



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



Zero damage - Zero harm - Zero disruption

Our Mission

To achieve zero damage to member/utility infrastructure resulting from construction and ground-breaking activities, preventing community disruption, and protecting people and property from harm.

Zero Damage.

Zero Harm.

Zero Disruption.



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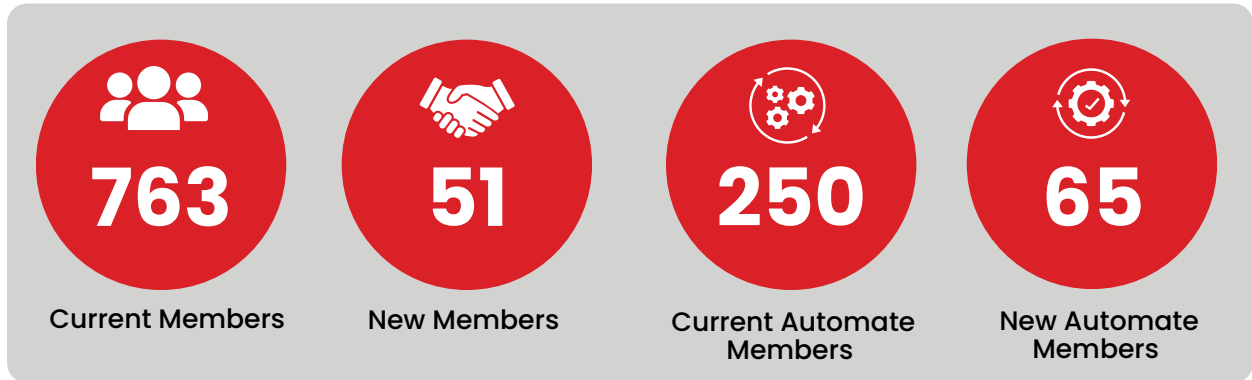
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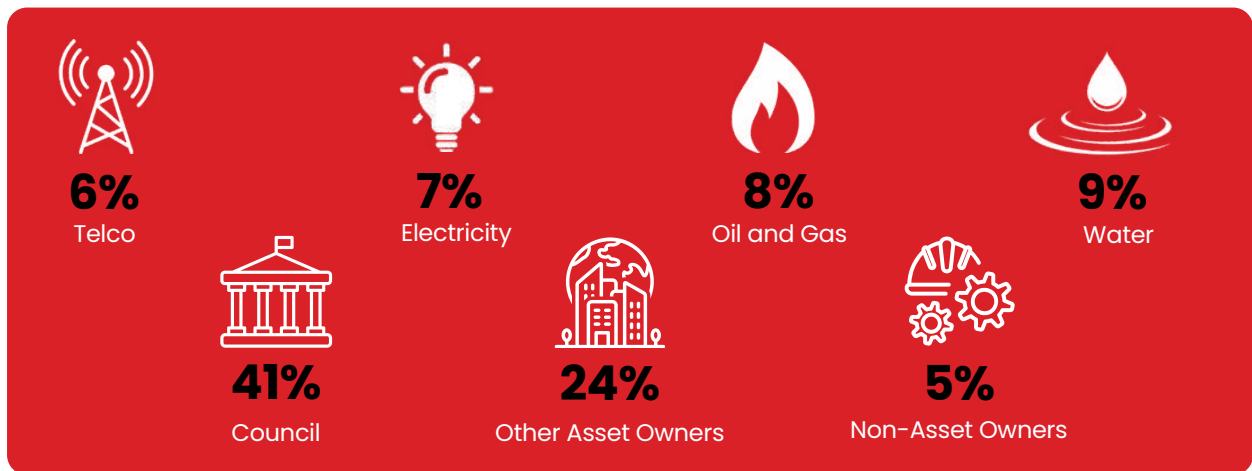
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A YEAR OF IMPACT

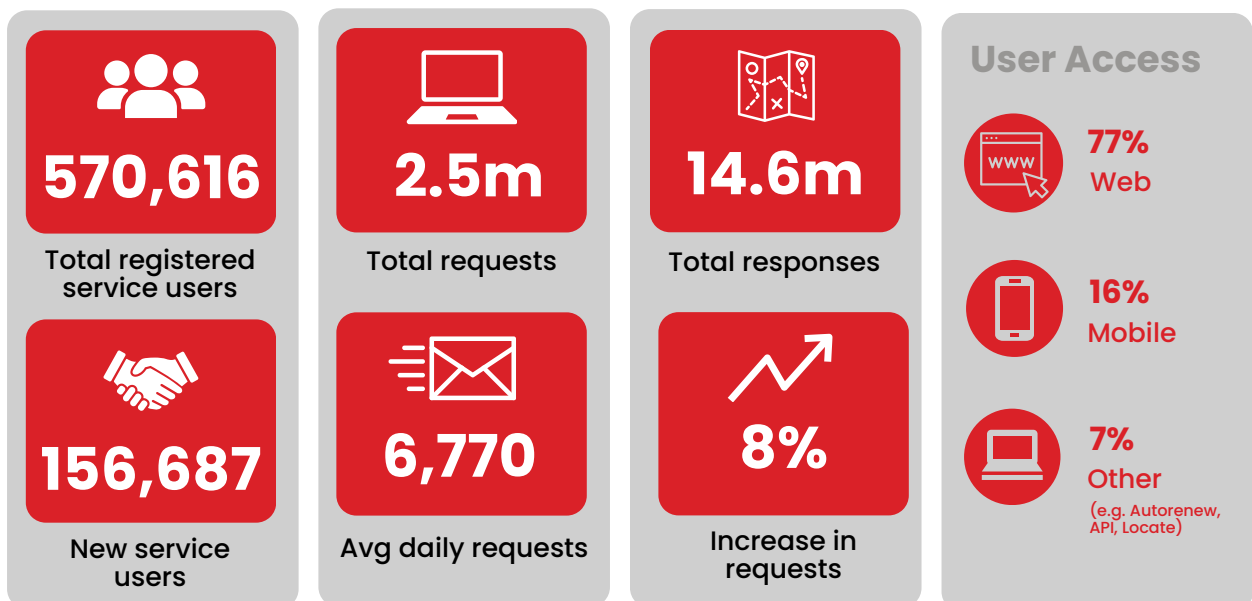
BYDA Membership



Who are BYDA members?



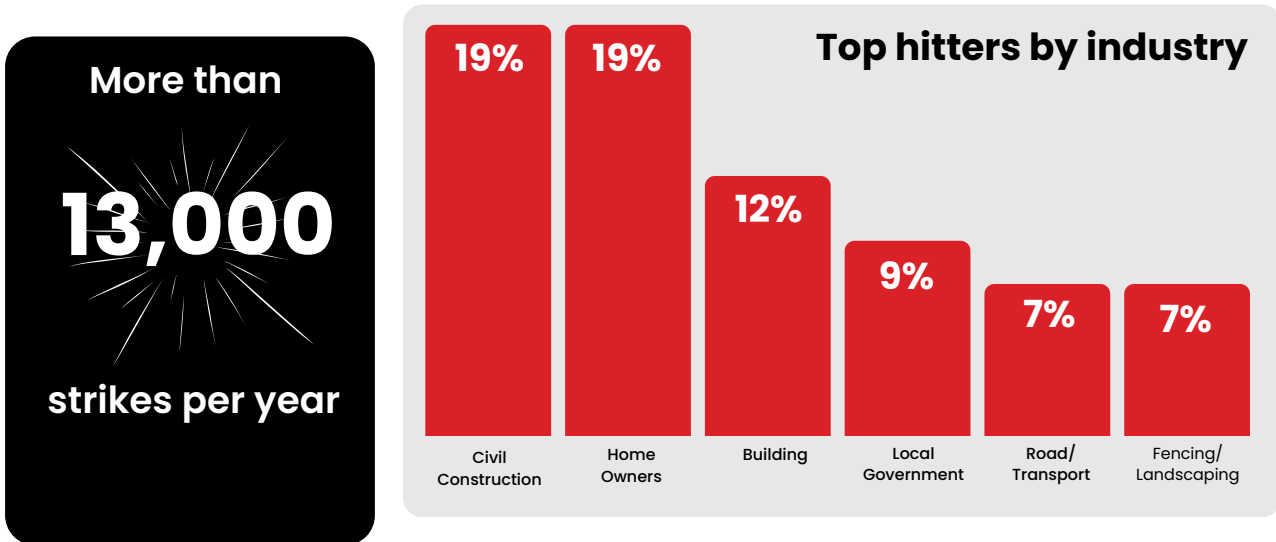
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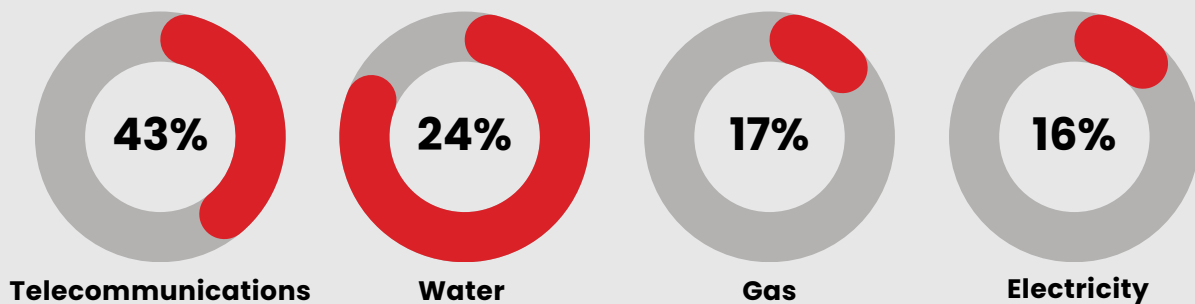
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Number of Annual Utility Strikes*

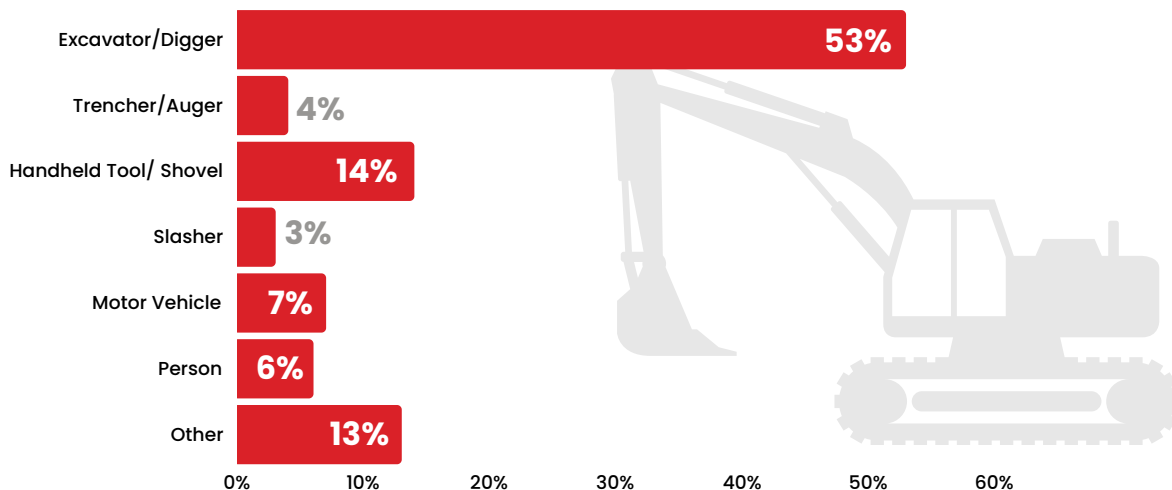
*Data collected from 15 participating utilities.



Damage by Utility Type



Damage by Equipment



CHAIR REPORT

Stuart Smith

Advocating for change

The financial year has been an outstanding period for BYDA. Since its transformation, the organisation has optimised its operations, delivered enhanced benefits to members, and significantly increased public awareness. With BYDA now operating on a solid foundation, the Board's focus has shifted toward strategic planning for the next five years.

Strategic Direction

This year the Board undertook a strategic analysis to identify how BYDA can deliver greater value to both our members and the industry.

In developing this new strategy, the BYDA Board reviewed critical factors, including asset owner pressures, public expectations, workforce participation, digital disruption, concerns from groundbreaking activities, and overall industry activity levels. While the protection of industry workers and member assets remains a top priority, it has become increasingly clear the services we seek to protect are more essential than ever to the efficient functioning of modern society.

“Since its transformation, BYDA has optimised its operations, delivered enhanced benefits to members, and significantly increased public awareness.”

International research confirms BYDA's leadership in several areas while also highlighting opportunities for improvement. The findings revealed the significant downstream financial costs of asset damage, underscoring the importance of damage prevention as a materially significant issue for Australia.

As a result, the Board and Management developed a new strategy to more effectively deliver on our core mission. We endorsed a formal shift from a historical focus on the referral/utility plan request service to becoming a leading partner in damage prevention and industry safety.

The new strategy respects our history and tradition, maintaining and optimising these foundational services. However, it also provides a platform to deliver greater benefits to asset owners, industry workers, and the broader community. BYDA is positioning itself as a stronger, more determined advocate for public safety and change.

With the support of our members, we launched this new strategy at a briefing on 30 June, followed by the distribution of supporting materials.

Financials

BYDA concludes the financial year in a stable, cash-positive position. Prudent financial management has generated the necessary cash flow and reserves to support BYDA's pursuit of its strategic goals. The Board has endorsed the audited financials.

Members and Service Delivery

BYDA exists to serve its members, and it is encouraging to report an increase in both membership and engagement. BYDA welcomed 51 new members, of which 33 are asset owners and 18 are non-asset owners. Our organisation has become fundamentally stronger and more effective thanks to the active involvement of our members. I sincerely thank you all for your support over the past year.

The referral service processed 2,471,425 enquiries, representing an 8% growth. Additionally, more than 790 industry presentations, focusing on damage prevention and utility plan reading, reached more than 15,000 participants. BYDA also conducted our inaugural Utility Sector Safety Forums for electricity, water, gas and oil and telecommunications. The immediate success of the forums generated valuable improvement ideas from industry peers.

We are also pleased to report the successful launch of our Collated Response Viewer, with a 92% adoption rate. Moreover, BYDA introduced the Damage Data Dashboard, a powerful tool that collates and analyses utility strike data. This dashboard will drive data-driven advocacy, debates and positive change.

Board Development

The Board held meetings throughout the year via hybrid video conferencing and face-to-face for board and strategy development sessions. The Audit and Risk Committee and the Strategic Projects Committee continued to support the Board in its functions.

This year, we maintained our focus on enhancing Board effectiveness, committing to an action plan to ensure the Board operates strategically and possesses the skills required to meet the organisation's future needs.

Looking Forward

As we enter the first year of BYDA's new five-year strategy, I encourage all members to actively participate in this journey. Strategic initiatives, such as digital innovation and education standards, will be significantly strengthened through industry involvement.

In closing, the Board is both excited and confident in BYDA's ability to be an advocate for positive change in our industry, working toward Zero Harm, Zero Damage, and Zero Disruption.



Stuart Smith



CEO REPORT

Mell Greenall

A Year of Progress, Innovation, and Strategic Leadership

As CEO, my primary focus is on steering our organisation toward future growth, tackling the challenges ahead, and seizing emerging opportunities. The annual report offers a crucial opportunity to pause and reflect on the remarkable achievements of the past year.

I must begin by acknowledging the exceptional team at Before You Dig Australia (BYDA). Across the country, their relentless dedication to our strategic vision has been nothing short of exemplary. Every day, I am privileged to lead a team that not only excels in their roles but also continuously strives to innovate and elevate our safety services. Their commitment to going above and beyond in everything they do is a testament to the strength and resilience of BYDA.

Strategic Growth and Industry Leadership

This year has been pivotal for BYDA, marked by significant strides in our operational maturity and industry impact. Our collaboration with members and the construction sector has been instrumental in creating conversation that will address the root causes of utility strikes. These efforts are laying the groundwork for meaningful, long-term transformations that will enhance safety standards and minimize disruptions within our communities.

Unprecedented Engagement in Education

One of our key strategic successes this year has been in the realm of education. BYDA's damage prevention team developed cutting-edge content to advance utility plan reading skills across the industry.

The results speak for themselves: more than **750 educational sessions** delivered, reaching approximately **15,000 professionals** in the construction and trade sectors. This record level of engagement is not just a statistic; it reflects our deep commitment to cultivating a safer industry.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from these sessions underscores the value we provide and highlights new opportunities for further advancements in safe excavation practices.

Expanding Membership and Leveraging Technology

Our membership continues to expand, with **51 new members** joining us this year, bringing our total to 763. This growth is a clear indication of the trust and confidence the industry places in BYDA. Additionally, we have seen a substantial increase in the adoption of our BYDA Automate software, with **more than 200 members** now using this innovative solution to manage their referrals. This represents a significant growth of **60 new subscribers** in the past year alone.

On the referral front, the number of plan requests continues to grow, reflecting the increasing reliance on our services. We experienced an **8% growth** in inquiries this year, totalling **2,471,425** requests. New South Wales and Victoria led the way with the highest levels of activity, each recording well over 700,000 inquiries. In addition to this, new users of the referral service also saw substantial growth, with **156,687 new users** signing up between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

This surge underscores the essential role BYDA plays in facilitating safe excavation practices and highlights our ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of our growing user and member base.



BYDA Automate is more than just software; it is a strategic tool that delivers fast, seamless, and cost-effective management of member plans. All upgrades and enhancements are fully funded and managed by BYDA, ensuring our members can focus on their core operations without IT burdens.

Moreover, our launch of the **BYDA API** for bulk referral lodgement has halved the average costs for those who have adopted it. More than 50 subscribers have transitioned to this platform, further solidifying our role as an industry leader in technological innovation.

Enhancing User Experience and Efficiency

In direct response to user feedback, we introduced the **Collated Response Viewer** in March—a tool that revolutionizes how referral information is managed and shared. This innovative solution consolidates all referral data into a single, user-friendly interface, allowing for easy online viewing, downloading, and sharing.

By simplifying access to critical information, we have significantly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of our service, making it easier than ever for teams and contractors to collaborate.

Driving Industry-Wide Safety Initiatives

Our commitment to industry leadership was further demonstrated through the successful completion of BYDA's inaugural **Sector Safety Forums**. These workshops brought together key stakeholders from the Electricity, Gas, Water, and Telco sectors to engage in deep, strategic discussions on the future of industry safety.

The insights gained from these forums have been profound, revealing common challenges and opportunities across all utility types. We have published comprehensive discussion papers for each forum, now available on the [BYDA website](#), providing a roadmap for the industry's need to collaborate on change.

Looking Forward: Leading the Charge for Change

In closing, this has been a year of profound impact and strategic advancement, laying the foundation for a future where zero damage, zero harm, and zero disruption are not just goals but realities. However, significant challenges remain on the horizon.

The barriers to achieving improved plan quality and digital data integration are substantial and pose a potential risk to the long-term viability of our referral service.

To overcome these challenges, we must unite as an industry, working together to harmonize practices and develop best-in-class safety standards.

As we move forward, I am confident that by continuing to challenge the status quo and embracing innovation, we will lead the charge in transforming our industry.

Together, we will achieve the vision of zero damage, zero harm, and zero disruption, setting new benchmarks for safety and operational excellence.



Mell Greenall

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2024 – 2029

Zero Damage. Zero Harm. Zero Disruption.

OUR VISION

To achieve zero damage to member/utility infrastructure resulting from construction and ground-breaking activities, preventing community disruption, and protecting people and property from harm.

OUR MISSION

- Develop and promote education and awareness to increase skills within the industry. Develop the standards that create an uplift in industry capability.
- Facilitate industry collaboration to identify improvement opportunities and increase efficient standardisation.
- Report on damage and its impacts, using data as a catalyst for education, awareness and change.
- Advocate with government and regulatory bodies for nationally consistent best practices.
- Develop technologies that increase the ease and efficiency of using utility location information, adapt to suit user groups.
- Focused promotion of BYDA services to maximise impact.





Five Pillars of Activity

1 Asset Information

- Provide useable and relevant plan information to users.
- Support asset owners to improve the quality of plans and supporting safety information.
- Be an industry leader on GIS, asset information – the digital evolution of the referral.

2 Advocacy and Regulation

- Advocate for damage prevention with government, regulators and peer bodies.
- Drive for consistent and effective regulation across the community and all states.
- Seek to balance asset owners and the ground breaker community needs as well as social expectations for long term and sustainable outcomes.

3 Damage Impact and Investigation

- Be the source of damage data reports and cost/disruption impacts (macro/micro model).
- Play a leading role in sharing learnings from damage investigation – seek learnings and be vehicle to share across industry to improve work practices.
- Advance position as industry leader.

4 Establishing Standards

- Set the standards for asset location and protection.
- Provide targeted awareness, engagement and continuing professional development (CPD) to higher risk users.
- Set standards for VET Sector (TAFE and RTO) training with industry supported learning requirements and content.
- Set the learning requirements and content.

5 Industry Leadership

- Engage all industry members to drive outcomes.
- Deliver a bi-annual national damage prevention conference.
- Continue sector specific forums.
- Establish project specific committees as needed to support projects.
- Develop a membership model to engage the construction/trade sector.



OUR MEMBERS

Partners in Prevention

About Our Members

We are proud to count 763 utilities, asset owners, and non-asset owners as members of Before You Dig Australia, marking a 10.3% increase in 2023-24. This growth reflects the increasing importance of preventing damage, harm, and disruption.

Being a BYDA member is being part of a national movement promoting safety and protecting people – and the vast and complex utility networks that service and support the operation of Australian industries, communities and households.

Through the centralised BYD referral service, the Australian public can easily request utility plans and safety information from our utility-owning members for any location across the country. In turn, asset-owning members receive critical information about who plans to work near their assets, what type of work is involved, and when it will occur.

The more asset-owners we welcome as members, the better the quality and completeness of utility network information we can provide the Australian public.

Our membership spans telecommunication, water, electricity, gas and oil utilities, as well as councils. We also include asset owners from government agencies and private enterprises across sectors such as automotive, education, medical, mining, and more.

BYDA also welcomes non-asset members who play a crucial role in supporting the BYD utility plan referral service and promoting safe digging practices within their industries. These members, who advocate for damage prevention, include organisations across excavation, utility locating, engineering, and architecture.

Supporting our members with innovation

During 2023-24, our asset-owning members responded to 2.5 million requests for utility information, issuing 14.6 million responses – equivalent to 40,000 responses per day.

In support of these millions of transactions, BYDA continues to drive efficiency and speed through ongoing service innovations and technological improvements. Two key features of the BYDA platform that are enhancing members' service delivery include:

- **BYDA Automate:** A strategic software tool that enables fast, seamless and cost-effective management of utility information. With a third of our asset-owning members already using this feature, we look forward to expanding its adoption in the coming year.
- **BYDA API:** A new application programming interface that allows users to submit bulk utility information requests. For the nearly 60 members who have adopted this feature, it has significantly reduced the costs of servicing requests.

Looking ahead, BYDA is committed to delivering further innovations to support our growing membership and continue protecting the Australian public.

Welcome to Our New Members

Growing the commitment to preventing damage, harm and disruption:

2H Resources Pty Ltd	Macquarie GeoTechnical Pty Ltd
Armidale Regional Council	Mainswest Pty Ltd
ASIBO Pty Ltd	Michael Adam Spruce
Australian Bay Lobster Producers	Noble Hill (Trading as Neuron)
Balonne Shire Council	NSW Department of Education
Bega Cheese	Orikan Australia Ltd
Bushfire Planning and Design Pty Ltd	Precision Pipe Technologies WA Pty Ltd
C.R.Kennedy & Company Pty Ltd	QPM Energy (MGP Upstream) Pty Ltd
Camlex Electrical	Rail Projects Victoria
Cape Training and Assessing Pty Ltd	Seymour Whyte
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	Shellharbour City Council
Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd	Shire of Morawa
Cumberland City Council	Springvale Mt Piper Power Station Water Treatment Facility
Darebin City Council	Stash Property Unit Trust
District Council of Ceduna	Sustainable Asset Co Pty Ltd
Edge Data Centres Pty Ltd	Talison Lithium Australia Pty Ltd
Eglinton Village Energy Pty Ltd	Team Group Pty Ltd
Empire Group (WA) Pty Ltd	Torque Skills Group Pty Ltd
Flyers Creek Wind Farm	Tracc Civil Pty Ltd
Goondiwindi Regional Council	Training Alliance Group Pty Ltd
Hindmarsh Shire Council	UGL Pty Limited
Iberdrola Australia Limited	Utility Mapping
Icon Water Limited	Ventia
Infrastructure Logic Pty Ltd	Wakefield Regional Council
JCI Group (A-Tech Group of Companies)	Wollondilly Shire Council
Leeton Shire Council	

BYDA Members – Prevention Champions

Members of BYDA understand the value and important of being a leader in utility damage prevention and safety. Being a BYDA member means:

- **Belonging** to a national movement promoting safety and preventing damage, harm and economic and social disruption.
- **Contributing** to the building the national library of utility plans and safety information
- **Prioritising** and providing timely and accessible utility information to the Australian public
- **Being informed** about planned works near their assets
- **Supporting** the national promotion and industry education of safe digging practices
- **Representing** a cross-section of industry, enterprise and government
- **Advocating and championing** safe digging and workplace safety





UTILITY SECTOR SAFETY FORUMS

New era in industry collaboration

The inaugural Utility Sector Safety Forums marked a significant advancement in BYDA's engagement with the utility sectors, representing a new era of collaboration and strategic dialogue. These forums provided a dedicated platform for professionals from each of the four utility sectors to convene, discuss, and debate the challenges and opportunities related to reducing network damage from their unique perspectives.

Each of the four events, spanning two days, was structured using a 'learning teams' approach. This method encouraged participants to think beyond conventional boundaries and embrace innovative solutions. A thank you must go to BYDA team members Jason Stanley and Justin Scotchbrook who facilitated the sessions.

Throughout these forums, participants were consistently challenged to address two critical problem statements:

- **Reducing Underground Near Misses/Incidents:** How can we work towards greater consistency with asset plans to minimise underground near misses and incidents?
- **Enhancing Safety Engagement:** What processes and tools (e.g. instructions, safety advice) can be used to engage third parties working around underground infrastructure to influence better safety outcomes?

While each utility sector faces unique challenges—such as the risks associated with high-pressure, high-voltage assets or the complexities of direct-buried fibre optic installation in the telco sector—the forums revealed significant commonalities across the industry. These insights underscored the reality that BYDA's success is intrinsically linked to the utility sector's willingness and ability to evolve—a task that is often easier said than done.

The challenges identified during these forums, though familiar to many, are critical to outline:

- **Legislative Barriers to Digital Innovation:** Policies like the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act and the Foreign Investment Review Board have been broadly interpreted by the industry to restrict the accessibility of digital asset location data to the construction sector, despite similar information being available via DBYD/BYDA PDFs since 1985.
- **Resource and Budget Constraints:** Many utilities face a lack of internal resources and budget to support GIS upgrades, which are essential for improving plan quality and the necessary changes to referral processes.



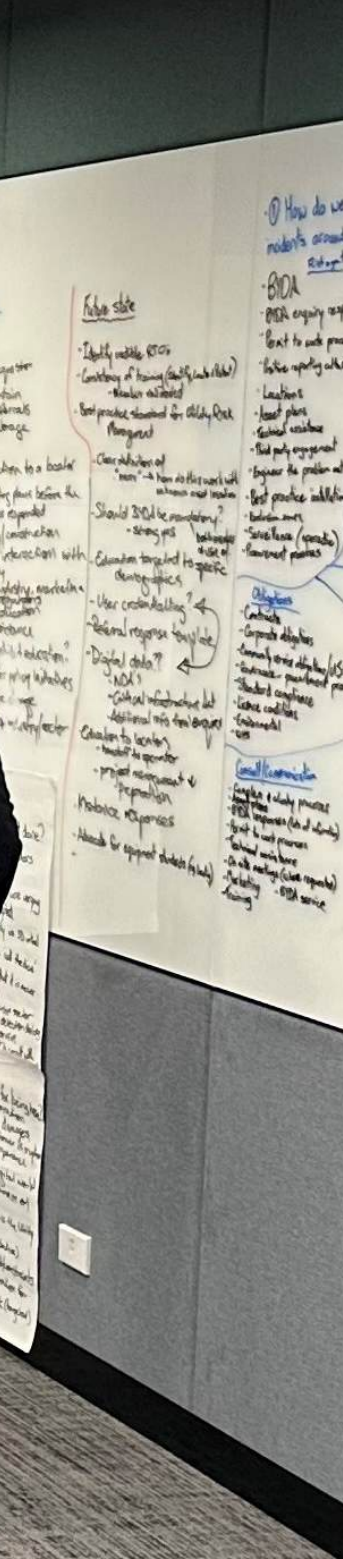
UTILITY SECTOR SAFETY FORUMS

- Insufficient Industry Data on Damages:** There is a notable lack of collective industry data on damages, which hinders the ability to drive change and investment in damage prevention. Many utilities do not adequately record third-party damages to their networks, often categorising them simply as faults.
- Lack of Harmonisation Across Sectors:** There is a significant need for harmonisation in areas such as terminology, symbology, and best practice guides across the utility sectors. Addressing this lack of harmonisation is critical not only for operational consistency but also to support the development of education within Australia's trade and qualification frameworks. Without a unified approach, it becomes increasingly difficult to create effective training programs that can standardise safe work practices across the industry.

These challenges, while formidable, present substantial opportunities for the industry to initiate meaningful dialogue and create pathways for change.

No single utility can address the root causes of damage on its own, and BYDA cannot achieve its goals without the active support and participation of the utility sector and the broader construction industry.

This positions BYDA as the logical leader and conduit for damage prevention efforts, poised to facilitate the essential conversations needed to drive industry-wide progress.



DAMAGE DATA DASHBOARD

Revealing the true story behind utility strikes

Recognising a critical gap in industry and community understanding of the impact of third-party damage on Australia's utility infrastructure, BYDA took the initiative to develop the country's first Damage Data Dashboard.

This innovative tool aims to capture and present high-level statistics on utility damage in an interactive format. At the time of this report, 15 of the larger networks across the water, telecommunication, gas, and electricity sectors contribute data to the dashboard. Although this may appear to be a small sample size, it has already revealed more than 13,000 utility strikes nationwide within a 12-month period—an alarming figure, with civil construction activities and the homeowner/DIY market emerging as the leading causes of damage.

The dashboard has become a vital tool for sparking deeper conversations, not only among our members but also across the broader industry. While homeowners are significant contributors to the damage statistics, it is crucial to note that most of their incidents involve domestic lead-ins, which are not included in the BYDA planning information provided by utilities.

In contrast, damages caused by the construction sector typically involve more critical infrastructure such as mains, distribution and transmission networks. This distinction underscores the need for tailored approaches to addressing damage prevention for homeowners versus the construction sector.



BYDA Damage Data Dashboard

For homeowners, who are primarily damaging domestic lead-ins not covered by utility plans, the question arises: what is the 'right' information to provide them through the referral system? Would a practical fact sheet on identifying lead-ins and safe hand-digging techniques be more effective than overwhelming them with extensive engineering plans and legal documents?

On the other hand, the construction sector is clearly communicating its need for better support from utilities. This includes:

- the demand for digital data that can be easily integrated into their design platforms
- more concise and straightforward safety information that can be shared across teams on-site
- improvements in the accuracy of location data through construction as-builts, survey information, and more.

The question then becomes: what is preventing us from delivering these improvements?

BYDA's Damage Data Dashboard is more than just a tool—it's a catalyst for industry-wide discussions on how to better serve different segments of the market and improve overall safety outcomes. Through continued collaboration and innovation, we can address these challenges and make significant strides toward reducing utility damage across the country.



OUR IMPACT

INDUSTRY EDUCATION AND SKILLS ADVOCACY

Championing damage prevention

One of BYDA’s core strategic priorities is damage prevention through comprehensive industry education and skills advocacy. When reviewing the achievements in education, it’s essential to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding efforts of our National Education Team.

Under the leadership of Jason Stanley, based in Queensland, this dedicated team—comprising Alison Sharkey (QLD), Leon Moriceau (NSW/ACT), Julie Mullett (WA), Harry House (SA/NT), Michael Welsh (former VIC/TAS), and new recruit Tom Herter (VIC/TAS)—continues to deliver our safety message with unwavering passion and commitment.

During the past 12 months, this team delivered more than 750 education presentations focused on damage prevention and utility plan reading, a new and popular addition to our national program. Informing and engaging a diverse audience, from apprentices to engineers, and site supervisors to surveyors, we reached approximately 15,000 participants.

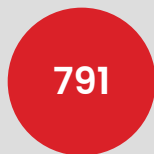
The team is constantly evolving our content and delivery methods to ensure that each presentation is inclusive, engaging, and impactful. This includes practical site walks, interactive Q&A sessions, and a healthy dose of humour—all while reinforcing the critical importance of safety. We are proud to report the feedback on our team’s efforts is consistently glowing.

Looking ahead, BYDA is committed to advocating for **Utility Risk Management** to become a core unit of competency embedded in all formal trade qualifications that involve ground-breaking activities. Achieving this goal will require extensive collaboration across the industry to ensure the required learning outcomes are developed, aligned with best practices and endorsed by the utility sector.

A significant challenge in this endeavour is the lack of harmonisation across the industry and between states and territories regarding what constitutes best practice. This issue is further complicated by the fragmented use of language and symbology on plans and safety advice. The upcoming 2024/2025 Utility Safety Sector Forums will focus on how the industry can begin to address these challenges to support improved educational outcomes.

BYDA remains committed to advancing safety and damage prevention through education, continuously striving to set the standard for excellence in this vital area.

BYDA National Education & Outreach Program Impact



Education presentations delivered



Industry attendees



Trade events and field days – reaching trade, construction, apprentices, DIY homeowners, agriculture



Successful launch of **Utility Plan Reading Program** focusing on deciphering and understanding plan legends, symbols, icons and general map reading



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Driving important behaviour change

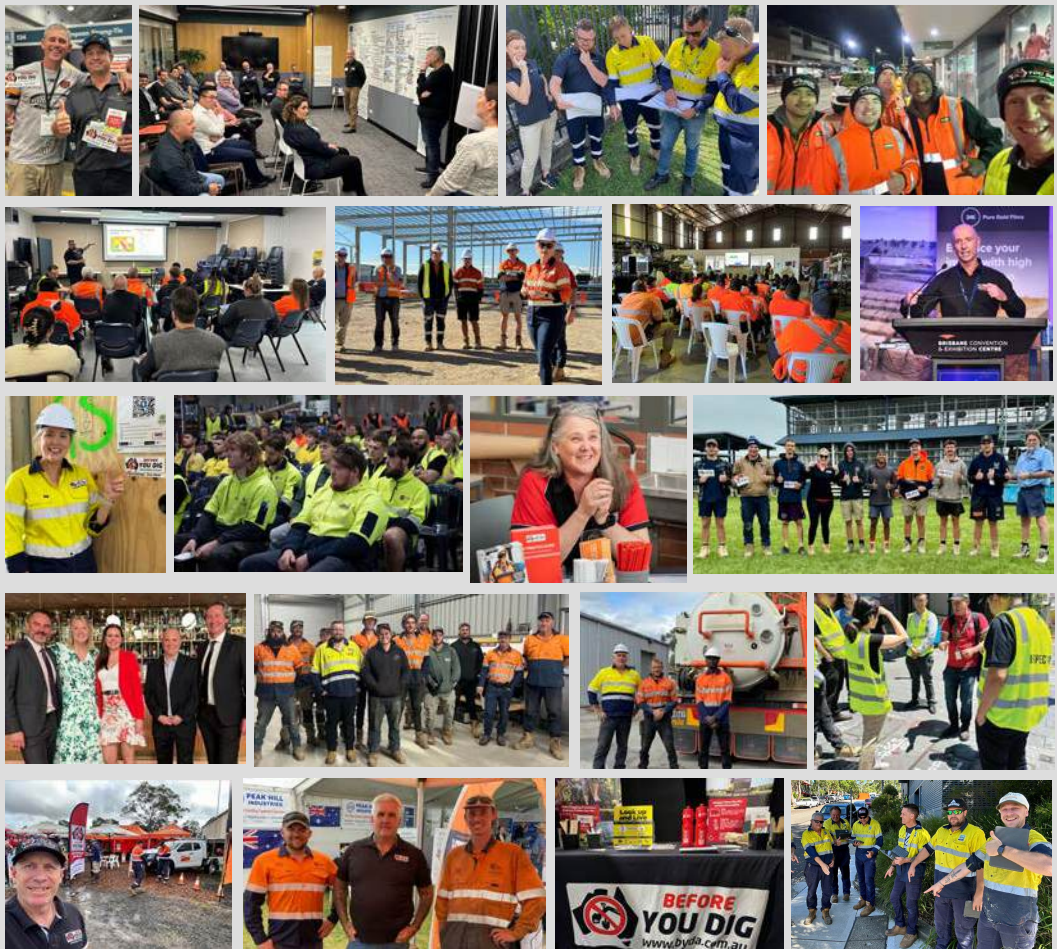
BYDA remains committed to investing in comprehensive community and industry marketing efforts to promote critical safety messages and drive important behavioural change. Our campaigns consistently remind the public to plan and stay vigilant when working near underground utilities.

Our commitment includes fostering strategic partnerships to amplify our safety message across sectors such as civil, building, landscaping, and asset management. The continued rollout of the 'Don't Dig Blind' campaign across multiple channels—including radio, digital, and print—has strengthened our reach throughout the year.

While measuring the direct impact of these campaigns can be challenging, our persistent presence across social media, radio, and TV ensures ongoing visibility for BYDA and reinforces our core message: don't dig blind.

On the ground, our efforts have been equally robust. We participated in more than 200 trade events and field days, engaging directly with tradespeople, DIY homeowners, and the agricultural community. These face-to-face interactions are invaluable, allowing us to tailor our messaging and foster meaningful educational conversations.

BYDA Outreach & Engagement





REFERRAL SERVICE INNOVATIONS

Evolving and advancing

This year marked a significant milestone for our referral system with the most substantial update to the user interface in more than a decade—the launch of the Collated Response Viewer.

This project was driven by user feedback, which consistently highlighted that receiving multiple emails from asset owners, often with upwards of 30 attachments, was overwhelming and difficult to manage across teams. At BYDA, we recognise the true value of our referral service lies in its ability to meet user needs by providing information in a way that is easy to access and use.

The Collated Response Viewer streamlines the user experience by consolidating all asset owner responses related to a specific job number in one place. Users can now download all attachments as a single PDF pack or a zip file, simplifying the process of managing and sharing critical information.

An additional feature allows users to share a link to the job details with other team members or contractors, provided they have a BYDA account. This enhancement further simplifies the sharing of safety information across all parties involved in a job.

The introduction of the Collated Response Viewer not only addresses immediate user needs but also provides a robust foundation for the ongoing evolution of our referral service. However, this advancement also means members using custom automation services, rather than BYDA Automate, will need to account for annual updates to APIs, some coding adjustments, or workflow changes to ensure their systems remain compatible with BYDA's evolving technology platform.

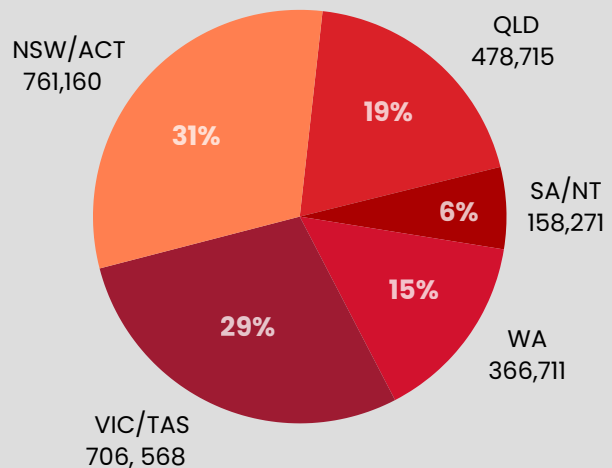
We will strive to provide at least six months' notice for any changes to allow for adequate planning and resource allocation. As an industry, it is important to normalise the expectation that BYDA's technology will undergo regular updates, and members should ensure resourcing contingencies are included in their annual forecasts to support these necessary adaptations.

For members using the BYDA Automate product, all updates related to the automation side of responses through the referral service will be managed by BYDA at no additional cost, minimising IT headaches. The only regular requirement is reviewing the information distribution via the service to ensure it continues to meet user needs effectively.

This ongoing commitment to adapting our services ensures that BYDA remains responsive to the evolving needs of our users, continually enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of our referral system.

Importantly, these efforts are always underpinned by our unwavering focus on safety, ensuring when it comes to working near utilities, the protection of both people and infrastructure is consistently prioritised.

Requests for Utility Plans by State



REFERRAL SERVICE INNOVATIONS

Advancing with BYDA Automate

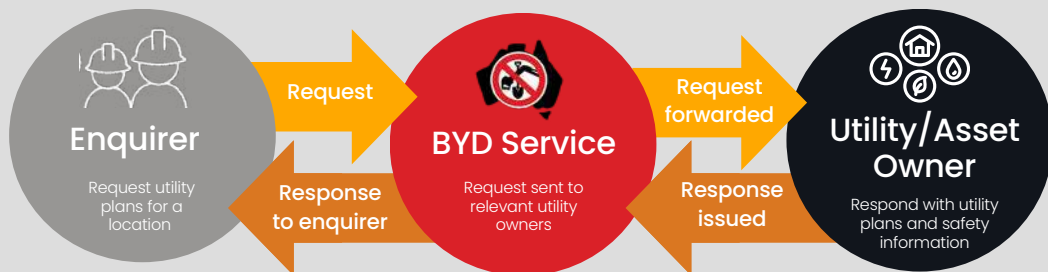
During the year, membership in **BYDA Automate** grew by 65, bringing the total to 250 members who have chosen this service to ensure their responses align with the evolving BYDA technology roadmap. By subscribing to BYDA Automate, members gain the peace of mind that all updates to the service are managed by BYDA at no additional cost, ensuring seamless integration with the latest technological advancements. This also guarantees their referrals are delivered to users in under 10 minutes, complete with an interactive web map view of their plans.

“This capability fosters a culture of proactive damage prevention rather than reactive damage repair, ensuring that safety is prioritised at every stage.”

BYDA Automate provides significant internal benefits as well. Members can issue different response packs based on internal rules, such as distinguishing between low-risk and high-risk assets, setting workflows for internal teams to review high-risk inquiries, or sending additional safety or permit information. This capability fosters a culture of proactive damage prevention rather than reactive damage repair, ensuring that safety is prioritised at every stage.

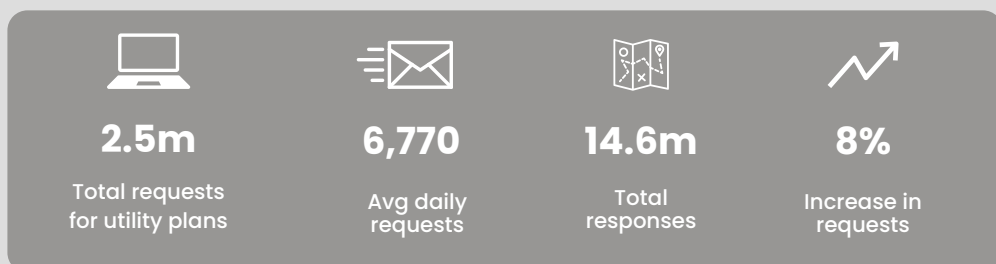
Moreover, BYDA is committed to maintaining the cost-effectiveness of the Automate service for our members. We have successfully demonstrated tangible cost savings for members who have switched from other industry providers, further enhancing the value and efficiency of our service.

How the BYD Service Works



Responses include: PDF plans, web maps and spatial data.

Utility Plan Requests 2023-24





ADVOCACY AND REGULATIONS

Fostering national collaboration

BYDA remains actively engaged with WorkSafe and SafeWork regulators across all states and territories to ensure our messaging is aligned with their guidelines on safe work practices around above ground and underground utilities.

Our collaboration has included providing training sessions for inspectors in **SafeWork NSW** and **WorkSafe QLD**, helping them understand utility plans and equipping them with the knowledge of what to look for and ask about during worksite inspections.

In Victoria, BYDA has taken a proactive role in promoting 'No Go Zones' in partnership with **Energy Safe Victoria (ESV)**, resulting in co-branded posters and machinery stickers that feature the BYDA, ESV, and WorkSafe logos together. This initiative further demonstrates our commitment to unified safety messaging.

In South Australia, we supported **SafeWork SA's** update of a series of safety videos focused on safe excavation practices, now available on the SafeWork SA website.

Additionally, in New South Wales, BYDA is represented on the **NSW Code of Practice for Working Near Overhead Powerlines Review Committee**. The committee is currently reviewing the code of practice and has expanded its scope to include guidelines for safe work near underground utilities.

In June, BYDA took a significant step forward in advocating for industry-wide safety education by submitting a detailed proposal to **BuildSkills**, a Jobs and Skills Council responsible for qualification reviews in the building and construction sectors.

Our submission formally requests the development of a Utility Risk Management unit of competency, which we believe should be mandatory for all trades and qualifications involving ground-breaking activities. While the development of targeted educational units is a long-term project, this submission is a crucial first step in initiating the process and underscores our commitment to advancing safety through education and regulation.

MEET THE BOARD

Dedicated to our members and innovation

Stuart Smith, BYDA Chair

A career in IT&T taught me outages were an unwanted and often preventable feature of operations. Of many possible causes, one of the most disruptive and time-consuming was underground cable damage. This triggered my initial interest in Before You Dig Australia. My passion was reinvigorated through the Transformation Project, which redesigned existing organisations into a single streamlined, customer-focused, agile entity. BYDA is now in a great position to deliver increasing value to its stakeholders, and I am pleased to have a small part in the exciting future journey.



Eric Bardy

As a long-term participant in the energy industry, I have always held safety as a core value, particularly as a senior leader in an organisation that owns and operates high-pressure gas pipelines. Protecting public safety is part of our purpose. When the opportunity to become a director arose, I saw it as a way to assist with safety across the gas pipeline sector and beyond. It is with great pride that I played a part in the organisation's transformation, improving the service's quality and efficiency. I look forward to being part of the next chapter of BYDA.



Glen Cook

I am an experienced Public Safety Specialist and Keynote Speaker. In 2020, I was named the Australian Safety Professional of the Year and recently awarded the 2022 Damage Prevention Hero of the Year at the Global Excavation Safety Conference in Tampa, Florida. Some of my impactful work includes the Look Up and Live app, an award-winning powerline mapping tool.

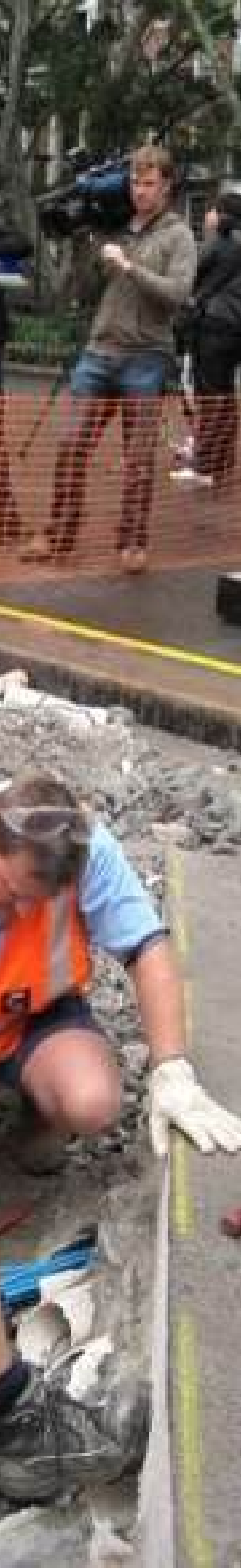


Mick Cooper

With 28 years in telecommunications, focusing on construction and maintenance, damage prevention has become central to my career. I've witnessed firsthand the impact of infrastructure damage on communities and businesses, leading me to join the BYDA board. This role allows me to leverage my expertise in asset protection, promote resilient strategies, and collaborate with like-minded professionals. Together, we aim to support BYDA members, businesses, and the public in safeguarding assets and ensuring safety nationwide.



I also prioritise safety across industries through clear and accessible presentations.



Tobi Lawrence-Ward

As CEO of Abaxa, a growing Subsurface Utility Engineering company in Western Australia, I bring over 20 years of experience in protecting people and assets through end-to-end project solutions. My leadership focuses on a shared vision, inspiring teams, and driving innovation with high standards of excellence. On the BYDA Board, I'm committed to advancing safety, diversity, collaboration, and industry leadership, pushing BYDA towards new heights of success.



Greg Rotheram

Much of my career has been involved in building and maintaining utility infrastructure. I have always been passionate about the health and well-being of people and protecting our assets. In recent years, I was given the opportunity to sit on the DBYD board and work with other like-minded people. One of my career highlights was being part of the Transformation Project team that designed and implemented the transformation from DBYD to the newly branded BYDA we see today. BYDA is a more collaborative, streamlined, and agile organisation that provides its members with an improved service that helps minimise asset damages and zero harm to people.



Darryl Worthington

Ensuring the safety of our community and protecting the assets of Australia's most critical infrastructure has been a priority for me through more than 12 years of construction and operations in the telecommunications industry. Experiencing the impacts on asset owners, builders, and affected stakeholders creates a strong passion to be part of the solution. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve on the board of an organisation with such a unique value proposition to the industry and our communities.





MEET THE BYDA TEAM

Driving collaboration, education and change

Our Corporate Leads and Education Team

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Before You Dig Australia

Annual Report
2023-24

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Zero Damage. Zero Harm. Zero Disruption.