

Meeting Snapshot

Developer Consultative Committee (DCC) | Meeting #20

14 May 2026

Participants

DCC Members	AusNet staff
Andrew Bishop, <i>Balpara</i>	Craig Velt, <i>Network Connections Program Manager</i>
Adrian Snowden, <i>Plan B</i>	Peter Quinn, <i>Major Connections Manager</i>
Ahsan Sultan, <i>USG</i>	Ross Morgan, <i>Program Governance & Compliance Specialist</i>
Ashiq Azad, <i>Murtec Group</i>	Andrew Webber, <i>Group Leader Urban Development</i>
Ben Moore, <i>Tridec</i>	Lucas Jurey, <i>Network Assurance Specialist</i>
Christian Llagas, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	Ally Symons, <i>Network Assurance Specialist</i>
Deshan Benhur, <i>Bluefrog Design</i>	Rene Bothof, <i>Community Engagement Advisor</i>
Geoff Reynolds, <i>CCF</i>	Lia Mavrias, <i>Engagement Specialist</i>
Hash Safi, <i>Murtec Group</i>	
Jake Talbot, <i>BDP</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>	
Manoj Patel, <i>SMEC</i>	
Matthew Wiegard, <i>UCS</i>	
Michael Davies, <i>Murtec Group</i>	
Narelle Hahn, <i>Bevwill</i>	
Nathan Dennis, <i>Peracon</i>	
Pradeep Athuluwage, <i>GPEHV</i>	
Quok-Yeong, <i>Precinct land</i>	
Rhys McLennan, <i>UCS</i>	
Ronan Tongs, <i>Stockland</i>	
Sam Nettleback, <i>Plan B Services</i>	
Tim Harris, <i>Plan B Services</i>	
Tomi Muretic, <i>Murtec Group</i>	
Tony Ilijoski, <i>Assoc Land Development Engineers (ALDE) & Tomkinson</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	Ally Symons, Network Assurance Specialist at AusNet, provided a seasonal safety reminder focused on the increased risks associated with wet and slippery conditions over winter. She emphasised the importance of maintaining appropriate traffic management on site, particularly where work impacts traffic flow, and encouraged members to reinforce these expectations with their teams Discussion included: • There was no further discussion or questions raised.
2. Metrics	Ross Morgan, Program Governance & Compliance Specialist at AusNet, presented performance results for the first quarter of 2026. He outlined strong performance across design and as-built reviews, with high compliance against timeframes. Audit volumes were lower due to a slower start to the year, however completion timeframes remained consistent. Ross also introduced a new forecasting view to provide forward visibility of URD lot commissioning based on application and project data. Discussion included: • A member commented that the forecasting approach appeared useful and reflective of activity levels. • A member noted that projections may also indicate industry confidence and willingness to progress projects.
3. Construction compliance Field audit & build quality trends	Ally presented an overview of recent audit results and build quality trends. Overall audit volumes were lower compared to the previous quarter, with improved outcomes including fewer non-conformances per audit and no major safety issues recorded over multiple quarters. She highlighted ongoing concerns with as-built documentation not aligning with site conditions, and increasing requests to bypass standard audit processes, particularly approaching end of financial year. She reinforced the importance of adhering to processes and ensuring documentation accuracy. Discussion included: • There was no further discussion or questions raised.
4. Design application trends	Craig Velt presented year-to-date application volumes, noting that activity started strongly in 2026 and remains well ahead of 2025 but only slightly ahead of 2024, although trends are expected to level out a little and perhaps end up consistent with last two years. He highlighted that market conditions remain uncertain, and future activity will likely be influenced by interest rates and broader economic factors Discussion included: • A member noted that early optimism at the end of 2025 has since been impacted by interest rate increases and broader economic conditions. • A member commented that sales conditions are currently challenging, with incentives such as rebates returning to the market.
5. Automatable Switchgear Update	Andrew Webber, Group Leader Urban Development at AusNet, provided an update on plans to introduce greater automation across the underground network. He explained that new developments will be required to include kiosks capable of future automation, including

motorised switchgear to enable remote operation. Andrew outlined that this approach will improve network flexibility and reduce customer outages by allowing more targeted fault isolation. He also noted current limitations with supplier availability and confirmed that AusNet will progressively implement automation as developments mature

Discussion included:

- A member asked whether automation would impact kiosk reserve sizes, with AusNet confirming no changes are required.
- A member asked about impacts for contractors working on automated kiosks, with AusNet advising that assets will need to be placed into local control mode during works to prevent remote operation.

6. Contestable Construction Tolerances Guideline

Lucas Jurey, Network Assurance Specialist at AusNet, introduced a new guideline outlining acceptable construction tolerances for contestable works. The intent is to reduce administrative burden by allowing minor variations that do not impact safety, compliance, or third-party assets. Lucas noted the guidelines are based on historical non-conformance data and will be reviewed over time.

Discussion included:

- A member asked whether the new tolerances would impact existing VEDN industry standards, with AusNet confirming this is a standalone document.
- A member queried alignment with broader industry frameworks, with AusNet confirming the document aligns with existing practices but is specific to AusNet's network.
- A member highlighted the importance of ensuring tolerance limits are not misused, with AusNet reinforcing that controls and review processes will remain in place.

Open Floor with DCC members

Craig Velt opened the floor for general discussion and industry feedback.

Additionally, Andrew provided an update on the vinyl wrap kiosk initiative, noting that while guidelines are in place, uptake has been limited and no installations have yet been completed. The group was also asked to share if external conditions, like the fuel crisis and middle east conflict, had impacted their marketplace.

Discussion included:

- A member indicated that supply chain cost pressures are increasing, particularly for conduit and asphalt materials.
- A member noted that while delays are not yet widespread, cost increases and supply constraints may impact projects later in the year.
- A member raised concerns about copper theft and vandalism, noting increasing incidents in the industry.
- A member shared that projects have experienced multiple theft incidents, including significant damage to kiosks requiring replacement.
- A member suggested alternative design approaches, including direct burial of cables, to reduce theft risk.
- A member noted that while theft has reduced in some areas, it remains a significant issue overall.

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 report back on findings from their investigation into noise levels of REFCL isolating transformers.	AusNet (Customer Works Team)	Open	Ongoing
AusNet to present update on implementation of automatable switchgear in kiosk substations at the next DCC meeting	AusNet	Completed	May 2026