

## ITEM 10 WRITE OFF OF COUNCIL RATES - ILLAWARRA COKEWORKS, COALCLIFF

Following a request from the owner of the property, a review by Council's Rates team and external government agencies has now shown that the Valuer General provided valuations in error and, therefore, rates that have been levied need to be written off.

### RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the writing off of land rates totalling \$20,562.22 on Assessment N° 34151-6.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

### BACKGROUND

The following provides an outline for the assessment proposed to be written off.

Assessment N° 34151-6 known as Railcorp Building 884 (Shed Lease Ref 14311), Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Coalcliff, was provided with a valuation in 2004-2005 by the Valuer General. This property was first rated in 2004-2005 and has been subsequently rated every year until the valuation was cancelled this financial year.

The valuation was cancelled following the owner contacting the Valuer General's department and advising them that the property was a duplicated valuation.

This property had been continually rated from 2004-2005 until 2020-2021. When Council reversed the rates for the current financial year and refunded the credit balance of \$202.24, the owners then contacted Council to be provided with a refund for all previous years that they have paid the account.

Upon investigation, the Valuer General's department provided Council with the following information:

*"There is very little history regarding the properties/rail leases in this area and some information has been recorded that we can't find historical records for.*

*After investigation from our Valuation contractors, it was determined that Property ID 1165700 had been duplicated by Property 1165695.*

*The duplication appears to have occurred when the current rail lease was implemented in 2005."*

From this information, it is considered that Council should reverse the rates for those years and refund the money that has been paid.

### PROPOSAL

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Reg 131 outlines the procedures for writing off rates and charges. It is proposed under Reg 131(4)(a) that the amount of \$20,562.22 be written off by Council resolution.

### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2028 goal "We are a connected and engaged community".

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Financial Services Service Plan 2020-21.

## CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council resolve to write off the rates totalling \$20,562.22 as Council was incorrectly rating the assessment following the advice from the Valuer General's department.