

Meeting Snapshot

Developer Consultative Committee (DCC) | Meeting #17

Thursday 31 July 2025

Participants

DCC Members	AusNet staff
Ahsan Sultan, <i>USG</i>	Craig Velt, <i>Network Connections Program Manager</i>
Andrew Bishop, <i>Balpara</i>	Lucy Holder, <i>Customer Engagement Manager</i>
Annie Kessell, <i>Civil Construction Federation (CCF)</i>	Andrew Webber, <i>Group Leader Urban Development</i>
Ashan Sultan, <i>Moremac</i>	Ross Morgan, <i>Program Governance & Compliance Specialist</i>
Anthony Grodzki, <i>Assoc Land Development Engineers (ALDE) & UDMGT</i>	Lucas Jurey, <i>Network Assurance Specialist</i>
Brendan Munari, <i>Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (CSV) & Veris</i>	Mayur Parekh, <i>Energy Project Coordinator</i>
Daniel Einhorn, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	Emma Ferrie, <i>Engagement Specialist</i>
Daniel Owen, <i>GPEHV</i>	Miranda Frieer, <i>Business Graduate</i>
David Brand, <i>Electrical Audits</i>	
Deshan Benhur, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	
Glenn Shallard, <i>Winslow</i>	
John Federico, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	
John Forbes, <i>UDIA & Dennis Family Corp</i>	
Julian Bendoricchio, <i>UCS</i>	
Manoj Patel, <i>SMEC</i>	
Martin Gaedke, <i>Moremac</i>	
Matt Coyne, <i>Beveridge Williams</i>	
Matt Shiberras, <i>GPEHV</i>	
Matthew Wiegard, <i>UCS</i>	
Narelle Hahn, <i>Beveridge Williams</i>	
Nathan Dennis, <i>Peracon</i>	
Nathan Moore, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	
Patkin Fazal, <i>Plan B Services</i>	
Pradeep Athulwage, <i>GPEHV</i>	
Quok Ho, <i>Precinctland</i>	
Rhys McLennan, <i>UCS</i>	
Sam Nettlebeck, <i>Plan B Services</i>	
Steven Martin, <i>Nordcon</i>	
Tim Harris, <i>Plan B services</i>	
Tim Jacobs, <i>Parklea</i>	

Tony Ilijoski, Assoc Land Development Engineers
(ALDE) & UDMGT
Troy Cravino, UCS

Apologies

Anthony Ward, GPHEV
Adrian Snowden, Plan B Services
David Sowerby, Land Gippsland
Gary Black, Civil Construction Federation (CCF)
Jake Talbot, ALDE
Roger Cooper, HIA

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. Craig addressed previous agenda item of minimising humming noises from REFCLs. Craig stated there is still testing to be done, and an update will be provided soon. Craig also addressed the change in AusNet's SAP system that originally caused some reporting problems but these have since been resolved.
1. Safety moment Lithium-ion batteries	Andrew Webber, Urban Development Group Leader, highlighted the dangers around incorrect disposal of lithium-ion batteries. Andrew shared that a recent fire started at AusNet's Goorambat East Terminal Station where a waste bin caught fire due to discarded vapes. Andrew shared that vapes should not be placed in household waste or recycling bins as they contain highly flammable harmful chemicals that can ignite if damaged or short circuited. Andrew also highlighted importance of charging portable tools in ventilated and supervised areas as these also contain lithium-ion batteries. Andrew finished with stating that all lithium-ion batteries should be disposed of in designated e-waste drop-off locations. Discussion included: There was no further discussion or questions raised.
2. Metrics Quarterly performance	Ross Morgan, Program Governance & Compliance Specialist at AusNet, shared AusNet's quarterly performance regarding design reviews, as built plan review, pre-commission network audits and final network audits. Ross highlighted that 98% of design reviews were completed within 15 business days, with a rejection rate of 21%, which he regarded as a reasonable volume. Ross shared that 88% of as built plan reviews were complete within 3 clear working days, which is an improvement from last month, but still below AusNet's target of 95%. The rejection rate is also improving. Ross provided an overview of trends over previous periods, calling out that this current period is experiencing higher design reviews, as built plan reviews and pre-commission network audits.

Ross highlighted historical performance of URD Lots Commissioned from January 2024 to June 2025, identifying that the number of lots has been steadily declining, aligning with the reduced number of lot requests.

Ross provided an anonymised overview of developers' individual results in regards to meeting AusNet's requirements. Ross noted that there was a variation in results between organisations and invited developers to contact him directly to receive their individual results and understand how they compare to the overall average.

Discussion included:

- There was no further discussion or questions raised.

3. Construction compliance |

Field audit & build quality trends

Lucas Jurey, Network Assurance Specialist at AusNet, provided an overview of the field audit and build quality trends, comparing Q1 2025 with Q2 2025. Lucas shared that AusNet has seen a considerable increase in pre-com audits and a continuing decrease in major non-conformances and safety non-conformances.

Lucas noted that last quarter's high number of public lighting non-conformances has dropped significantly this quarter. Lucas shared that this was often due to PMs and relevant parties gaining a better understanding of overhead auditing requirements.

Lucas added that AusNet continues to see a sharp rise in developer classified non-conformances, which is driven by tight time frames and civil/road alterations not being communicated.

Lucas also touched on an overview of non-conformance types, which primarily rested on incorrect labelling and civil reinstatement. Lucas stressed the importance of labels being updated and installed prior to energisation and Site Civil plans to be completed correctly.

Discussion included:

- There was no further discussion or questions raised.

4. Design application trends

Andrew Webber shared an overview of the housing estate application rate so far for 2025, and how this compares to previous years. Craig Velt noted that applications have continued to ease in 2025 compared to 2024. Andrew suggested that the ease on applications will likely continue.

Discussion included:

- A committee member agreed with Andrew's points and reiterated that they are still experiencing a reduction in applications but expect construction will pick up towards the start of 2026.

5. Energy connect update

Craig Velt, Network Connections Program Manager at AusNet, highlighted AusNet's changes in their Energy Connect platform which will now be a unified platform for applications right through to connections. Craig shared that the updated platform will go live on 25 August 2025. Craig expressed the benefits of this includes enhanced customer service, operational compliance and advocacy avenues.

Craig encouraged DCC members to attend a webinar AusNet is holding on August 14, 3pm-4pm, to learn about what these changes mean for developers.

Craig highlighted top FAQs asked by ASPs, including:

- Whether current details were being transferred over
- How the different portal will look
- Security levels of the portal
- Ability to register a company under single email address
- Editability of an application once submitted
- Access to information on forms after it has been submitted

Discussion included:

- A committee member asked if invites for webinar have been sent out to industry bodies, Craig clarified that they haven't and that the webinar is primarily targeted towards ASPs and industry bodies who will be doing the bulk of the applicant work.

6. Cable theft trial update

Craig Velt provided an overview of trials that AusNet has been undertaking to mitigate theft of copper cables. Craig highlighted the importance of these trials after a theft of live SWER HV and LV earths, which was incredibly high risk and could have resulted in death.

Andrew Webber reinforced that copper theft is not slowing down and that AusNet is trying to prevent the theft. Andrew shared the strategies AusNet has been trialling, including:

- Covering kiosks with a 'coffins' which are large metal containers that weigh approximately 1 ton.
- Aluminium service cable instead of copper.
- Placing large sandbags and concrete bollards over pits.
- Trialling lockable pits, which is where a large number of thefts are taking place.

Discussion included:

- A committee member stated they had also trialled similar strategies to the ones AusNet has engaged. They stated that they have employed security guards to watch over the sites while the cable is getting put in and reinforced how much of a cost burden this is.
- Another committee member stated that one of the major deterrents they are using includes putting all cables into conduit across the whole job, which does require high volumes skilled labour. Although they stated that thefts were still prevalent and highlighted the need for an industry wide solution.
- Craig floated the idea of having a false bottom in each pit that hides the copper underneath. Although he did highlight this would require deeper pits and will be redundant once one thief finds out there is a false bottom.

7. Open Floor with DCC members

Craig Velt asked attendees if they have any questions or topics they would like to discuss.

Discussion included:

- A committee members asked whether AusNet had received many enquiries or applications from data centres data. Craig responded that data centres require an extremely large electricity and water supply and that AusNet has received a number of enquiries of this nature.
- Lucy Holder, Customer Engagement Manager at AusNet, highlighted that the planning timeframe for data centres is much shorter than the planning frame for new network infrastructure. Lucy outlined that there is a lot of conversation between Government and the industry as to what can be done to speed up new network infrastructure to accommodate for larger load requirements of data centres.
- A committee member enquired about REFCL's acoustic wall trials in residential lots. Craig referenced the REFCL action item at the start of the meeting and reiterated that acoustic walls have been installed on a couple of residential REFCLs and their level of sound absorption is still being monitored and tested.
- A committee member offered to support any discussion with counsel regarding reserves and kiosks as this is an ongoing issue. Craig echoed that AusNet also continues to be supportive of joint and team meetings with counsel.

8. Close, actions and next steps

Craig encouraged attendees to provide feedback to meeting topics or structure to Emma, Miranda and Lucy via engagement@ausnetservices.com.au and then closed the meeting.

Action items

Action	Assigned to	Status	Due date
AusNet to report back on findings from their investigation into allegations of REFCLs making a humming noise.	AusNet (Customer Works Team)	Open	Ongoing