

What you need to know

Yellow Rock Road and the suburb of Yellow Rock which exist in Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs is duplicated within the Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA). Duplicated suburbs, road names and addresses like this can cause issues with emergency services responses, service delivery, navigation, postal services and identity management.

Council is driving investigation, community engagement and agreement for a solution, guided by the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB).

Given the implications for Emergency Services response and that fewer residents will be impacted by the name change in Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs we have an obligation to act. We currently have the resources to facilitate a name change in our LGAs and would like to use the opportunity to celebrate the area's rich history. To this end Council strongly supports the addition of a prefix or suffix to the existing suburb name, allowing us to retain the area's historical connection to the name Yellow Rock - such as "Yellow Rock Creek" or "Mount Yellow Rock".

We encourage the community to help decide on and find a practical solution that honours this history whilst simultaneously making Yellow Rock a safer place for everyone to live. We have created this information pack so that all effected residents have the same information and can make an informed decision.

You can share your feedback on this matter by:

- Completing the survey attached to the information pack and returning it to council
- Head to our Let's Chat page (scan the QR code below or follow the link)
- Attending our drop in session to celebrate

The history of Yellow Rock

Yellow Rock has been used as a suburb name, creek name and road name in this area since the first European settlers were here. It was named after the sandstone cliffs of Yellow Rock, that many local heritage-listed buildings are constructed from.

1836 - First reference

The first recorded use in printed newspaper articles referring to Yellow Rock Creek from 1836 and onwards.

1850's - General Reference

The area begins to be generally referred to by the name "Yellow Rock Creek" in land sale advertisements and the like.

1862 – Drought

Severe drought heavily effects the prospects of the area, the Mercury advises "all the regular farming operations are brought to a standstill".

1890's - Businesses take on the name

The "Yellow Rock Dairy" was established confirming the areas use as major farming suburb.

1895 – Poem

A local Poet writes "Yellow Rock Creek" praising the beauty of the creek and surrounding area which is published in the Illawarra Mercury.

1932 – Local Birdlife Praised

Multiple articles are released praising Yellow Rock Creek, Illawarra for its majestic native birdlife such as wedge tailed eagles and lyre birds.

1993 - 1997 – Suburb Gazetted

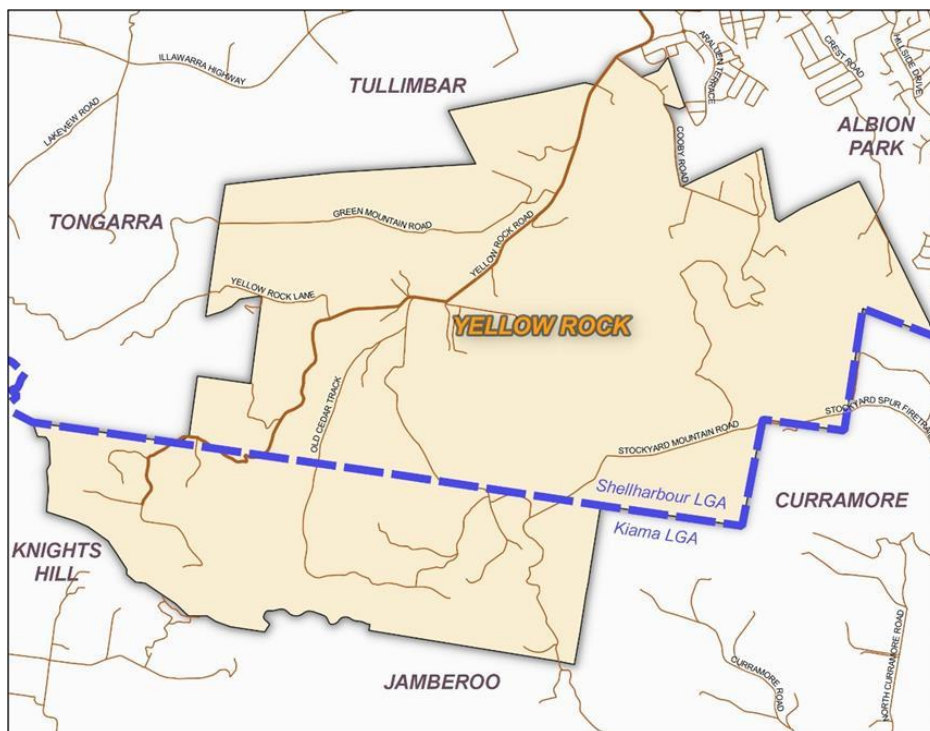
The first formalisation of the suburb boundary was approved and gazetted in 1993. In Kiama LGA the suburb Yellow Rock was gazetted 1997

2023 – Name Review

Council aims to ensure the safety of the local residents by establishing an individual name for the suburb.

Formalisation of the suburb boundary

- The name Yellow Rock was assigned as a locality name in 1973 following a review of place names by the Department of Lands.
- The formalisation of the boundary in Shellharbour LGA was gazetted in 1996.
- In Kiama LGA the boundary was gazetted 1997
- In 2007 Council and the GNB approved an amendment of the boundary between Yellow Rock and Tullimbar



Yellow Rock in the Blue Mountains City Council area

- A public reserve name 'Yellow Rock' was gazetted on 9 July 1895
- The name Yellow Rock was assigned as a suburb name in 1972 following a review of place names by the Department of Lands.
- The formalisation of the boundary in Blue Mountains LGA was gazetted in 2004.

Where to from here for Yellow Rock?

To start the process of developing a solution we want your feedback on the options. The GNB have suggested the below options:






- Add a prefix or suffix to the existing suburb name
- Change the duplicated suburb name to a unique name
- Dissolve the duplicated suburb into adjoining suburb
- Change the duplicated road name in the duplicated suburb

Explanation of measures:

Give definitions of each of the

Impact on the individual vs collective

The implications of each change are:

Scale		Definitions	
Low		Impact	The overall impact on residents and landowners, considering number of people or land mass impacted.
Low/Med		Benefit	How well this option resolves the issue of duplicated suburbs.
Medium		Historical Loyalty	Level of connection to the original name. If it includes or connects to the original name this is highly desirable.
Med/High		Level of Change	Reflects the level of change for an individual. Considers how much a resident of Yellow Rock or on Yellow Rock Rd must adjust.
High			

Option 1

Add a prefix or suffix to the existing suburb name

The boundary would remain the same and would not affect residents living on Yellow Rock Road outside the suburb boundary of Yellow Rock. Compliance with current naming guidelines will be necessary and can only be confirmed by the GNB.

This is Councils preferred option as it would only slightly change the suburb name but retain the historical connection. For example, "Mount Yellow Rock", "Yellow Rock Creek" or "Yellow Rock Ridge"

Internal Notes

- 90 addresses affected by the suburb change
- Keeps the historical connection to the name

- *Minor change*

Impact	★ ★
Benefit	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Historical loyalty	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Level of change	★ ★ ★

Option 2

Change the duplicated suburb name to a unique name

The suburb boundary would remain the same, but the name would completely change.

Compliance with current naming guidelines will be necessary but this option would remove the duplication of addresses at the uppermost level for emergency service providers.

Internal Notes

- *90 addresses affected by the suburb change*
- *Has implications for everyone in LGA – learning and using new name*
- *No historical connection to original suburb, only the street name*
- *Major change*

Impact	★ ★ ★ ★
Benefit	★ ★ ★ ★
Historical loyalty	★
Level of change	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Option 3 Implications

Change the duplicated road name in the duplicated suburb

The suburb of Yellow Rock would not be altered but addresses on Yellow Rock Road would need to change. This option affects the most residents as Yellow Rock Road commences in the suburb of Tullimbar before coming into Yellow Rock.

While this option does remove the duplication of addresses, it does not resolve the overarching problem of the duplicated suburb. Emergency services will still need to establish which 'Yellow Rock' the emergency is in.

Internal Notes

- 103 addresses affected by the road name change
- Keeps the historical connection to suburb but not street name

Impact	★★★★★
Benefit	★★
Historical loyalty	★
Level of change	★★★★★

Option 4 Implications

Dissolve the duplicated suburb into adjoining suburb

The result of this option is similar to option 2. The suburb name would cease to exist, removing the duplication of addresses at the uppermost level for emergency service providers.

The boundary for the adjoining suburb would be enlarged to encompass the area of Yellow Rock. The adjoining suburbs in Shellharbour LGA are Tongarra, Tullimbar and Albion Park.

Internal Notes

- 90 addresses affected by the suburb change
- Removes historical connection
- Change also for residents of adjoining suburbs

Impact	★★★★★
Benefit	★★★
Historical loyalty	★
Level of change	★★★★★

FAQ

Why is the change suggested?

Yellow Rock the suburb and Yellow Rock Road also exists in Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) area.

Duplicated addresses like this can cause issues with emergency services responses, service delivery, navigation, postal services and identity management.

Why our suburb and not the other duplicated suburb?

As fewer residents will be impacted by the name change in Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs, the GNB advises we have an obligation to act. We currently have the resources to facilitate a name change in our LGAs and would like to use the opportunity to celebrate the area's rich history.

Why is this happening now and not earlier?

The centralisation of emergency services and address databases have identified the duplications. As digital technology such as online forms become more common, removing the duplication now helps to future proof the integrity of your address.

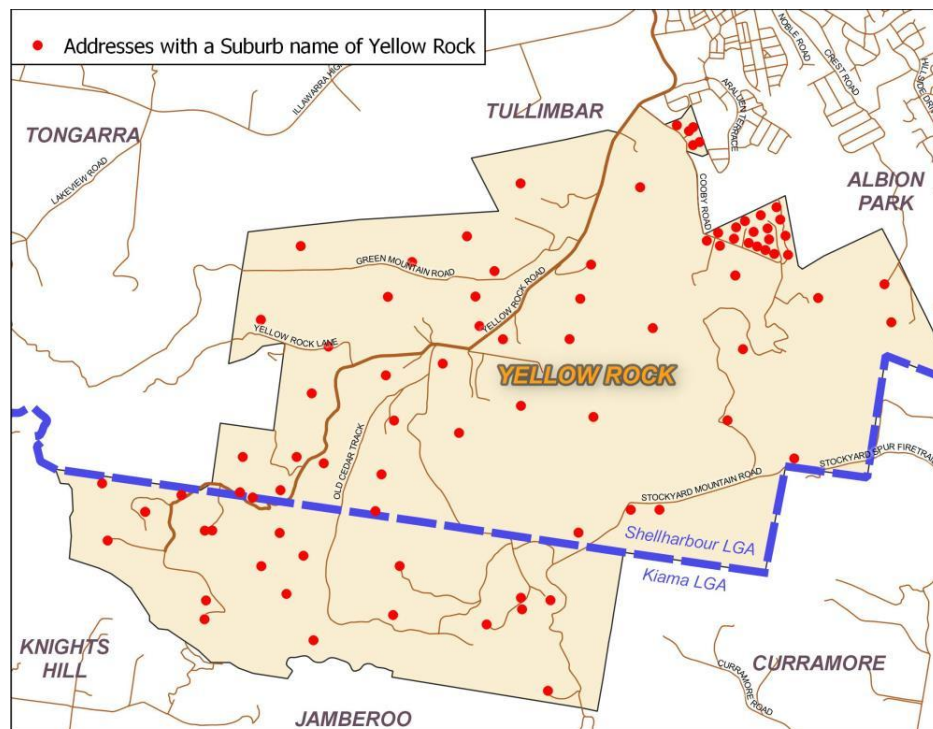
In addition, identity management and security are increasingly important to the community.

Who is affected?

The number of known addresses affected by the duplication of the **suburb** name are:

Shellharbour City Council	66
Kiama Municipal Council	24
Blue Mountains City Council	412

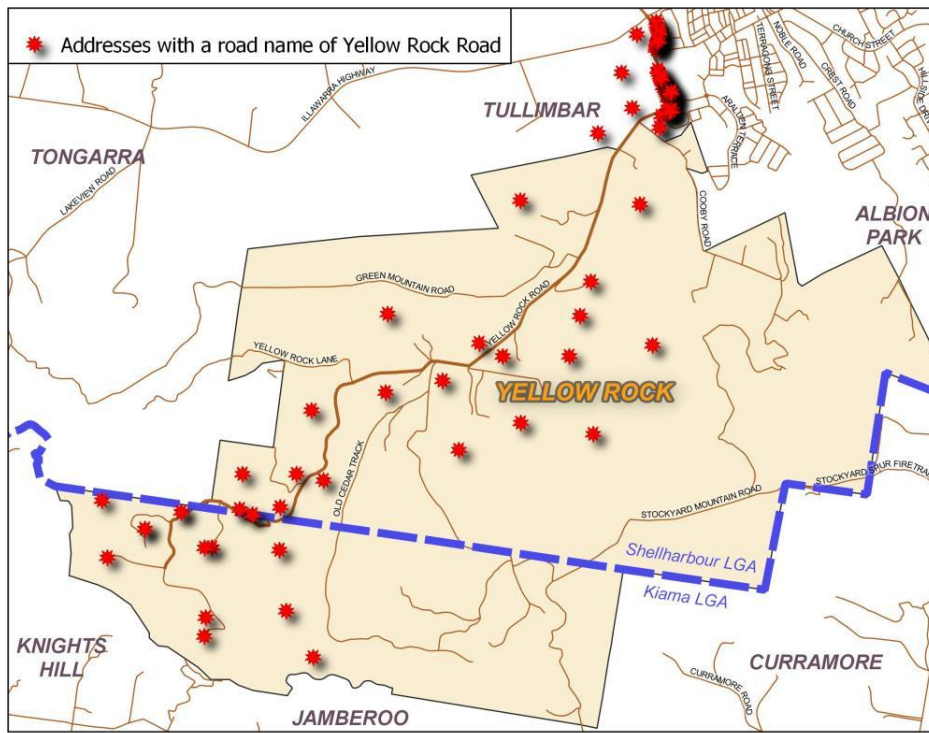
The following map shows the location of addresses to the suburb Yellow Rock



The number of known addresses affected by the duplication of the **road name** are:

Shellharbour City Council	87
Kiama Municipal Council	14
Blue Mountains City Council	55

The following map shows the location of addresses to Yellow Rock Road.



What happens if we do not change?

We would need to accept that the duplication of the suburb will always be a possible cause for misdirection of Emergency Services response.

Due to the growing nature of the area, there is a risk that duplicated addresses could increase.

Why are suburb names so important?

The Suburb name (along with State and type of emergency) is identified at the 000 Triple Zero Communications Centre before being redirected to the appropriate emergency responder (fire/police/ambulance) of the relevant state.

Official Suburb names are used as your address for all utility connection, license, registrations, passports, proof of ID, memberships, insurances, bank accounts, mortgages, pensions, electoral roll, on-line registrations, enrolments, deliveries and other personal contracts.

When is a change likely to happen?

After community consultation has been completed for this matter, it is likely that any change will take place in the following year. We will advise you throughout the processes and keep you up to date. Follow the Let's chat page or leave your email in the survey to automatic updates.

It will take time for GNB to advertise the change and update mapping. We will send you a letter when the change applies to you.

What support will Council offer if there is a change?

We will advise the following authorities of the address change on your behalf. No other personal details will be transferred.

- NSW Addressing
- Australia Post Addressing
- Australia Post Local Delivery Centre
- NBNCo
- Sydney Water
- Endeavour Energy
- Telstra
- Australian Electoral Commission (NOTE: this may still require you to confirm by going to <https://check.aec.gov.au/>)

What other services or authorities will I need to advise of the change?

This can be dependent on you and what services and authorities you have provided with your address. Here are some suggestions you may need to update:

- Utilities and service accounts – energy retailer, internet/phone retailer
- Driver, motorcycle, boat and other licences
- Home, contents, vehicle and other insurances
- All memberships and contracts, Centrelink, other personal documents
- If you have tenants at a property in this area you must advise them of the changes
- Your address on the Electoral roll - Council will assist with advising the Australian Electoral Commission

How long do I have to make changes and notify all third parties after a change?

Updating the address details for some will be more important than others. For example, home and contents insurance policies are of high priority.

Notifying other third parties is less urgent and could be undertaken gradually at your own pace.

What will change for residents and landowners if there is a change to the suburb name?

The result will be a small change to the bottom line of your property address. For example:

Current

B Citizen

73 Stockyard Mountain Road

Yellow Rock, NSW 2527

Would change to

B Citizen

73 Stockyard Mountain Road

Yellow Rock Creek NSW 2527 or,

Mount Yellow Rock NSW 2527

What will change for residents and landowners if the community supports a change to the road name?

The result will be a change to the road address. For example:

Current

B Citizen

39 Yellow Rock Road

Tullimbar, NSW 2527

Would change to

B Citizen

39 'new name' Road

Tullimbar, NSW 2527

Will a change affect my property Deeds?

No. The legal description of your property is the Lot Number and Deposited Plan (DP) number, which will not be altered.

Will anything change in regards to my mail delivery?

We will work closely with Australia Post Local Delivery Centre to ensure they are up to date on any changes.

There will be no change if you use a PO Box.

Survey

Is your property address located:

- In the suburb Yellow Rock
- On Yellow Rock Road
- Both on Yellow Rock Road and in the suburb Yellow Rock

Which of the following best describes the property:

- I own and live in it
- I usually live there but temporarily relocated
- I rent it
- It is non-residential land
- It is tenanted
- It is a holiday home
- Other (please provide)

Where is your mail delivered?

- To the property
- Albion Park PO Box
- Other PO Box
- Current residence outside Yellow Rock

Why is your mail delivered to this location?

- Ease of collection
- Reduces delivery delay
- Convenience
- Secure location
- No delivery available to property
- Other.....

Have you ever had any issues using the suburb name Yellow Rock?

- Yes
- No

Have you ever had any issues using the road name Yellow Rock Road?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which issues have you encountered?

- Emergency service responder could not find me
- Service provider confused and could not easily find my address
- Delivery delays
- Difficulty with address validation using online forms

Which of the 4 options do you support?

- Prefix or suffix
- Change the suburb name
- Change the road name
- Merge the suburb

Do you have any additional comments to make?

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Will you be attending the drop in session?

- Yes
- No

Would you like to receive email updates?

- Yes
- No

Name:

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Email (block letters):

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