



# BYDA Safety Alert!

The protection of our vital underground infrastructure and just as importantly the safety of individuals working around this infrastructure should be front of mind of all excavators.

The Before You Dig service is an extremely important part of safe excavation and Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) exists to provide not only this service, but to promote key safety messages relating to working around underground pipes and cables. Our vision is for zero damage to assets and zero harm to the community.

For more information, or to lodge a free enquiry, visit BYDA at [www.byda.com.au](http://www.byda.com.au)

## Always Follow the 5Ps of Safe Excavation

To avoid damage to infrastructure and risking the safety of your workers, BYDA recommends all excavators follow the 5Ps of Safe Excavation. Please promote the 5Ps throughout your organisation on a regular basis.



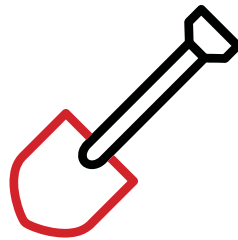
### **Plan**

Plan your job. Use the BYDA service at least one day before your job is due to begin, and ensure you have the correct plans and information required to carry out a safe project.



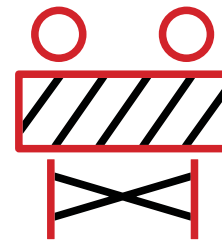
### **Prepare**

Prepare by communicating with asset owners if you need assistance. Look for clues onsite. Engage a Certified Locator.



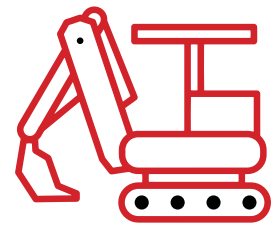
### **Pothole**

Potholing is physically sighting the asset by hand digging or hydro vacuum extraction.



### **Protect**

Protecting and supporting the exposed infrastructure is the responsibility of the excavator. Always erect safety barriers in areas of risk and enforce exclusion zones.



### **Proceed**

Only proceed with your excavation work after planning, preparing, potholing (unless prohibited), and having protective measures in place.

## Free BYDA Awareness Sessions

BYDA provides FREE education sessions for team members of any organisation involved in working around underground infrastructure. Sessions can be delivered online or face-to-face and are perfect additions to toolbox meetings or your regular training programs. We offer two presentations: our BYDA general awareness and safe excavation presentation and our new utility plan reading course. We can tailor sessions to your organisation's needs!

Scan the QR code to book a session today.



[www.byda.com.au](http://www.byda.com.au)

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## Certified Locators

Using a certified locator is vital when working around underground networks. Underground networks are complex and require expert knowledge to interpret information, identify and locate components, pothole underground assets for validation and safely work around assets without causing damage. Certified locators are assessed by industry experts to ensure they have the expertise, the appropriate equipment and approval to access the Telstra network.

When you lodge your BYDA enquiry, the details of a number of local certified locators will be provided. Alternatively, you can search all locators [here](#).

## Be Aware of AS5488

Australian Standard 5488 provides a national standard format for recording subsurface utility information. It provides quality levels, ranging from A to D, for classifying how accurate your information is on the location of underground infrastructure. Getting free plans from BYDA is only the first step in safe excavation. Plans are quality level D under the standard and it is important to move up through the quality levels to reduce the risk of impacting underground infrastructure. Quality level C can be achieved by using the plans and conducting an onsite survey, quality level B by engaging a certified locator and using electromagnetic locating equipment to determine relative spatial position and quality level A (the best!) is validating the location by careful hand digging or hydro excavation and physically sighting the asset.



More information can be found in the [BYDA Best Practice Guidelines](#).

## Don't forget Regulation 304 within the Work Health and Safety Act regulations

### Regulation 304

*"Before commencing excavation work, a person conducting a business or undertaking with management or control of the workplace must take all reasonable steps to obtain current underground services information that relates to the workplace and areas adjacent to the workplace. The person must provide this information to all persons carrying out the excavation work and ensure it is readily available for inspection under WHS Act until the excavation is completed or, if there is a notifiable incident relating to the excavation, 2 years after the incident occurs."*

