

# Legal Verification Service – Declaration of Rates 2024/2025

It's that time of the year again! With the new financial year now 'in sight', all councils are now busy progressing the preparation of their draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2024/2025, as well as contemplating rate declarations.

The adoption of the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and the declaration of rates are vital processes for every council. The importance of ensuring that these processes are legally compliant cannot be understated, especially in the current, challenging, economic environment and the focus on financial sustainability of councils.

The rate declaration process is often time consuming. Whilst the *Local Government Act 1999* provides the opportunity for councils to adopt the Annual Business Plan and Budget and to declare rates up until 15 August (and beyond in circumstances of extraordinary administrative difficulty), the majority of councils seek to achieve these outcomes well before then.

Kelley Jones Lawyers is again pleased to offer a *Legal Verification Service – Declaration of Rates 2024/2025* which involves us reviewing:

- recommendations to adopt the Annual Business Plan, Budget and valuations;
- declarations of all rates and charges as they will appear in the Council's minutes, if adopted;
- the related Gazette notice and public notice to be placed on Council's website; and
- the Council's rates notice,

This Service is to verify legislative compliance and to recommend any required amendments.

## Contact

Please provide your instructions and associated materials regarding this opportunity to Jenna Smith in the first instance [info@kellyjones.com.au](mailto:info@kellyjones.com.au).

## Our fee structure for these services is:

**Review and verify recommendations, declarations, Gazette notice and public notice**

**\$595 (exc GST)\***

**Review and verify the rates notice**

**\$420 (exc GST)\***

**Alternatively, both items above for the discounted fee of**

**\$980 (exc GST)\***

\*We are able to provide the Service at these reduced fees on the basis that instructions are provided at the same time, together with all required materials without the need for us to follow up. If instructions for tasks are provided separately our usual hourly rates will apply.