



Department of Transport and Planning

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Your ref: COR 2018 003668

Our ref: LV1411-13847

Coroner Kate Despot
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Wylie

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF BIKRAM DANGOL

I refer to your letter of 10 April 2026 regarding Coroner Despot's findings and recommendations.

The Department of Transport and Planning (**Department**) extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Bikram Dangol.

The Coroner's recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (**the Act**), it was recommended that:

1. the Department of Transport and Planning to consider working with all water authorities in Victoria to establish a shared asset register.

Response to Recommendation

The Coroner's recommendation has been partially implemented for the asset class to which this matter relates.

The matter concerned a specific asset class of fire hydrants. In respect of that class, DTP has worked with Victoria's water authorities to establish a statewide data register of hydrant assets, collected under data custodianship arrangements and published as open data within Vicmap, the state's authoritative foundational spatial data. The information is held in the Vicmap Hydro dataset (Vicmap Hydro – Water Structure Point). In November 2022, DTP introduced a dedicated "water hydrant" feature to Vicmap through Change Advisory Notice 291 (9 November 2022) (Attachment 1), enabling hydrants to be captured as a distinct feature. It was implemented from November 2022, more than three years before the Coroner's finding of April 2026, though after the events surrounding the death of Mr Bikram

Dangol in 2018. This work was progressed by the Vicmap team when it was part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). In 2024, the Vicmap team moved into DTP.

DTP is transparent that Vicmap does not hold every category of asset for every water authority, and DTP's own hydrant assets are yet to be integrated into Vicmap or into the recently launched Victorian Transport Digital Engineering platforms. For water hydrant assets, the dataset records the authoritative organisation that supplied each record, together with its location, and service status (including physical changes and retirements from service), and is maintained so the data is up to date and available ahead of each fire season. This delivers the outcome the recommendation seeks for hydrants, noting that further work is needed to extend the dataset to DTP assets.

The data is published as open data under a Creative Commons licence and is freely available to all users including emergency services, water authorities, local government and the public at no cost and without a licensing barrier. It can be accessed [through the Victorian Government open data portal](https://data.vic.gov.au) (data.vic.gov.au), through the [Vicmap-as-a-Service API](#), and through DTP's online mapping platform [Digital Twin Victoria](#). It is renewed throughout the year, and ahead of each fire season annually through a structured enrichment campaign with water authorities. To illustrate the scale, in the 2025 update 230,736 hydrant datapoints were received from water authorities and reviewed, resulting in 158,511 new hydrants added to Vicmap and 14,007 hydrants recorded as having physical changes or retired from service. This annual cycle, together with feature-level provenance (each record carries persistent identifiers and records the authoritative organisation that supplied it), provides the mechanism for ongoing review, currency management and traceability of the data.

Contributing organisations include Goulburn Valley Water, South Gippsland Water, Greater Western Water, Grampians Wimmera Mallee (GWM) Water, East Gippsland Water, Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water, North East Water, Melbourne Water, Lower Murray Water, Coliban Water, Gippsland Water, Yarra Valley Water, Wannon Water and South East Water, together with the Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria and Alpine Resorts Victoria.

DTP wishes to be clear that the shared dataset in Vicmap provides an enabling function: it supports emergency preparedness and response but is not of itself an asset register embedded in asset owners' operations and maintenance workflows. As DTP's records pass quality assurance, DTP will incorporate the hydrant data for DTP managed hydrants into DTP's asset management system to ensure the information is available to DTP's operation and maintenance teams and to downstream datasets such as Vicmap. By providing the data as open data, other groups such as emergency services, water authorities, local government and the public are also able to access the data and integrate it into their own systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact Larissa James, Director Asset Intelligence at Larissa.james@transport.vic.gov.au if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Barber
Executive Director,
Spatial Services & Planning Solutions



Alan Martin
Head of Assets & Engineering

16 / 07 / 2026

9 November 2022

Change advisory notice 291 Updates to feature terms codelist values for Vicmap Hydro and Geomark

What is happening

The following changes are happening to Vicmap:

1. A new feature term 'water hydrant' is being added to the Feature Catalogue;
2. The HY_WATER_STRUCTURE_POINT table will be updated with the values described in table 2 being applied to the SUBSTANCE_EXTRACTED attribute; and
3. The Vicmap codelist table HY_SUBSTANCE_EXTRACTED is being updated (refer to table 2).

Feature type	Definition	Definition
water hydrant	A connection to water supply network for the extraction of water	point

TABLE 1: New feature term added to HY_WATER_STRUCTURE_POINT.

Substance Extracted Code	Substance Extracted	Change Type
1	GAS	remove
2	OIL	remove
3	WATER	remove
4	POTABLE WATER	add
5	NON POTABLE WATER	add
6	RECLAIMED WATER	add
7	RAW WATER	add
8	RECYCLABLE WATER	add

TABLE 2: Updates to code list descriptions within HY_SUBSTANCE_EXTRACTED.

Why this change is occurring

This change will enable the efficient integration of additional hydrant data within Vicmap Hydro and Geomark, improving coverage and completeness.

The modification of code list descriptions improves the accuracy of the representation of the data. These descriptions are sourced from the authoritative custodians.

Who will it affect

This change will affect all users of Vicmap Hydro and Geomark.

Incremental Update Format (IUF) customers will not be affected by this change.

When the change will occur

Changes will be reflected in the data from the 28 November 2022.

Get in touch with us

For further help or information please email vicmap@delwp.vic.gov.au

For Vicmap Product change notices and updates, visit [Vicmap change notices](#).

If you would like to subscribe to change notices ongoing please forward your contact details including your email to vicmap@delwp.vic.gov.au

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