

Meeting Snapshot

Developer Consultative Committee (DCC) | Meeting #21

13 August 2026

Participants

DCC Members	AusNet staff
Adrian Snowden, <i>Plan B</i>	Craig Velt, <i>Network Connections Program Manager</i>
Ahsan Sultan, <i>USG</i>	Peter Quinn, <i>Major Connections Manager</i>
Andrew Bishop, <i>Balpara</i>	Ross Morgan, <i>Program Governance & Compliance Specialist</i>
Bandula Mallawapitiya, <i>USG</i>	Andrew Webber, <i>Group Leader Urban Development</i>
Christian Llagas, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	Lucas Jurey, <i>Network Assurance Specialist</i>
Christophe Rousselin, <i>Powerplant</i>	Lia Mavrias, <i>Engagement Specialist</i>
Daniel Owen, <i>GPHEV</i>	Nathan Dennis, <i>Engineer (Delivery Partner)</i>
David, <i>Unknown</i>	Mayur Parekh, <i>Energy Project Coordinator</i>
Deshan Benhur, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	
Devyn Ferrnando, <i>Murtec Group</i>	
Geoff Reynolds, <i>CCF</i>	
Glenn Shallard, <i>Winslow</i>	
Jake Talbot, <i>BDP</i>	
Jeff Rash, <i>USG</i>	
Jiskar Issa, <i>Key Consult</i>	
John Forbes, <i>UDIA & Dennis Family Corp</i>	
Jonathon Neate, <i>Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (CSV) & Veris</i>	
Kayla George, <i>Powerplant</i>	
Martin, <i>Unknown</i>	
Molly Mathuray, <i>USG</i>	
Narelle Hahn, <i>Bevwill</i>	
Paul Bracegirdle, <i>USG</i>	
Pradeep Athuluwage, <i>GPEHV</i>	
Rhys McLennan, <i>UCS</i>	
Shruthi Prasad, <i>USG</i>	
Stephen Watt, <i>USG</i>	
Tim Harris, <i>Plan B Services</i>	
Tim Salter, <i>Unknown</i>	
Tomi Muretic, <i>Murtec Group</i>	
Troy Cravino, <i>UCS</i>	

Key discussion points

Agenda item	Key discussion points
Welcome	Craig Velt, Network Connections Program Manager at AusNet, welcomed attendees and outlined the meeting purpose and agenda.
1. Safety moment Traffic management	Lucas Jurey, Network Assurance Specialist at AusNet, provided a reminder that all work on the AusNet network must be completed by accredited and authorised contractors operating within the approved project scope. He reinforced the requirements for a signed ACCC, compliance with the approved technical specification and use of endorsed drawings. Ross Morgan also reminded participants that only endorsed drawings containing the appropriate approval signature and date should be used for construction. Discussion included: • There was no further discussion or questions raised.
2. Metrics	Ross Morgan, Program Governance & Compliance Specialist at AusNet, presented Q2 2026 performance metrics across design reviews, as-built plan reviews, pre-commission audits and final audits. AusNet reported 701 design reviews during the quarter, with 97 per cent completed within the required timeframe and a 16 per cent rejection rate. As-built plan reviews totalled 1,164, reflecting the inclusion of cable detailing and other works such as public lighting, with 100 per cent completed within target timeframes and a 20 per cent rejection rate. Ross also presented pre-commission and final audit performance results and provided an updated forecasting view showing commissioned lots, projects currently under construction and forward application projections to provide greater visibility of future industry activity Discussion included: • There was no further discussion or questions raised.
3. Construction compliance Field audit & build quality trends	Lucas Jurey presented recent field audit findings, key non-conformance trends and common issues identified through the Option 2 team and network audits. He noted an increase in overall non-conformances, particularly relating to as-built information, design changes and documentation compliance. Discussion included: • A member asked whether the construction tolerance guidance could be expanded to allow certain design changes during construction, such as changing from boring to trenching, without requiring a design amendment. AusNet advised it is reviewing opportunities to simplify low-risk construction changes but noted some changes can create risks to existing underground assets and therefore still require review. • A member highlighted examples where changing construction methodology had resulted in additional project costs and delays. AusNet acknowledged the concern but maintained that changes must continue to be assessed based on risk. • AusNet reinforced that approval of design changes will no longer be accepted solely through as-built plans and that approval must be obtained prior to construction where required. • AusNet advised that overhead pre-commission audit bypass requests continue to increase and remain a key contributor to quality concerns.

4. Design application trends	Craig Velt, Network Connections Program Manager at AusNet, presented current housing estate application trends and application volumes across the network. He advised that 2026 application rates remain above 2025 year-to-date levels and continue to trend upward compared with recent years. AusNet reported that 5,216 lots had been applied for up to June 2026, representing an increase of approximately 18 per cent compared with the same period in 2025. Craig noted that 2026 is currently tracking as the fourth-highest application year in the past 27 years and, based on current projections, could reach approximately 11,300 lots by the end of the year, which would be above long-term averages Discussion included: • There was no further discussion or questions raised.
5. Exceptional CRAB reminders	Lucas Jurey provided a reminder of CRAB and Exceptional CRAB requirements, outlining when an Exceptional CRAB may be requested and reinforcing that it is not intended to bypass audit or approval processes. Discussion included: • A member asked whether Exceptional CRAB requests could be considered where completing all works during a single construction window would minimise traffic impacts, community disruption or repeated site visits. AusNet confirmed community impacts would be considered when assessing requests, however each request would continue to be evaluated on its merits and approval is not guaranteed. • A member queried whether having an auditor present during works could reduce the need for post-commission audit requirements. AusNet advised that same-day audit attendance is already commonly requested for Exceptional CRAB works and that the current post-commission audit process remains necessary given the level of audit failures being identified. • Members and AusNet discussed balancing operational efficiency with audit and compliance requirements. • AusNet reiterated that Exceptional CRAB requests are not intended to accelerate tie-in approvals, avoid audit requirements or rectify construction omissions.
6. Objective upgrade project	Ross Morgan presented an overview of AusNet's Objective Uplift Project, which aims to improve drawing management functionality, governance, reliability and user experience across the business. Discussion included: • A member asked when the upgraded system was expected to be implemented. AusNet advised the project remains in its early stages and that implementation is expected to take considerable time due to the size and complexity of the broader corporate program. • A member suggested it would be valuable for industry participants to receive updates as the project progresses to assist with future preparation and adoption. AusNet agreed that maintaining visibility of future improvements would be beneficial and noted that distribution-specific enhancements are being advocated as part of the project. • Members welcomed proposed improvements, particularly the ability for users to cancel their own drawing reservations without requiring assistance from the Objective Support Team.
Open Floor with DCC members	Craig Velt opened the floor for general discussion. Peter Quinn, Major Connections Manager at AusNet, provided an early update regarding a potential Australian Taxation Office review of gifted asset and rebate arrangements that may affect future contestable project contribution and rebate processes Discussion included:

- A member asked whether AusNet was engaging with other distribution businesses regarding potential tax treatment changes. AusNet confirmed it is working closely with industry stakeholders, legal advisers and tax specialists while monitoring developments.
- Members discussed the potential implications of future tax rulings on developers and contestable connections projects. AusNet advised details remain limited and committed to providing future updates as information becomes available.
- A member raised concerns regarding response times for design change requests encountered during construction, particularly on public lighting projects undertaken during night works where delays can create significant costs. AusNet noted the challenges associated with assessing design changes where broader asset impacts are not immediately known and explained the purpose of the acceptable tolerances guideline.
- Members discussed balancing construction practicality, risk management and compliance obligations where unforeseen site conditions arise.
- A member suggested simplifying the process for reporting changes that fall within the published construction tolerances guideline. AusNet acknowledged the suggestion, noting that the current process was introduced to monitor how tolerances are being applied and that simplification opportunities would be reviewed.
- AusNet encouraged members to continue providing feedback on guidance documents and administrative processes.

Close, actions and next steps

Craig thanked attendees for their time and then closed the meeting.

Action items

Action	Assigned to	Status	Due date
AusNet to provide a further DCC update on the potential ATO gifted asset and rebate changes once additional information becomes available.	AusNet (Customer Works Team & Engagement Team)	Open	October
AusNet to keep DCC members informed of significant developments associated with the Objective Uplift Project as planning progresses.	AusNet (Customer Works Team)	Open	Ongoing
AusNet to report back on findings from their investigation into noise levels of REFCL isolating transformers.	AusNet (Customer Works Team)	Open	Ongoing