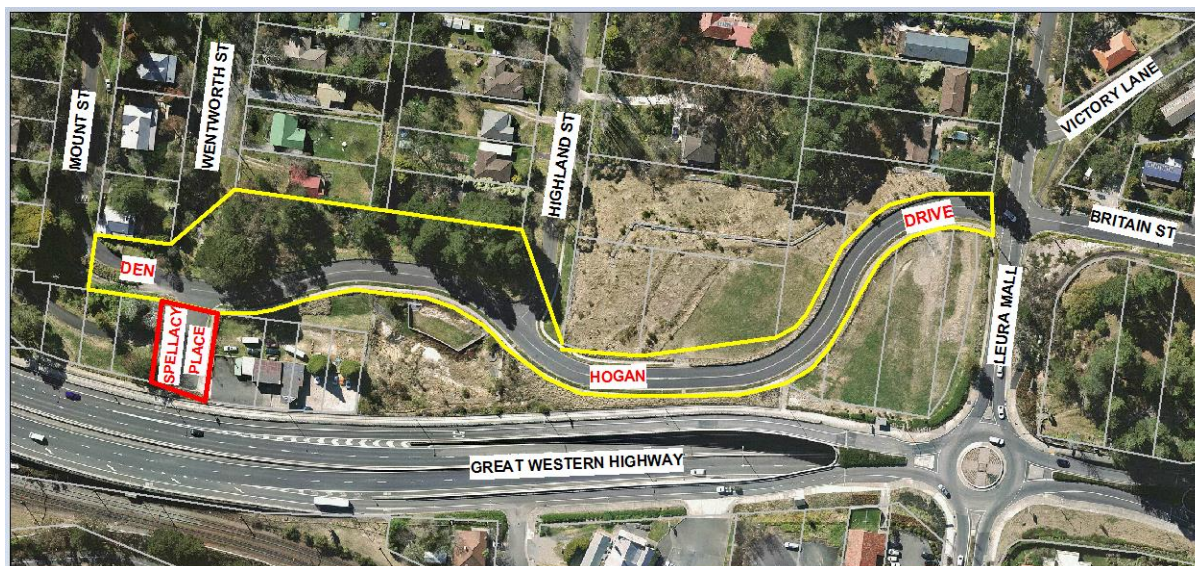
Naming of Public Road

Notice is hereby given that Blue Mountains City Council, in pursuance of Section 162 of the Roads Act 1993, has officially named the road as described in the Schedule below.

General Manager, Blue Mountains City Council, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba NSW 2780.

SCHEDULE

ROAD NAME	LOCALITY	DESCRIPTION
Den Hogan Drive	LEURA	Commencing at Leura Mall near Britain Street traversing west until it meets Mount Street as shown by yellow edging on the aerial image below.



BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

ROADS ACT 1993

Renaming of Public Roads

Notice is hereby given that Blue Mountains City Council, in pursuance of Section 162 of the Roads Act 1993, has officially renamed the roads as described in the Schedule below.

General Manager, Blue Mountains City Council, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba NSW 2780.

SCHEDULE

ROAD NAME	LOCALITY	DESCRIPTION
Alexandra Terrace	LEURA	Great Western Highway service roads and ramp accessing Leura Mall as shown by blue edging on the aerial image below.
Chateau Terrace	LEURA	Great Western Highway service roads and ramp accessing Leura Mall as shown by green edging on the aerial image below.
Spellacy Place	LEURA	Section of Wentworth Street between Den Hogan Drive and the Great Western Highway as shown by red edging on the aerial image above.

