



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



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.

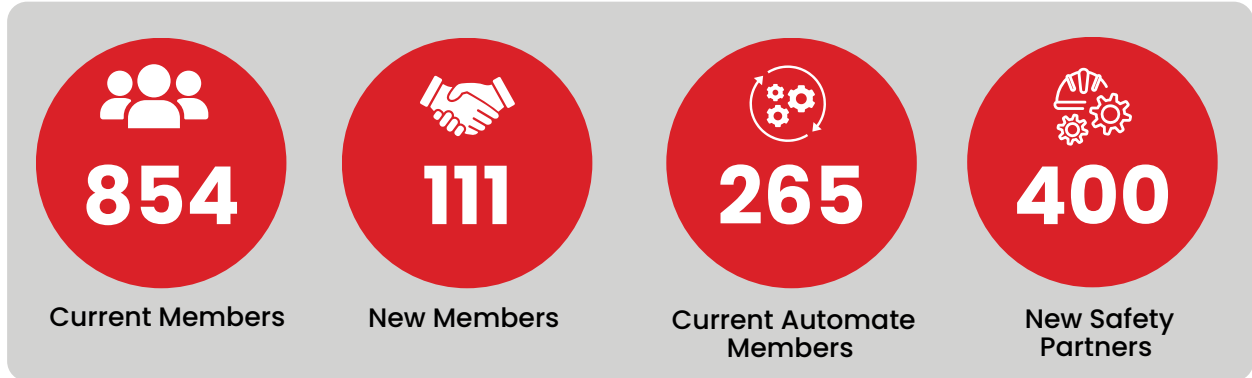


CONTENTS

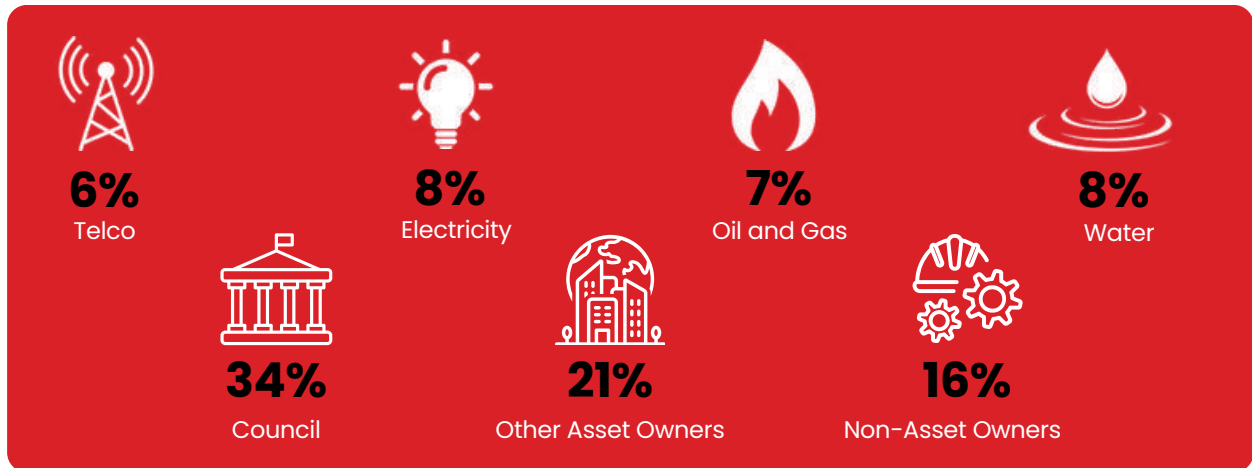
A Year of Impact	4
Our Achievements	
• Chair Report	7
• CEO Report	9
• Our Strategic Priorities	12
• BYDA Membership	14
Our Impact	
• Delivering on our Strategy	17
Our People	
• Meet the Board	21
• Meet the BYDA Team	23

A YEAR OF IMPACT

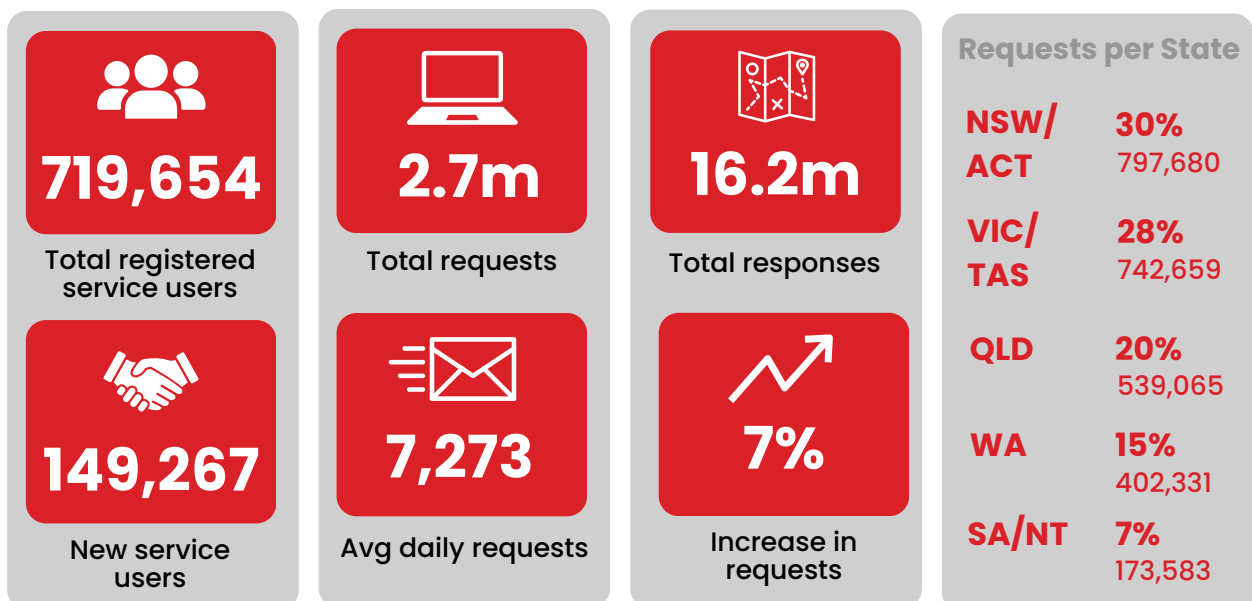
BYDA Membership



Who are BYDA members?



Utility Plan Requests



A YEAR OF IMPACT

BYDA Education & Outreach Program

995

Education
presentations
delivered



842 Face-to-Face
153 Online

28,015

Industry
attendees

100

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

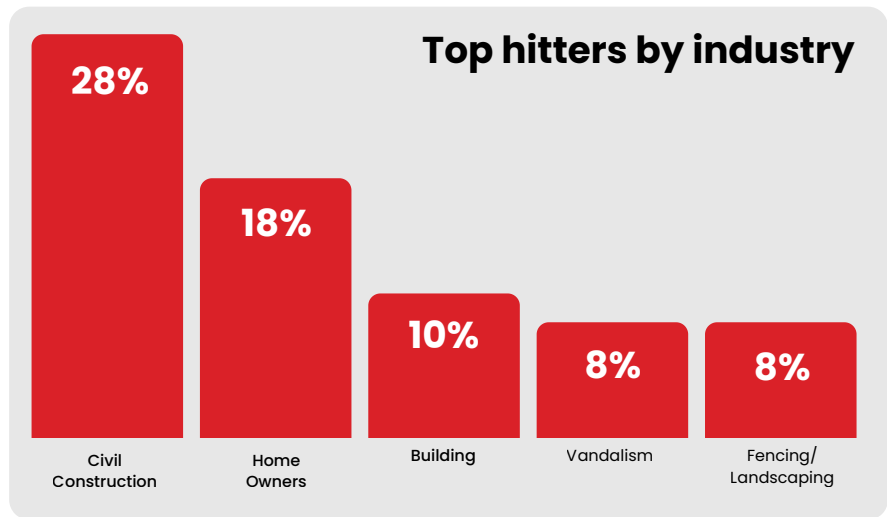
BYDA Outreach & Engagement



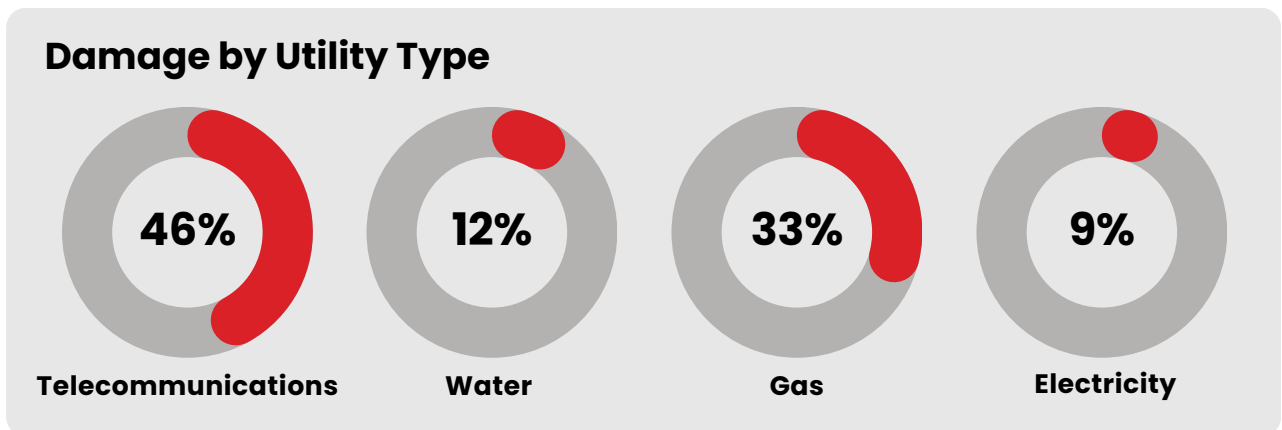
What we know about utility damages, so far...

Number of Annual Utility Strikes

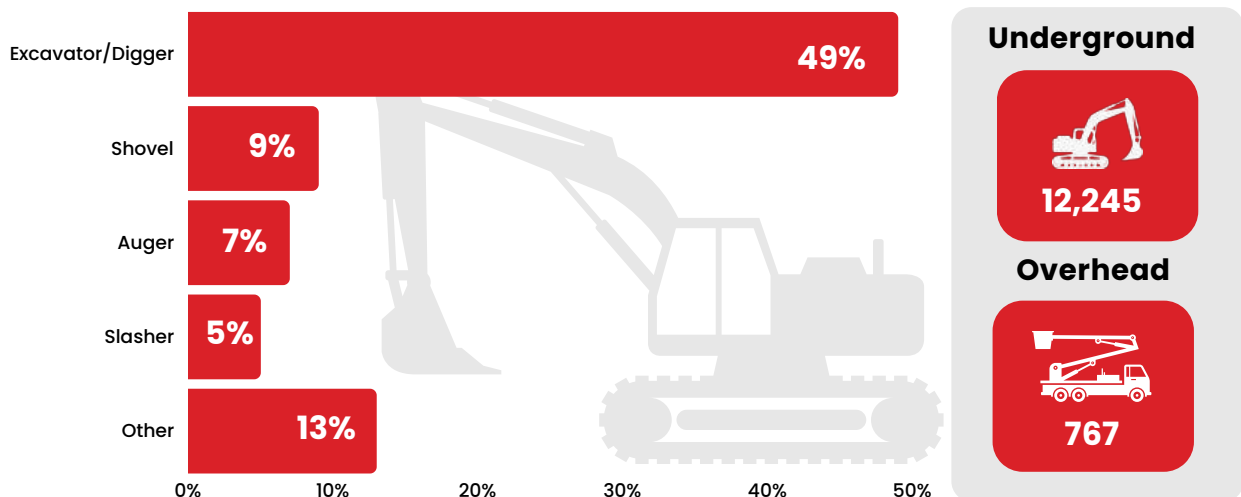
More than
13,000
strikes per year



Damage by Utility Type



Damage by Equipment



CHAIR REPORT

Stuart Smith

Driving Change, Delivering Safety

As I reflect on FY25, I would firstly like to thank you, the members of BYDA for your ongoing support. By virtue of your membership, you support BYDA's core service and core purpose of zero harm, zero damage, zero disruption. By virtue of your active engagement in BYDA initiatives, you help shape the future and expedite change. Fundamentally BYDA exists for its members. It is exciting to report that during FY25 we saw an increased level of engagement from our members, real interest in BYDA strategic initiatives, and a genuine curiosity about the challenge of change. This makes a significant difference, thank you for your contribution.

Strategic Direction

The complexity of the industry within which we operate in is increasing. Population growth, housing demand, productivity drivers and public servicing requirements places an increased burden on existing infrastructure and drives the need for new infrastructure. Industry restructuring over decades has brought many new companies and new workers. These workers in planning and construction have greater expectations of the quality, immediacy and user friendliness of information critical to their role. Accelerating technology changes such as AI and robotics are starting to have profound impact on roles and how work is performed. Public service expectations have changed with above ground and underground infrastructure damage no longer an annoyance, but material disruption to community and business essential services. Economic research conducted by BYDA in FY25 starkly revealed the true direct and indirect costs of asset damage, a conservatively estimated \$4.6 billion annually. The nation faces a productivity challenge; specific to our industry we see infrastructure projects delayed, and costs increased due to poor quality asset information.

Globally there is determined action in other geographies to address these challenges. Digital utility platforms already exist that provide real time overlayed asset information. New technology is being used to rapidly locate assets in large geographic areas to build accurate datasets. Artificial Intelligence is being used to increase the value of traditional datasets. As built feedback loops are used to continuously improve the accuracy of asset location data. Governments have responded by setting information quality level standards, sharing the responsibility for data quality with both the construction industry and asset owners. Detailed training standards have been developed to assist workers and managers who require to plan for and conduct work around assets. Economic research has demonstrated the positive ROI benefits of Subsurface Utility Engineering.

It is clear globally that the economic case for digitising underground asset data is overwhelmingly positive, supported by both international and Australian evidence. BYDA is uniquely positioned to lead this change in Australia, to coordinate the industry, detail the evidence, demonstrate the benefits and explain risk mitigation.

Positively, BYDA is already on the journey. FY25 has seen notable strategic achievements such as the incorporation of Look Up and Live (LUAL) that broadens BYDA's focus to above ground assets, publishing of economic research that revealed the true cost of asset damage in Australia and the launch of the BYDA Digital Utility Portal proof of concept.



Financials

While the future opportunities are exciting, it is important that BYDA maintains on a secure financial footing. It is pleasing to report that for FY25 BYDA remains in a stable cash positive position. Prudent financial management and a focus on revenue diversification has generated the necessary cash flow and reserves to support BYDA's operations and strategic investments. This has also enabled BYDA to keep member referral fees consistent over the last three years despite CPI increases. The BYDA Board has endorsed the audited financials.

Board Development

With the strategic challenges front of mind, the BYDA board recognises its responsibility to ensure that the Board is appropriately resourced to meet the governance requirements of today and tomorrow. The board has adopted a skills matrix to annually assess director skills, identify gaps and required actions. The skills matrix is actively used as the baseline for director recruitment, identifying required skills, industry representation, constitutional elements, leadership qualities and gender/diversity aspirations. During FY25 newer directors have undertaken AICD training to meet BYDA skills matrix defined standards. The BYDA board has also committed to a regular program of internal and external board performance reviews.

The BYDA board has also commenced a review of its key governance documents to ensure they are fit for purpose. An Advisory Council review conducted in collaboration with the regional Advisory Councils identified a set of recommendations resulting in the redrafting of the Advisory Council Charter. The Board is reviewing the constitution which was originally drafted during transformation (regional/national consolidation) that established BYDA. The current constitution contains some elements no longer relevant (relevant to transformation) as well as some potentially limiting factors to director talent acquisition. Outcomes of the review will be shared with members during calendar 2026.

“As the industry evolves, so must we. That's why our Board is actively building the skills, structures, and standards to meet tomorrow's challenges.”

Looking Forward

As we enter the second year of the BYDA five-year strategy, we remain committed to the strategic direction, pleased with the progress, realistic about the challenge ahead, and genuinely inspired by the possibilities. Change in this industry is a significant challenge, it requires our members to lean in and it requires BYDA to be a strong advocate. However, the safety of people around assets, the disruption of essential services, and the economic costs to members and the nation demands it.

Stuart Smith





CEO REPORT

Mell Greenall

From Insight to Impact: BYDA's ongoing strategic delivery

As CEO of Before You Dig Australia, my focus is firmly on the future – on ensuring BYDA is not just responsive to industry needs, but leading the conversation around safety, innovation, and digital transformation in the utility sector.

The pace of technological change, particularly the rise of AI and data-driven solutions, demands that we confront some uncomfortable truths: the industry cannot continue to rely on static PDFs as our primary form of communication. If we want to remain relevant and effective, we must evolve – towards a digital-first approach that supports more accurate data sharing, better risk assessment, and stronger feedback loops.

BYDA's role is not only to keep pace with change, but to help lead it.

Leading with Purpose: Our Team and Strategic Direction

Before reflecting on our strategic milestones, I want to recognise the exceptional BYDA team. Across Australia, they consistently deliver on our mission – going above and beyond to support our members, educate the industry, and innovate our services. Their dedication and belief in our shared vision is the engine behind our progress.

This year, we brought fresh insights to an old problem. Our economic research revealed the scale of the damage dilemma we're tackling: a conservative estimate of \$4.6 billion in annual flow-on costs to the economy from utility strikes, with every dollar spent on repairs by utilities generating up to \$111 in downstream impacts. These are not abstract figures – they represent real disruptions, real risks, and real losses.

That data formed the backbone of one of BYDA's most ambitious initiatives to date: the BYDA Digital Utility Portal. Through the delivery of Stage 1 of our Proof of Concept, we have begun demonstrating the enormous benefits of digitised utility data. According to our research, such advancements could save the economy up to \$782 million annually.

While we acknowledge some members remain cautious of digital innovation, the overwhelming support from engineering, infrastructure, and construction partners reinforces that this is the right direction. I want to personally thank Telstra, Jemena Gas, Endeavour Energy, and Ausgrid, our early champions of change – for providing GIS data that has enabled practical testing of this digital approach.

Innovation in Asset Management

The Digital Utility Portal remains a key strategic focus under our Asset Management pillar for 2025/26. We are now preparing Phase 2, which will incorporate broader user feedback and enhanced functionality. We will also continue to advocate at both state and federal levels for the government support needed to realise the full potential of this platform as the future backbone of Australia's service to support safe work near utilities.



Scaling Impact Through Education

BYDA continues to drive safety awareness through unprecedented engagement in industry education. This year, our team delivered 995 sessions to more than 20,000 professionals – a record that highlights our deep and growing connection with the construction and trades sectors.

To expand our reach, we launched accredited CPD courses via the Pointsbuild platform. These on-demand modules extend our education efforts and provide certified learning pathways aligned with professional CPD requirements. It's another way we're meeting people where they are – and ensuring managing utility safety is second nature.

Membership Growth and Digital Adoption

BYDA's membership base continues to grow, with 111 new members joining this year, bringing our total to 854. Through a new partnership with isseekplant, we also welcomed 400 safety partners from the excavation sector. These combined numbers bring our total membership to well over 1000 partners committed to utility safety.

The uptake of our BYDA Automate solution also continues to rise, with 265 members now using it to streamline their referral process.

Our referral volume grew by 7%, reaching more than 2.65 million requests in 2024–25, with New South Wales and Victoria leading activity. New user registrations also increased significantly, with 149,267 new users lodging an enquiry reflecting the expanding trust and reliance on BYDA's services.

Enhancing User Experience

This year, we proudly assumed full ownership of the award-winning Look Up and Live platform from Energy Queensland. This trusted overhead asset safety tool is now fully embedded within BYDA's referral service, with users now able to seamlessly search the overhead assets impacted by their dig site. Additional enhancements are underway, including a full upgrade to the latest Esri technology in the coming year. We acknowledge Energy Queensland's commitment to safety and their efforts to develop "Look Up and Live" and we are grateful for the trust they have given BYDA to further develop the platform and extend its reach across the country.

We launched our new information portal, that allows us to curate content for our 3 major demographics – Homeowner, Commercial and Member. Once you log in you can access our research reports, the damage data dashboard and helpful safety resources and more.

The next 12 months will see a significant redevelopment of the BYDA mobile app, aimed at aligning with evolving user expectations and providing seamless, on-the-go access to utility information nationwide.

Driving Collaboration Across the Industry

Our Utility Sector Safety Forums remain a vital channel for industry-wide dialogue. These forums bring together leaders across electricity, gas, water, and telecommunications to align on safety priorities and develop shared solutions.

We also expanded our outreach to the construction sector, co-hosting targeted workshops with the Civil Contractors Federation in QLD, WA, and SA. These sessions ensure we listen to – and learn from – the people most impacted by utility data accessibility on the ground.



Meeting the Challenge of Change

As we reflect on the year, the message is clear: relying solely on PDFs to communicate critical underground utility information is no longer sustainable. Every day, we send out up to 12,000 plan packs in paper form – without user credentialing or security screening. And yet, digital sharing – underpinned by cybersecurity protocols and credentialled user access – is viewed with scepticism.

It's time to reframe that narrative.

Our sector must stop viewing digital as a threat and instead embrace it as an opportunity. BYDA is ready to lead this shift – by industry, for industry – ensuring data is shared securely, efficiently, and in a way that improves safety outcomes.

I remain confident that by embracing innovation and continuing to challenge outdated norms, we will fulfil our vision: zero damage, zero harm, and zero disruption. Together, industry can build a safer, smarter, more resilient future

“We can't solve tomorrow's problems with yesterday's tools. BYDA is ready to lead our industry into a secure, digital future—where safety, data, and innovation work hand in hand. Every day, we send out over 12,000 utility plans in paper form—without a single security check. We must ask ourselves: is a secure digital platform really the threat, or is it the solution?”

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.



BYDA MEMBERSHIP

Partners in Safety

A Growing Network, A Shared Commitment

With 854 members and counting – a 12% increase from 2023/24. Before You Dig Australia is proud to represent a national community united by a common goal: preventing damage, protecting lives, and minimising disruption to the essential services that keep our nation running.

Being a BYDA member means being part of something bigger. It's a commitment to safety, accountability, and the safeguarding of Australia's vast and complex underground infrastructure. Our members are not just participants; they are partners in prevention.

The Power of Connection

At the heart of BYDA is our centralised referral service, which connects those planning excavation works with asset-owning members across the country. Every time a referral is lodged, our system facilitates a critical exchange of information, ensuring that the right people have access to the right plans, at the right time. In 2024/2025, our members issued a combined effort of 44,573 plans per day.

This two-way exchange helps:

- The public and industry avoid utility strikes
- Utilities know who is working near their assets
- Everyone contribute to a safer, more efficient infrastructure environment

The More Members, the Stronger the System

The value of BYDA's service grows with every new member. The broader our membership base, the more complete and accurate the data we provide to users across Australia. That's why growing our network is not just a milestone – it's a mission.

A Diverse and Inclusive Membership

Our members include asset owners from across telecommunications, electricity, water, gas, oil, and local government, as well as state and federal agencies, education providers, healthcare networks, mining companies, and major infrastructure stakeholders. We also proudly welcome non-asset members; including excavators, utility locators, engineers, and architects, who play a vital role in promoting safe digging practices and supporting our national service.

Together, our members form the backbone of Australia's utility safety ecosystem. Welcome to our new members in 2024/2025.



Welcome to Our New Members

Growing the commitment to preventing damage, harm and disruption:

AAA Safety Training and Consultancy Pty Ltd	East Coast HDD
Access Training Centre	Electel Resources
ACOR Consultants Pty Ltd	Enviropacific Services
AD Design and Consulting	Forum Engineering Services Pty Ltd
Adelaide Airport Limited	Found It Down Under Pty Ltd
ADZ Energy Pty Ltd	Genium Civil Engineering
Agilitus Pty Ltd	Golden Plains Wind Farm
APCO Service Stations Pty Ltd	Goulburn Murray Water
ArchEdge Design	Goyder Wind Farm 1B Pty Ltd
Arden Building Maintenance Pty Ltd	Greenhill Water Supply Co Ltd
ASV Sales & Service Pty Ltd	Gridvision Pty Ltd
Aurora Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd	Hopkins Consultants PTY LTD
Australian Group Training Pty Ltd	iFind Pipes N Cables Pty Ltd
Australian Locating Services	Insight Underground Pty Ltd
Australian Survey Solutions Pty Ltd	International Bible Students Association
Australian Utility Solutions Pty Ltd	Ipsum Structures Pty Ltd
Axiom Spatial Pty Ltd	iseekplant
Ballarat Locating Services	JCO Consultants Pty Ltd
BPA Operations Pty Ltd	Keppel Bay Sailing Club
Brushwood Fencing Australia	KI Training & Assessing Pty Ltd
Burton and Field Pty Ltd	Klein Tools Australia
C&A Surveyors	KLM Spatial
Campbells Locating & Excavating Services	Mance Arraj Engineering
Certloc Global	Mark and Pauline M Anderson
Civil Design Pty Ltd	Meliora Engineering
Clarke Creek Energy Pty Ltd	Millar Merrigan
CMS Surveyors	National Fire Ants Eradication Program
Colliers International Engineering & Design WA Pty Ltd	Next Engineering
Collins Williams Consulting	Norton Survey Partners
Cook Shire Council	Ocean Reef Renewable Energy Pty Ltd
CPB Contractors	Orange City Council
CrownCo P/L	Orion Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd
CSI Concrete Scanning & Investigation Pty Ltd	Pitt & Sherry Operations
Dalton Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd	Provac Australia Pty Ltd
DD Property Co Pty Ltd	Renewal SA
Delnorth Pty Ltd	Rio Tinto Weipa
Demeza Civil Consulting Pty Ltd	Riverlee Caruso Epping Pty Ltd
Department of Resources	Rose Atkins Rimmer (infrastructure) Pty Ltd
DFRNT Group Pty Ltd	Rutherford Electrical Engineering Services Pty Ltd
Digga Australia	SMK Land Surveyors
Discovery Resorts - Wilpena Pound	Spiire
DJK Electrical and Air Pty Ltd	Stefani Group Pty Ltd
DRB Consulting Engineers	Stuart Bowling Building Design
Dulacca Energy Project Co Pty Ltd	Supagas Pty Ltd



Welcome to Our New Members

Growing the commitment to preventing damage, harm and disruption:

TA Project Services	Vactech Pty Ltd
TAFE NSW	Veolia Recycling & Recovery Pty Ltd
Tamworth Regional Council	Vision Surveys Pty Ltd
Taylor & Cullity Pty Ltd	Wallace Design Group Pty Ltd
TCP Training	Westend Market Hotel
Tenac Solutions Pty Ltd	WGAVIC PTY LTD
The Trustee for Harley Survey Group Unit Trust	Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd
The Trustee for the 3E Trust	Youdale Strudwick & Company Pty Ltd (YSCO Geomatics)
The Tubes Pty Ltd/TradeCloud	Zenviron Pty Ltd
Titlecheck Pty Ltd	Zhinar Architects
Total Property Developments (TPD)	
uDrew Pty Ltd	
Utility Locating Services	

BYDA Members – Champions of Prevention and Progress

Being a member of Before You Dig Australia means more than joining an organisation; it means stepping up as a leader in utility damage prevention and safety. BYDA members are united by a shared commitment to safeguarding people, infrastructure, and communities. Together, we:

- **Promote** a national culture of safety to prevent damage, harm, and costly disruptions.
- **Contribute** to the development of Australia's most comprehensive access service for utility plans and safety information.
- **Enable** timely and accessible information sharing, empowering safer digging decisions across the country.
- **Stay informed** about planned works that may impact critical infrastructure.
- **Support** nationwide education and awareness campaigns for safe excavation practices.
- **Represent** a diverse network spanning utilities, government, and industry.
- **Lead** by example, advocating for best practice and continuous improvement in utility safety.

BYDA members are not just participants, they're prevention partners. Helping shape a safer, smarter, and more resilient future.



DELIVERING ON OUR STRATEGY

Progress across BYDA's Five Pillars

Over the past 12 months, Before You Dig Australia has shifted decisively from being “the place you get plans” to an industry leader driving data quality, regulatory reform, measurable damage reduction, standard setting, and whole-of-sector collaboration. The following sections outline how we advanced each of our five strategic pillars and where we’re heading next.

Asset Information

Goal: Make utility data more accurate, more accessible, more secure—and ultimately digital-by-default.

What we set out to do

- Develop the BYDA Digital Utility Portal Proof of Concept (POC) to demonstrate the benefits of machine-readable, standardised, and secure utility data sharing.
- Build the business case for digitisation by quantifying the true economic cost of utility strikes and the savings from better data.
- Reduce friction for members and users by improving automation, APIs, and plan management tools.

What we achieved

- Successfully delivered Stage 1 of the Digital Utility Portal POC, ingesting GIS data from early member champions (including Telstra, Jemena Gas, Endeavour Energy and Ausgrid) and testing AI-led digitisation of legacy PDF plans to establish a digital baseline.
- Economic analysis confirmed the conservative cost of utility strikes at \$4.6B annually, and that improved data standards and digitisation could save up to \$782M per year – validating the strategic importance of this pillar.
- Launched and expanded BYDA Automate and the Bulk Referral API, with more than 50 subscribers now halving their processing costs and improving turnaround times.
- Grew referrals by 7% to 2.65M+ requests, with NSW and VIC leading the country, demonstrating the continued reliance on BYDA as the national gateway to utility asset information.

What's next (2025/26)

- Phase 2 Pilot of the Digital Utility Portal, scaling the POC to more networks, more users, and deeper functionality (user credentialing, permissioning, auditability, and performance telemetry).
- A structured advocacy campaign with state and federal governments to gain support for the national development of the portal to become the future backbone of BYDA's services and support
- Continued focus on cyber security uplift, modern identity management and tiered access controls to move the sector safely beyond PDFs.



PROGRESS ACROSS BYDA'S FIVE PILLARS

Advocacy & Regulation

Goal: Create the policy, regulatory and funding environment that enables data sharing, digitisation, and consistent safe-digging practice nationwide.

What we set out to do

- Use our economic evidence base to drive policy discussions with state and federal governments.
- Advocate for minimum digital data sharing requirements and clearer governance over asset information access, use, and protection.
- Position BYDA as the implementation backbone for any future national utility data reforms.

What we achieved

- Elevated sector conversation around data governance, cyber standards, and tiered access models, shifting the debate from “if” to “how” digitisation can be safely delivered.
- Supported industry alignment through Utility Sector Safety Forums and targeted workshops with the construction sector (QLD, WA, SA), ensuring user needs inform policy and platform design.

What's next (2025/26)

- Targeted ministerial advocacy programs at state and federal levels to secure policy endorsement and funding mechanisms for digitisation.
- Development of a model regulatory and policy framework to support structured, credentialled digital access to utility data (including auditability, liability clarity, and privacy-by-design).
- Continued evidence-led advocacy, including periodic publication of economic and safety impact metrics.

Damage Impact & Investigation

Goal: Quantify, analyse and learn from damage to drive measurable reductions in harm, disruption, and cost.

What we set out to do

- Build a credible, consistent national damage-impact evidence base that the sector can use to make better decisions.
- Use that data to drive targeted interventions; education, standards, technology—and to evaluate what works.
- Support members to develop useable safety shares to embed learning loops.

What we achieved

- Delivered economic modelling that put a conservative dollar figure on the national cost of utility strikes and highlighted the extreme multipliers (up to 111x for telco) borne by the broader economy.
- Strengthened collaboration with construction sector stakeholders to surface real-world failure points: data quality, plan readability, contact feedback loops, and the gap between plan issue and excavation timing.

What's next (2025/26)

- Publish annual industry damage insights, focused on actionable learnings and targeted mitigation strategies.
- Embed investigation and feedback loops into BYDA tools so lessons flow back into standards, education, and digital services.

PROGRESS ACROSS BYDA'S FIVE PILLARS

Establishing Standards

Goal: Move the sector toward consistent, practical, and enforceable approaches to utility data, safe-digging practice, and competency.

What we set out to do

- Codify minimum data standards (format, attributes, metadata) for digital utility information.
- Promote competency and training standards that lift the baseline in plan reading, risk assessment, and excavation around assets.
- Ensure BYDA's tools and services are aligned with, and reinforce, industry standards.

What we achieved

- Developed the Digital Portal POC around a standards-first architecture; rationalising multiple GIS formats and PDF digitisation into a single, queryable data layer.
- Launched accredited CPD courses (via Pointsbuild), creating a structured pathway for professionals to meet annual education requirements aligned to safe-digging competencies.
- Embedded Look Up and Live (overhead safety) into the BYDA referral experience and committed to upgrading it to the latest Esri stack, ensuring consistent, modern access to overhead and underground risk information.

What's next (2025/26 and beyond)

- Publish the BYDA Utility Portal learnings report for consultation with members and government – creating a pathway to further expand and scale the portal beyond the phase 1 and 2 pilots.
- Work with industry to finalise the "BuildSkills" project to develop the traineeship for professional locators as well as the skill sets for Ground Disturbers.





PROGRESS ACROSS BYDA'S FIVE PILLARS

Industry Leadership

Goal: Be the convenor, catalyst and conscience of the sector—setting the agenda, sharing evidence, and pushing for zero damage, zero harm, zero disruption.

What we set out to do

- Lead national conversations on data, safety, digitisation and accountability.
- Expand our reach and impact through education, forums, and partnerships.
- Strengthen our brand as Australia's central coordination point for safe utility excavation.

What we achieved

- Delivered 995 education sessions to over 20,000 professionals, with overwhelmingly positive feedback—cementing BYDA as the trusted source of practical safety guidance.
- Grew our membership base to 854, with 111 new members and 400 safety partners onboarded via our partnership with iseekplant.
- Ownership of Look Up and Live, demonstrating BYDA's capacity to steward and scale critical national safety infrastructure.
- Embedded a digital-first, evidence-led narrative into every pillar of our work—transitioning BYDA's identity from a referral service to a strategic industry leader.

What's next (2025/26)

- BYDA Utility Safety Conference 2026 and expanded member-led sector forums to accelerate consensus-building and shared action.
- A national communications campaign to reframe digital data sharing as a safety enabler, supported by strong cyber and credentialing protocols.
- Continued investment in team capability, analytics, and platform maturity to keep BYDA ahead of the curve and keep the sector moving with us.

The Road Ahead

Our five pillars are mutually reinforcing: better asset information enables smarter investigation and impact measurement; robust standards and regulation make digitisation safe and sustainable; and industry leadership brings everyone to the table to deliver it together.

The challenge now is not to prove whether digitisation is needed—the economics, the safety outcomes, and the operational reality are clear. The challenge is to implement it well, securely, and at scale. BYDA is positioned and committed to lead that transformation, by industry, for industry.



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.



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.



Saizad Ali

With more than 35 years in the utility industry across Australia and New Zealand, my expertise revolves around asset management solutions, its use in field operations, and digital transformation. I have had the privilege to drive several initiatives in my career, enhancing systems, processes, and data quality through new technology solutions. I'm excited to contribute to BYDA's digital transformation. I aim to leverage digital visualisation technologies to simplify asset information, improve accessibility, industry safety, standardisation, and collaboration, supporting BYDA in shaping the future of utility damage prevention.





MEET THE BYDA TEAM

Driving collaboration, education
and change

Our Corporate Leads and Education Team

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Before You Dig Australia

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