

# Excavating? Know your obligations

Protecting Council's underground infrastructure assets



## BACKGROUND

Water, wastewater and stormwater plans (plans) show the position of Wingecarribee Shire Council owned and maintained water, wastewater and stormwater assets. The plans do not show any private assets such as customer service lines beyond the water meter or the internal sewer drainage within private property boundaries.

Council has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the information provided is accurate. However, Council cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy in the information shown and cannot guarantee that all assets are accurately mapped or included.

The plans:

- Show indicative location of Council owned infrastructure assets only;
- Should not be used to measure the distance of assets from a property boundary;
- Show depth of assets, however this may not be accurate as a result of changes to the road, footpath or surface levels since the assets were installed;
- Do not show privately owned customer service lines beyond connection points;
- Must be made available at the worksite where any excavation is to be undertaken;
- Must be read and understood by all crew on site prior to commencing excavation; and
- Are **valid for 30 days** from the date of issue.

**Please exercise extreme caution during excavation.**



## IMPORTANT – ASBESTOS CEMENT

Wingecarribee Shire's water and wastewater network's include infrastructure assets that were manufactured using Asbestos-containing materials such as asbestos cement. When working near these assets, additional caution must be taken to prevent any disturbance or damage to these assets. Prior to conducting any works (in the vicinity of Council's infrastructure) you must ensure that your processes and procedures eliminate any possibility of disturbing, damaging or interfering in any way with the network. Your processes and procedures must include appropriate measures to mitigate against all aspects of this risk.



## EXCAVATING GUIDE

Underground assets may be closer to the surface than expected. Get all the facts on underground assets before potentially damaging pipes or essential networks. Failure to do so may result in financial impact, asset damage, flooding and/or injury.

- Plans showing indicative location of Council's infrastructure assets are available online at *Before You Dig Australia (BYDA)* via [byda.com.au](http://byda.com.au).
- Identify underground assets by potholing or non-destructive digging prior to commencing any mechanical excavation. Do not use large heavy machinery to locate Council assets.
- All excavation MUST be performed by competently trained operators in accordance with Safework NSW's *Work Near Underground Assets Guide 2007*. A copy of this guide is available from [safework.nsw.gov.au](http://safework.nsw.gov.au).

**If you suspect an underground asset is present and have not been successful in locating it, please contact Council on (02) 4868 0888.**



## DAMAGE TO COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Council has the right to compensation for loss or damage to its assets or property as a result of excavation works, tampering or interference. This may include consequential losses.

It is illegal to access, interfere with, relocate, alter or repair Council infrastructure.

Only Council and its authorised contractors may access, and conduct works on Council's water, wastewater and stormwater networks and properties.

**Any damage to Council's infrastructure assets must be reported immediately to Council's 24/7 Customer Service Centre on (02) 4868 0888.**



## WATER SUPPLY FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

Council has installed Water Filling Stations at eight locations across the Shire for use by approved Water Carters. Further information about accessing these stations can be found on our website at [wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://wsc.nsw.gov.au).

The use of standpipes is considered theft and hefty penalties may apply.

**The use of standpipes to draw water supply from water hydrants is not permitted within the Wingecarribee Local Government Area.**





## DISCHARGING TO SEWER

Council adopted its Liquid Trade Waste (LTW) Policy in 2018. The discharge of stormwater, surface and subsoil waters into Council's sewerage system is prohibited under this policy.

Sewerage systems are designed to collect, transfer and treat domestic liquid waste. Council may accept LTW into its sewerage system from businesses or industry provided that the discharges are within acceptable limits controlled by the use of pre-treatment devices (e.g., grease traps) and systems. If not controlled, LTW can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, the sewerage system and the environment.

A person wishing to discharge LTW to the sewerage system must, under Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and Council's Liquid Trade Waste Policy, obtain prior approval from Council.

Discharging LTW without an approval is an offence under Section 626 of the Act. Anyone who fails to comply with the conditions of approval may be prosecuted under Section 120(1) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997*.

Council Liquid Trade Waste Policy can be found on its website at [wsc.nsw.gov.au/policies](http://wsc.nsw.gov.au/policies)



## INTERNAL DRAINAGE DIAGRAMS

Drainage diagrams show the wastewater pipes located within private property. This information is not shown on Council's BYDA responses.

Drainage diagrams can be obtained from Council by payment of applicable fees and applying on our website at [Drainage Diagram and Sewer Reference Application](#)

### Contact Us

**Report any asset damage or unidentified assets immediately:**

**02 4868 0888 (24/7)**

