

# Valuation Information Guide 4.310 Group Valuations – Rural Unimproved Values

## Background

Rural land is often held in common ownership comprising one or more lots or parcels of land. Where lots are adjoined or contiguous, the Valuer-General must determine whether a group valuation is to apply.

## Key Principles

Rural land is to be valued as a single valuation entity if it can be demonstrated that:

- The lots are contiguous and in common ownership;
- The lots are used and occupied as one holding and would normally be expected to sell as one holding;
- The current conjoint use will continue into the foreseeable future;
- The basis of valuation is supported by sales evidence.

Contiguous has been defined as where land is physically abutting or is touching, however in the context of valuation, a wider interpretation of the term is given that acknowledges the practical aspects of land utilisation and farming operations. Under this wider definition, land may be deemed contiguous if:

- Survey boundaries abut or adjoin.
- Locations or lots are separated by a road, drain or watercourse reserve.
- A property is actively used as one and would reasonably be expected to sell as one landholding, even though boundaries do not strictly adjoin.

To satisfy the same ownership requirements, one of the following conditions must be met:

- Locations or lots must have identical names as per Certificates of Title.
- Common ownership or occupied as per the definitions under section 1.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Where the names on the Certificates of Title for contiguous lots have common but not identical parties, the local governmental authority may endorse specific family names as being the “owner” for entry in the rate record and these will apply for entries on the valuation roll.

## Supporting Information

- [Local Government Act 1995](#) – Section 1.4 (occupier, owner)

## Approval

Owner: Regulation & Research, Valuation Services

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Approver: Valuer-General, Valuation Services