Legal Verification Service – Declaration of Rates 2026/2027

That time of the year has come around again. The new financial year is 'in sight' and councils are busy progressing the preparation of draft Annual Business Plans and Budgets for the 2026/2027 FY. A key part of this process, is the rates declaration.

The adoption of the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget, as well as the declaration of rates, are critical annual processes for every council. The importance of ensuring the processes and resultant legal documentation are legally compliant is not to be understated.

The rate declaration process is, for many reasons, time consuming in nature. Whilst the *Local Government Act 1999* provides the opportunity for councils to adopt the Annual Business Plan and Budget and to declare rates until 15 August 2026 (and beyond in circumstances of extraordinary administrative difficulty), most councils make their declaration well before then.

Kelledy Jones Lawyers is again pleased to offer a *Legal Verification Service – Declaration of Rates 2026/27* by way of a review of:

- recommendations to adopt the Annual Business Plan, Budget and valuations;
- declarations of all rates and the imposition of charges;
- the related Gazette and public notices; and
- the rates notice.

This Service will verify (or not) legislative compliance and recommend any required amendments.

Contact

In the first instance, provide your instructions and associated materials to Jenna Smith at jsmith@kelledyjones.com.au (Tel: 8113 7110)

Our fee structure for this Service is:

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

$795 (Ex GST)*

Review and verify the rates notice

$650 (Ex GST)*

Alternatively, both items above for the discounted fee of

$1,195 (Ex GST)*

*We can provide the Service at these reduced fees on the basis that instructions are provided with the associated draft documentation at the same time, without the need for follow up.