

Meeting Snapshot

Developer Consultative Committee (DCC) | Meeting #18

Thursday 9 October 2025

Participants

DCC Members

Andrew Bishop, *Balpara*
 Ahsan Sultan, *USG*
 Ashiq Azad, *Murtec Group*
 Ashan Sultan, *Moremac*
 Bailey Dorling, *Powerplant*
 Bernice Mweny, *Stockland*
 Chami Ranaweera, *Blue Frog Design*
 Daniel Owen, *GPEHV*
 Glenn Matthews, *Tridec*
 Glenn Shallard, *Winslow*
 Hash Safi, *Murtec Group*
 Jake Talbot, *ALDE*
 John Forbes, *UDIA & Dennis Family Corp*
 Jonathon Neate, *Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (CSV) & Veris*
 Manoj Patel, *SMEC*
 Matthew Wiegard, *UCS*
 Michael Davies, *Murtec Group*
 Molly Mathuray, *USQ*
 Nathan Dennis, *Peracon*
 Nathan Moore, *Bluefrog Design*
 Paul Bracegirdle, *USQ*
 Steven Martin, *Nordcon*
 Tomi Muretic, *Murtec Group*
 Tony Ilijoski, *Assoc Land Development Engineers (ALDE) & UDMGT*
 Troy Cravino, *UCS*

AusNet staff

Craig Velt, *Network Connections Program Manager*
 Lucy Holder, *Customer Engagement Manager*
 Andrew Webber, *Group Leader Urban Development*
 Ross Morgan, *Program Governance & Compliance Specialist*
 Brian Brann, *Network Assurance Team Lead*
 Lucas Jurey, *Network Assurance Specialist*
 Miranda Frieer, *Business Graduate*

Apologies

Adrian Snowden, *Plan B Services*
 Annie Kessell, *Civil Construction Federation (CCF)*
 Anthony Grodzki, *Assoc Land Development Engineers (ALDE) & UDMGT*

Anthony Ward, *GPHEV*
 Daniel Einhorn, *Bluefrog Design*
 David Brand, *Electrical Audits*
 David Sowerby, *Land Gippsland*
 Deshan Benhur, *Bluefrog Design*
 Gary Black, *Civil Construction Federation (CCF)*
 John Federico, *Bluefrog Design*
 Julian Bendoricchio, *UCS*
 Martin Gaedke, *Moremac*
 Matt Coyne, *Beveridge Williams*
 Matt Shiberras, *GPEHV*
 Narelle Hahn, *Beveridge Williams*
 Patkin Fazal, *Plan B Services*
 Pradeep Athuluwage, *GPEHV*
 Quok Ho, *Precinctland*
 Rhys McLennan, *UCS*
 Roger Cooper, *HIA*
 Sam Nettlebeck, *Plan B Services*
 Tim Harris, *Plan B services*
 Tim Jacobs, *Parklea*

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 that AusNet noise mitigation investigation is still ongoing and that they're currently getting final tests from installation of Hebel walls around the REFCLs. Andrew stated that AusNet will continue to keep the DCC updated.
1. Safety moment Fallen Powerlines	Andrew Webber, Urban Development Group Leader, highlighted the dangers around powerlines that aren't in their usual position, in this example, a live powerline was one meter off the ground due to a car colliding with it. Andrew emphasised to always assume fallen powerlines are live and that a minimum distance of 6 meters must be maintained until a power authority deems the asset safe to approach. Discussion included: There were no further discussions 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 99% of design reviews were completed within the targeted 15 business days, with a rejection rate of 20%, which he regarded as a favourable result.

Ross shared that 99% of as built plan reviews were complete within 3 clear working days, which is an improvement from the two last quarters. The rejection rate is also improving.

Ross provided an overview of trends over previous periods, calling out that this current period experienced a similar number of design approvals and pre-commissioned audits to last quarter. Final network audits experienced a higher volume compared to previous quarters.

Ross highlighted historical performance of URD Lots Commissioned from April 2024 to September 2025, identifying that there was a spike in July likely due to late reporting. Ross identified that number of lots has been steadily declining, aligning with the reduced number of lot requests.

Ross offered to give a scorecard to companies involved with AusNet projects and expressed he could not provide a quick snapshot of scorecard performance at this meeting.

Discussion included:

- A committee member suggested that the spike in URD lots commissioned in July may be linked to the end of the financial year, which could have influenced activity levels.

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 Q2 2025 with Q3 2025. He flagged that minor and major safety non-conformances have been trending down, with no major safety non-conformances for the last 3 quarters.

Lucas flagged there civil/reinstatement issues have increased 30% this quarter, due to the push from SOC. He reminded committee members that a minimum of 80% final level needs to be completed.

Overhead classified non-conformance continues to drop, decreasing by 75% this quarter. He stated that overall field audit trends are trending in the right direction.

Lucas reiterated that the push for SOC is not a reasonable excuse on AusNet's side for non-conformance approvals. We still need 80% final levels in place. He also stated that the coordination with work parties needs to be fine-tuned.

Discussion included:

- There were no further discussions or questions raised.

4. Design application trends

Craig Velt 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 this year are consistent with number from 2024 and have continued to ease in 2025 compared to 2023. Andrew Webber suggested that the ease on applications will likely continue.

Craig also flagged an opportunity to improve project flow as late applications appear to be causing bottlenecks in AusNet. Asked developers to be proactive in their applications to ensure early coordination & and planning can be arranged.

Discussion included:

- Andrew Webber Andrew Webber noted that average application rates are tracking similarly to 2024. However, there were no applications for any lots in the Northern Growth Corridor during September, a trend not seen in over 25 years.
- A DCC member expressed that the time taken for companies to receive their offer from AusNet has been exceeding four weeks which may be contributing to the bottlenecks Craig referred to. Andrew Webber advised that AusNet continue to recommend a four-week timeframe for plan approvals, as all plans are required before coordination can begin. He also stated that it is AusNet's intent

to turn around URD offers within the 3–4-week mark. Additionally, Lucas Jury flagged that the increase in non-contestable URD projects may also be contributing to the extended timeframes.

5. Vinyl wrap kiosks

Craig Velt announced that AusNet's vinyl wraps kiosk initiative is now live. He explained that the design guidelines and standards for installation have been published. Vinyl wrapping is eligible for low-voltage switchboards, distribution switch gear, and transformers.

Craig provided a summary of the published document, which includes information on the average lifecycle coverage of the wrap, design and content standards, approvals and engineering requirements, and example photos. He noted that AusNet is still determining the upfront cost for removing damaged wraps.

Andrew added that applications for vinyl wraps require council endorsement and must adhere to the published specifications to ensure a service life of 10 years for each wrap.

From a design perspective, Craig cautioned that darker colours can increase heat gain in the asset and therefore recommended that lighter colours are preferable for applications.

Andrew also outlined that vinyl wraps will be received in one of two ways: either as part of a known kiosk installation project, or as a new standalone project for an existing kiosk, which will be subject to a project initiation fee.

Discussion included:

- A member asked what happens when a wrap is damaged. Craig clarified that AusNet is not responsible for the wrap in cases of damage or vandalism. However, AusNet has retained funds to remove the wrap if necessary. If the original initiator of the wrap wishes to repair or improve it, that decision is at their discretion.

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 member provided an update on current industry activity, noting that application rates have been strong over the past few months. They anticipate that construction activity will likely increase as we move into 2026.
- Craig highlighted a new sandwich-style conduit that is lighter, stronger, and more durable. He mentioned that AusNet is in the process of acquiring samples and investigating the material's longevity. A committee member, who had raised the new conduit with the team prior to the meeting, spoke to its benefits, noting that it is more sustainable as it uses approximately half the materials and is significantly more cost-effective.

This prompted another member to share that their company had moved away from this style of conduit ten years ago, citing that it was quite soft and created additional friction when hauling around bends. Craig responded that he suspects the product has evolved since then and confirmed that AusNet will continue to investigate and test the new material to consider suitability.

- Andrew Webber raised a trial by Whittlesea Council that diverts water runoff to trees via a slotted pipe, dispersing water under the tree to support growth. He explained that the impact on the power industry would be the need to lower cables slightly to allow for the pipe's installation.
- A committee member mentioned that similar initiatives have been trailed and flagged that maintenance can be challenging, particularly when slotted pipes become blocked.
- Another member noted that Melbourne City Council has implemented a similar initiative called Passive Irrigation Inlets and already has an existing standard in place. Craig acknowledged both contributions and said that AusNet will

continue to monitor these developments, as they are open to making small changes that deliver long-term benefits for councils.

Craig also mentioned that AusNet has submitted a smart lighting component as part of their Electricity Distribution Price Reset (EDPR) Proposal. The submission aims to introduce smart lighting in future housing developments that emits a warmer and more subtle light. He explained that the smart lighting differs due to the presence of smart meters, which can dim lights under specific conditions. Craig acknowledged that warmer lighting must still meet required lighting levels and may therefore consume more power than white lighting. He said this topic will likely be explored further from a developer perspective next year when more information becomes available and EDPR outcomes are known.

- Andrew asked whether suppliers are experiencing extended lead times for kiosk transformers, noting that AusNet's own lead times have increased significantly. A committee member confirmed that residential kiosks currently have an average lead time of 26 weeks, while industrial kiosks are around 36 weeks. Andrew stated that AusNet will go to tender for kiosk supply in an effort to reduce lead times.
- A DCC meeting member asked about the status of copper theft in the industry and whether AusNet had any further insights from their investigations. Andrew shared that AusNet has been trialling the replacement of stolen copper with aluminium and, so far, have not received any complaints. He indicated that this may become standard procedure.
- Andrew also noted that there are no significant trends at this stage, but anecdotally, copper theft remains a persistent issue. He added that the pit lid trial, which aims to cover copper cables, has not yet produced substantial results, but AusNet will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.
- Craig asked the committee whether they were happy with the cadence and content of the current DCC meetings and encouraged any input or feedback at the time or to be emailed to engagement@ausnetservices.com.au.

Close, actions and next steps

Craig flagged the next meeting would likely be in mid-February to avoid Christmas interruptions.

He also encouraged attendees to provide feedback to meeting topics or structure to Lia 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 reports of REFCLs making humming noises	AusNet (Customer Works Team)	Open	Ongoing