



# Digital Utility Information as a Productivity Driver in Queensland

BYDA Submission August 2025



Zero damage - Zero harm - Zero disruption

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# Supporting Queensland Construction Productivity

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## Accelerating construction productivity through digital utility data reform in Queensland

Queensland's infrastructure pipeline is expanding rapidly, driven by the demands of housing growth, the net zero transition, and major projects such as Brisbane 2032. Yet a persistent barrier continues to undermine project productivity, safety, and cost-efficiency: fragmented, slow, and manual access to underground utility data.

Each year, more than 20,000 incidents of accidental damage to buried infrastructure occur nationally, resulting in over \$5 billion in avoidable delays, disruptions, and repairs – costs ultimately borne by governments, industry, and the community. For Queensland, this inefficiency directly impacts the delivery of housing, transport, and critical infrastructure projects.

Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) proposes a practical solution: the Digital Utility Portal (BDUP). This secure, cloud-based platform provides planners, engineers, and contractors with a single point of access to digital, machine-readable utility data, well before breaking ground. Already proven through pilots and industry testing, the portal represents a scalable reform with the potential to transform how Queensland coordinates and delivers its infrastructure pipeline.

This submission outlines how formal adoption of BDUP, supported by non-financial government actions, can unlock significant productivity gains, improve safety outcomes, reduce delays, and build workforce capacity. It also demonstrates how BDUP maps directly to the Commission's preliminary recommendations, offering a clear, actionable pathway to drive Queensland's construction productivity.

**We invite the Queensland Productivity Commission to recognise the BDUP as a cross-cutting reform that can deliver safer, smarter, and more cost-effective infrastructure outcomes for Queensland, while setting a national benchmark in digital infrastructure innovation.**

**Mell Greenall**  
CEO, Before You Dig Australia





# Our Submission to QPC

## About Before You Dig Australia

Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) is a national not-for-profit organisation committed to protecting Australia's essential infrastructure and promoting safe excavation practices. Operating the country's primary referral service for underground utility information, BYDA connects contractors, planners, and homeowners with asset owners to prevent accidental strikes on buried infrastructure.

By providing details about underground utilities—such as gas, water, electricity, and telecommunications—before excavation or construction begins, BYDA reduces the risk of accidents, prevents costly service disruptions, and ensures compliance with legal requirements. This work is critical given the scale of the challenge: BYDA's 2024 study, *Economic Assessment of Utility Strikes in Australia*, found more than 15,000 incidents of underground damage occur each year, costing the economy over \$4.6 billion. These inefficiencies undermine productivity and strain infrastructure budgets. Crucially, they are largely preventable through better information and coordination.

Alongside service provision, BYDA plays a national leadership role in:

- **Promoting** damage prevention education and awareness
- **Advocating** for safer, smarter infrastructure delivery
- **Championing** innovation in underground asset visibility
- **Collaborating** with utility owners, governments, and industry regulators

## BYDA's Submission

BYDA submits this report in response to the Queensland Productivity Commission's call for stakeholder feedback on its interim report into construction productivity. Our submission does not seek to revisit the issues raised in the interim report, but instead provides a clear, evidence-based pathway for how the Commission's recommendations can be realised in practice.

At the centre of our submission is the BYDA Digital Utility Portal (BDUP): a proven, industry-developed, and not-for-profit digital platform that provides secure, standardised access to underground utility data. The BDUP directly supports the Commission's reform priorities by delivering measurable benefits across procurement efficiency, land use regulation, modern construction methods, workplace safety, labour productivity, and utility connections.

In summary, our submission:

- Recommends formal adoption of BDUP as a state-recognised planning and design tool.
- Outlines how BDUP can be embedded into government procurement, planning approvals, and MMC guidelines.
- Proposes piloting BDUP in Queensland's capital works pipeline, including Brisbane 2032, as a flagship example of digital reform in action.

## BYDA recommendations to drive QLD construction productivity

The Queensland Productivity Commission's interim report highlights the need for practical, cross-cutting reforms to lift construction productivity. The BDUP offers exactly such a pathway: a proven, industry-developed and not-for-profit digital platform that provides secure, standardised access to underground utility data. By addressing procurement efficiency, land use regulation, modern construction methods, workplace safety, labour productivity, and utility connections, BDUP aligns directly with the Commission's reform priorities.

**To drive Queensland construction productivity, BYDA recommends the Commission include adoption of the BDUP as a specific recommendation in its final report to the Queensland Government.**

This recommendation can be delivered through three practical actions:

- 1. Formally support the rollout of the BYDA Digital Utility Portal (BDUP) as a state-recognised planning and design tool.**

Practical Government Actions:

- 1.1. Issue a Ministerial Statement or include BDUP in a Digitally Enabled Infrastructure Strategy**, aligning with Queensland's *Digital Economy Strategy*<sup>1</sup> that emphasizes accelerating digital transformation across government.
- 1.2. Incorporate BDUP in the Queensland Government Enterprise Architecture (QGEA)** framework to ensure structured and consistent planning of digital investments; this also supports interoperability and strategic alignment across agencies.
- 1.3. Encourage BDUP uptake through the Digital and ICT Strategic Planning Framework**, mandating agencies to adopt digital tools like BDUP within their ICT plans and investment proposals.
- 1.4. Direct state-owned utilities to sign data-sharing agreements to provide structured, machine-readable data** compatible with BDUP, in line with digital infrastructure best-practice and SOCI standards.
- 1.5. Recommend privately-owned utilities sign data-sharing agreements to provide structured, machine-readable data** compatible with BDUP, in line with digital infrastructure best-practice and SOCI standards.

- 2. Integrate BDUP use into government procurement, planning approvals and MMC guidelines.**

Practical Government Actions:

- 2.1. Amend procurement policies** under QGEA's *Procurement and Disposal of ICT Products and Services Policy (IS13)*, requiring BDUP integration or utility data compatibility in tender evaluations.
- 2.2. Embed BDUP use in Modern Method of Construction (MMC) guidelines**, complementing Queensland's target 50% of government projects to adopt MMC by 2030.
- 2.3. Link BDUP to major project assurance frameworks**, such as the Major Projects Assurance Framework (MPAF), to ensure that utility coordination is a deliverable for Olympic infrastructure planning.
- 2.4. Promote BDUP usage in agencies already actively employing MMC**, like QBuild, which operates Rapid Accommodation & Apprenticeship Centres (RAACs) and aligns with MMC capacity building across the state.
- 2.5. Support digital-by-default integration and digital twin initiatives with BDUP embedded as a subsurface data layer**, leveraging QSDI's SEQ Digital Twin initiative<sup>2</sup> that emphasizes BIM and infrastructure planning efficiencies.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0035/469637/digital-economy-strategy-action-plan.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0035/469637/digital-economy-strategy-action-plan.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/projects-and-programs/seq-digital-twin>

### 3. Pilot BDUP within Queensland's capital works pipeline, including Brisbane 2032.

Practical Government Actions:

- 3.1. **Select high-value capital works projects, such as Olympic construction precincts, as BDUP pilot sites**, mirroring QGEA's approach to ICT investment trials.
- 3.2. **Coordinate pilots through the Department of State Development**, embedding BDUP outcomes into the *Digital Investment Governance Framework*<sup>3</sup>, ensuring measurable improvements in planning efficiency and risk reduction.
- 3.3. **Direct privately-owned utilities in pilot areas to sign data-sharing agreements** to provide structured, machine-readable data (following recommendation 1.5)
- 3.4. **Track pilot outcomes using the Digital Projects Dashboard**, which publicly highlights government digital initiatives and performance.
- 3.5. **Include BDUP in workforce capability building**, integrating portal use into Construction-GIS upskilling programs or digital training at RAACs and QBuild facilities to embed digital practices across trades and agencies.

## Summary: BYDA Recommendations

Including adoption of the BDUP as a specific recommendation in its final report to the Queensland Government through three practical actions:

1. Formally support the rollout of the BYDA Digital Utility Portal (BDUP) as a state-recognised planning and design tool.
2. Integrate BDUP use into government procurement, planning approvals and MMC guidelines.
3. Pilot BDUP within Queensland's capital works pipeline, including Brisbane 2032.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/493446/DIGF-v.1.0.1.pdf](https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/493446/DIGF-v.1.0.1.pdf)



## What is the BYDA Digital Utility Portal (BDUP)

Simply put, the BDUP is a digital map of the underground. It is a secure, GIS-enabled digital platform providing planners, designers, engineers, and project managers with machine-readable underground utility data well before construction begins. It is truly innovative, moving the industry from fragmented PDF plans to a single, standardised digital interface.

The BDUP is the first step towards the ‘Economic Assessment of Utility Strikes in Australia’ report<sup>4</sup> recommendation to implement a digital asset register with minimum data standards, shown in the paper to potentially result in a 17% reduction in utility strikes and \$782 million in annual savings. The BDUP already exists as an industry co-designed product that has been tested in Australia, with technical feasibility, cyber security and national level economic and productivity benefits proven (*see more detail on BDUP itself in appendix A*).

The BDUP is a key innovation considering the current state of the system. At present the management of underground utility risk in construction is fragmented and paper-based. The BYDA referral service provides plans from utilities in PDF format, which must then be manually interpreted, collated, and converted for design and planning purposes. This creates inefficiencies and hampers productivity in an industry already pressed for resources. The utility data currently received is often incomplete, inconsistent, and out of sync with modern digital workflows. As a result, project teams face delays, costly rework, and heightened WHS risks when underground utilities are struck or mismanaged. BDUP is the first step towards resolving these productivity barriers.

Unlike overseas jurisdictions, where governments have fully funded the development of underground utility data platforms, the BDUP has been led and co-designed by BYDA in partnership with industry stakeholders: utilities, technology providers, and planners. BYDA has taken on the innovation role that governments have had to play elsewhere, proving that industry collaboration in Australia can deliver world-class solutions without direct government subsidy.

BYDA is not seeking financial investment from the Queensland Government. Rather, we are seeking formal endorsement and coordination support to integrate the already existing platform into major infrastructure workflows, starting with Brisbane 2032. In providing formal endorsement to the BDUP, Queensland has the opportunity to lead the nation in setting a digital benchmark for improving productivity through utility coordination.

## How the BDUP will drive Queensland construction productivity

The BDUP is an industry-researched and not-for-profit motivated solution that will boost construction productivity in Queensland. Adoption of the BDUP has the potential to cut delays, reduce costly rework and redeploy scarce skilled engineering labour towards higher-value tasks.

Early pilots show average savings of 9.6 work hours per planning and design request for underground data, equivalent to 1.3 working days saved with the BDUP. This increases to 2.4 working days saved for requests in construction delivery. Using conservative estimates, at scale, this equates to freeing around 1.5 million engineering hours annually in Queensland, the equivalent of around 780 full-time engineers, or up to \$120 million in annual productivity uplift.

<sup>4</sup><https://www.spatialsource.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/BYDA-Economic-Assessment-of-Utility-Strikes-in-Australia-2024.pdf>

These gains extend beyond labour. BDUP directly reduces utility strikes, cutting injuries, stoppages, and costly service disruptions, while improving WHS outcomes across the sector. For major infrastructure programs, such as Brisbane 2032, the impact is even greater: analysis suggests BDUP use could save over 880,000 hours annually across the Olympic precinct, worth approximately \$56 million. These savings demonstrate how a single, low-cost reform can deliver outsized value to the state's infrastructure pipeline.

These are exactly the types of improved productivity outcomes the QPC interim report calls for: practical and cross-cutting reforms that strengthen procurement, streamline regulation, support MMCs, easing labour shortages and improving utility connections. BDUP can deliver across all these priority areas, making it uniquely aligned to drive Queensland construction productivity.

Queensland is especially well-positioned to implement the BDUP. With the scale of construction activity expected in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032, and with the productivity challenges outlined in the QPC interim report, there is a huge opportunity to set a national benchmark in digital infrastructure delivery. Formal adoption of the BDUP would not only unlock productivity and safety gains in the state but also provide a leading model for other states and territories to follow.

#### At a Glance: BDUP Benefits for Queensland

- **System-wide reform:** Single digital platform delivering benefits across procurement, regulation, MMC adoption, labour markets, and utility connections.
- **Labour productivity:** Up to 1.5 million engineering hours freed annually across Queensland, equal to 780 full-time engineers or \$120 million in productivity uplift.
- **Workplace safety:** Fewer utility strikes, reduced injuries, less downtime, and stronger WHS outcome.
- **Brisbane 2032 impact:** Over 880,000 hours saved in the Olympic precinct alone - equivalent to \$56 million in productivity gains.<sup>5</sup>

The following section maps the benefits of BDUP directly against the Commission's preliminary recommendations and reform directions, then talks specifically to the potential benefits for Brisbane 2032, showing how one proven innovation can advance multiple policy goals simultaneously.

#### Priority A: Government Procurement and BDUP

The QPC's interim report highlights the need for value for money, transparent governance, better sequencing, and more efficient tendering processes. It also reflects concerns around outdated and cumbersome contracting arrangements. Greater innovation, particularly through digital technologies, is a critical enabler of efficiency.

The BDUP aligns directly with these priorities by providing a practical digital reform that improves procurement outcomes. By making utility data available in a standardised, digital format from the outset, BDUP delivers benefits across project planning, governance, and competition.

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<sup>5</sup> All figures from BYDA internal analysis of the BYDA Digital Utility Portal Proof-Of-Concept. Full Report to be published in Spring 2025





Specifically, BDUP:

- gives government and contractors clearer visibility of underground risks, supporting better project sequencing and helping rationalise programs by avoiding unnecessary scope or costly rework.
- Provides an industry-proven digital technology ready for immediate adoption, as highlighted by the Building Products Industry Council's call for greater digitisation.<sup>6</sup>
- Strengthens governance by creating a consistent, standardised way to assess utility risk across tenders and enabling cost-benefit analysis based on hard data such as labour hours saved.
- Supports a whole-of-life value focus in procurement by reducing delays, disputes, and duplication while delivering measurable labour productivity gains.
- Levels the playing field for smaller firms by providing access to the same digital-ready information that larger firms already invest in, fostering fairer competition.
- Addresses barriers to persistent "digital by default" contracting by fostering collaboration through shared datasets, reducing risk allocation challenges, and supporting more performance-based approaches.

Overall, BDUP exemplifies the type of digital reform that makes procurement more efficient, transparent, and competitive, directly aligning with the Commission's reform directions.

### **Priority B: Land use regulation and BDUP**

Utility coordination is often a hidden barrier within land use regulation and can hinder approval processes and increase uncertainty. BDUP offers a direct, ready-to-use solution to begin resolving this.

By digitising underground utility information that is currently fragmented or delivered in static PDF plans, BDUP provides consistent, standardised data that supports better planning outcomes. This reduces uncertainty for planners and developers while lowering compliance burdens.

Specifically, BDUP:

- Provides a centralised, accurate view of underground assets, streamlining development approvals and reducing delays, rework, and disputes caused by inconsistent data.
- Complements digital permitting systems by embedding utility data into assessments, making approvals faster and more transparent.
- Ensures land earmarked for higher-density development can be made construction-ready more quickly by improving the speed and coordination of utility servicing.
- Builds community confidence by underpinning zoning and land supply reforms with transparent and reliable infrastructure planning.

In practice, BDUP directly supports the QPC's land use reform agenda by embedding accurate, standardised subsurface data into planning systems: helping Queensland deliver housing and infrastructure more efficiently and predictably.

### **Priority C: Regulation of building activities and BDUP**

BDUP welcomes the Commission's position on the call for removing barriers and adopting consistent, neutral regulation of MMC, to increase MMC uptake. BDUP directly supports this by providing accurate, machine readable digital utility data that modular and offsite construction methods depend on. By ensuring that digital-ready data is available upfront, BDUP:

- Enables faster and more reliable integration of services into prefabricated designs.

<sup>6</sup> Building Products Industry Council, C-006, *Construction Productivity Inquiry – comment only submissions*.

- Reduces uncertainty that might otherwise delay or prevent the adoption of MMC.
- Levels the playing field for firms of all sizes by making high-quality, digital inputs accessible across the industry.

BDUP also has a critical role in workplace health and safety (WHS). Its core purpose is to reduce utility strikes through better planning and design, making underground information more accurate and easily accessible. This directly contributes to safer worksites and fewer costly disruptions. Specifically, BDUP:

- Minimises risks by reducing the likelihood of utility strikes, lowering injuries, project stoppages, and associated costs.
- Supports WHS reform aims to improve enforcement, harmonise reporting, and reduce compliance burdens.
- Provides a pathway to enhanced safety management as it evolves into a living data log, with AI-supported assessments to improve transparency and proactive risk management.

Together, these functions position BDUP as a powerful enabler of both innovation in building methods and stronger safety outcomes, aligning closely with the Commission's reform directions.

### **Priority D: Labour markets and BDUP**

The QPC's interim report highlights labour shortages and declining productivity as core challenges in Queensland's construction sector. While many of the Commission's recommendations focus on training, licensing, mobility, and migration, BDUP addresses these issues earlier in the process – by unlocking existing workforce capacity through better data and planning.

Research from BDUP pilots shows substantial productivity gains. On average, planners and designers saved 9.6 hours per request (1.3 working days), while construction delivery teams saved 18.3 hours per request (2.4 working days). At scale, full adoption of BDUP across Queensland could free around 1.5 million engineering hours annually, the equivalent of 780 full-time engineers, representing up to \$120 million in annual productivity uplift.

In practical terms, BDUP acts as a potential labour multiplier:

- Reduces wasted effort by eliminating duplication and manual rework of fragmented utility data.
- Cuts delays and costly stoppages linked to missing or inaccurate information.
- Allows engineers, planners, and construction teams to focus on high-value tasks that directly deliver housing and infrastructure.

By improving efficiency across design, engineering, and construction, BDUP helps Queensland get more output from its existing workforce. This aligns closely with the Commission's emphasis on boosting productivity, not simply expanding headcount.

### **Priority E: Other matters, including utilities, and BDUP**

BDUP directly delivers on the QPC's utility connection priorities by addressing the core barriers of fragmented information and poor coordination. Through its digital platform, BDUP:

- Digitises and standardises utility asset data across providers.
- Improves collaboration between utilities, government, and developers.
- Ensures faster, more reliable, and transparent utility connections.
- Reduces delays and bottlenecks that currently undermine housing and infrastructure delivery.
- Provides a practical case study of how digital reform directly supports the QPC's objectives on coordination and timely servicing of developments.





This focus on utility data demonstrates how BDUP can transform one of the most persistent sources of inefficiency into a streamlined, predictable process that accelerates infrastructure and housing delivery in Queensland.

#### **Case Study: Brisbane 2032 – Why Adopt BDUP Now**

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be one of Queensland's most significant infrastructure undertakings, with thousands of planning and excavation requests in a concentrated precinct. Without reform, utility coordination will be a major source of risk, delay, and additional cost.

Adopting BDUP changes that picture:

- **Scale of activity:** over 90,000 planning requests in the Olympic Precinct Area in 2024.
- **Productivity gains:** Using BDUP would save over 880,000 planning and engineering hours annually - equivalent to 470 full-time engineers.
- **At 50% adoption:** BDUP still delivers over 440,000 hours saved, equal to 235 FTEs.
- **Financial impact:** Between \$42.33m – \$71.57m in efficiency gains.

This case demonstrates why adopting BDUP should be a priority for Queensland: it de-risks delivery of the Games, ensures taxpayer funds are used efficiently, and sets a national benchmark in digital infrastructure management. Adopting BDUP now ensures the Commission can recommend a reform with immediate, visible impact.

#### **Overall productivity benefits from the BDUP**

BDUP directly delivers on many of the Queensland Productivity Commission's priorities by driving measurable productivity gains across procurement, planning, labour markets, and utility connections. It transforms utility data from fragmented, PDF-based information into a consistent, digital platform that reduces project delays, streamlines approvals, and cuts wasted work hours.

##### **Labour productivity benefits:**

- Pilots show BDUP saves an average of 9.6 hours per design request.
- Survey respondents reported up to 18.3 hours saved in construction delivery.
- At the conservative 9.6-hour figure, this equates to:
  - 1.5 million engineering hours freed annually in Queensland
  - Equivalent of 780 full-time engineers redeployed to higher-value tasks
  - Up to \$120 million in annual productivity uplift

These are precisely the types of efficiency gains the QPC has called for: boosting productivity without expanding workforce numbers.

##### **Wider economic and social benefits:**

- Improves safety and reduces utility strikes, lowering project damage, injuries, and costly disruptions.
- Supports environmental outcomes by minimising unnecessary excavation and rework.
- Streamlines collaboration across government, utilities, and industry with faster access to reliable data.
- Reduces the risk of stalled or abandoned projects due to poor information.

##### **System-level benefits:**

- Strengthens governance, compliance, and transparency across the infrastructure pipeline.
- Enables better resource allocation and improved economic outcomes at a national level.
- Offers a future-proof, scalable solution with AI-enabled feedback loops to continuously improve outcomes for government, industry, and communities.

## **Conclusion: Adopting BDUP will boost QLD construction productivity**

BYDA is uniquely positioned as an independent, not-for-profit organisation that already operates the national referral service for underground utilities. By expanding this role through the Digital Utility Portal, BYDA can directly contribute to Queensland's productivity, safety, and infrastructure goals.

Endorsing BDUP in the QPC's final report would be a practical, evidence-based step toward safer worksites, faster housing delivery, and smarter infrastructure investment. BDUP represents the type of low-cost, high-impact digital reform that Queensland needs to meet its construction and housing challenges, and to deliver a lasting legacy for Olympic 2032 and beyond.

By formally recognising BDUP, the Commission can recommend a specific, actionable, and cross-cutting reform that drives productivity across all priority areas: procurement, regulation, labour markets, and utility connections. This is a unique opportunity for Queensland to lead nationally in digital infrastructure innovation.

**BYDA welcomes the opportunity to further discuss this submission in detail.**

### **Contact**

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# **BYDA Mission**

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To achieve zero damage to 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**

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Detail on the BYDA Digital Utility Portal

The BYDA Digital Utility Portal has been developed alongside our technology partners, Reveal NZ. Since the development of the portal began in later 2024, BYDA has engaged with over 1000 industry members through testing, surveys, interviews, webinars, and conferences. This includes inviting over 100 early testers to the proof-of-concept of the portal.

### Cyber Protocols

The BDUP has been built with data and cyber security foundational to the development, with many security protocols in place to protect asset owner data. BYDA has also explicitly confirmed compliance with Critical Infrastructure Act. Other cyber protocols built in include, but are not limited to, the following:

- All data is hosted exclusively within Australian-based Azure infrastructure.
- Data at rest is encrypted using 256-bit AES encryption.
- Finalising ISO/IEC 27001 certification.
- Documented Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan.
- Strict access controls, with SSO and MFA. All users are validated and subscribe to the platform.
- Use controls including request area size restrictions (20h/a) and AS5488 colours and quality levels.

### Technical Capability

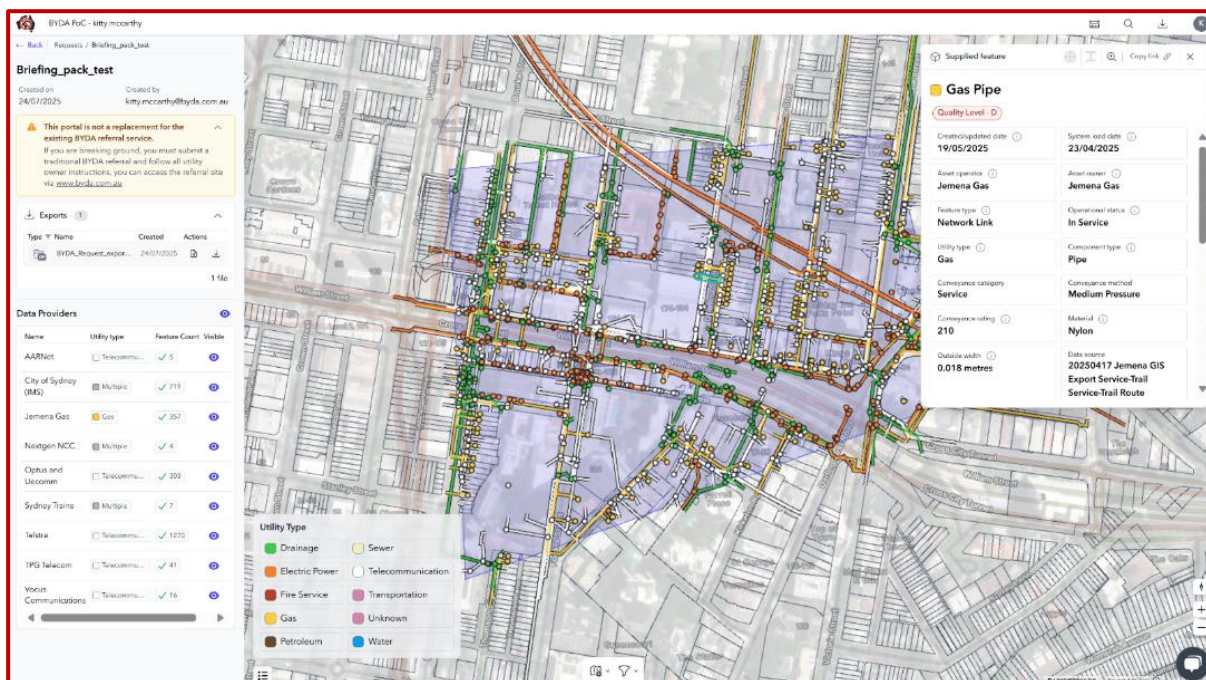
- Scalable architecture: expandable from precinct pilots to statewide and national deployment
- Interoperable: compatible with BIM, GIS, and digital twin platforms, including Queensland's SEQ Digital Twin
- Machine-readable standards: supports API integration and standardised formats for planning workflows
- User-driven improvements: regular updates based on industry feedback

### Future Roadmap

Upcoming enhancements include ingesting as-built drawings, integration with permitting systems, smartphone access, asset risk ratings, additional basemaps, tailored user views, collaboration tools, and direct API links to the BYDA referral system. Further features will be guided by industry feedback.

### Visual of the BDUP

The following screenshot shows the BDUP in its current state, including a number of changes developed following industry feedback such as using AS5488 colours, feature tables and usability updates. Access to the pilot is available via limited tokens; please contact BYDA to request access.



## Appendix B: Mapping QLD Reform Priorities and BDUP Benefits

QPC Reform Area	How BDUP Maps and Adds Value
<b>Government procurement:</b> project selection, procurement policy, contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides digital utility data upfront to improve early-stage risk visibility.</li> <li>• Helps government and contractors better stage and prioritise projects.</li> <li>• Demonstrates how non-infrastructure digital solutions can improve outcomes and reduce costs.</li> <li>• Strengthens governance by offering a consistent, transparent way to assess utility risk across tenders.</li> <li>• Future AI capability will support quicker, more transparent tender assessments.</li> <li>• Enhances value-for-money by reducing delays, disputes, and rework.</li> <li>• Levels the playing field by giving SMEs the same digital-ready data that large firms already invest in.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use regulation:</b> planning, approvals, zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides consistent, standardised underground utility data that reduces uncertainty for planners and developers.</li> <li>• Integrates digital-ready data into planning frameworks, lowering compliance burdens.</li> <li>• Streamlines development approvals by reducing delays from missing or inconsistent data.</li> <li>• Supports digital permitting and more transparent assessment processes.</li> <li>• Ensures land earmarked for higher density can be construction-ready faster through improved utility servicing.</li> <li>• Accelerates housing delivery and builds community confidence in development.</li> </ul>
<b>Building activity regulation:</b> MMC and workplace safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplies accurate, machine-readable utility data essential for modular and offsite construction.</li> <li>• Enables faster, more reliable integration of services into prefabricated designs.</li> <li>• Underpins wider adoption of modern construction methods by providing digital-ready inputs.</li> <li>• Directly improves workplace health and safety by reducing utility strikes.</li> <li>• Lowers stoppages and costs associated with WHS incidents.</li> <li>• Future AI-driven features will enable proactive safety management and creation of a living utility data log.</li> </ul>
<b>Labour markets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlocks existing workforce capacity, reducing pressure on training and migration needs.</li> <li>• BDUP pilots show average savings of 9.6 hours per planning/design request (1.3 days) and 18.3 hours per construction delivery request (2.4 days).</li> <li>• At scale, 100% adoption could save 1.5 million engineering hours annually in Queensland – equivalent to redeploying 780 full-time engineers.</li> <li>• Generates up to \$120 million in productivity uplift each year.</li> <li>• Acts as a labour multiplier by reducing wasted effort, rework, and costly stoppages.</li> <li>• Allows existing workers to focus on higher-value tasks, boosting sector productivity without expanding headcount.</li> </ul>
<b>Other: Utility connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digitises and standardises utility asset data across providers.</li> <li>• Improves collaboration between utilities, government, and developers.</li> <li>• Ensures faster, more reliable, and transparent utility connections.</li> <li>• Reduces delays and bottlenecks that currently undermine housing and infrastructure delivery.</li> <li>• Provides a practical case study of how digital reform directly supports QPC's objectives on coordination and timely servicing of developments.</li> </ul>

# Before You Dig Australia

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