

EXTERNAL ARTICLE – nbn DBYD Future Direction

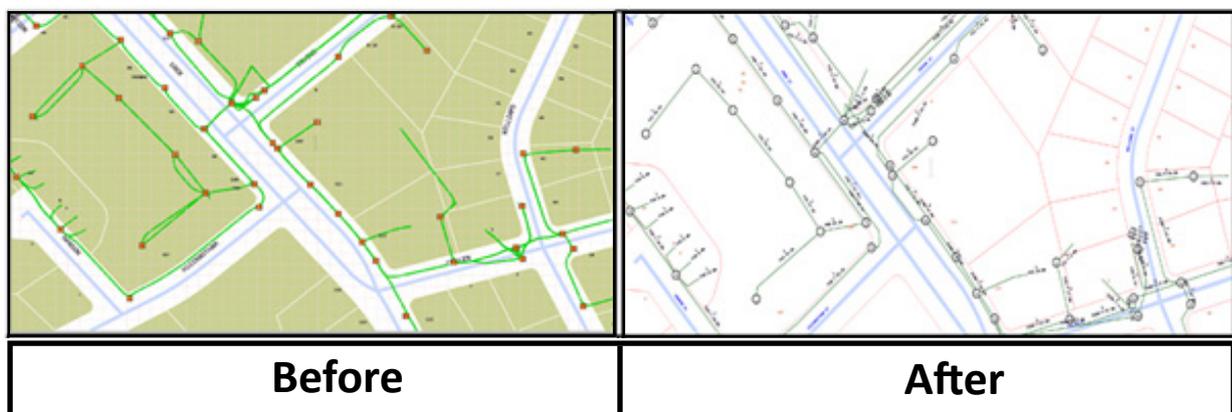
People in the community – whether that's businesses, construction organisations, other utilities or home owners – need to check what's under the ground before they start digging something up. Dial Before You Dig provides a referral service designed to assist in preventing damage and disruption to Australia's vast infrastructure networks which provide essential services we use every day. As the owners of some of that infrastructure, we have an interest in making sure nothing happens to it by accident.

Currently nbn receives Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) referral requests – usually via email - which are processed by nbn's DBYD automation system to generate a response back to the requester (eg: external parties and general public). The response usually includes PDF maps showing the requester what nbn infrastructure exists in the place they wish to dig.

nbn's network foot print is growing, however the quality of DBYD maps hasn't kept up. Typically these maps did not provide sufficient information to DBYD users to make informed decisions. After getting some feedback at last year's Oceania Damage Prevention Conference, Darren Mills initiated and sponsored a project to fast track improvements to nbn's DBYD maps. The nbn team has worked incredibly hard to totally change the look and feel of the DBYD maps, with tremendous success.

Once high-level business requirements were provided, a number of workshops were conducted between the project team and internal stakeholders to better understand the requirements and to produce a list of critical enhancements to improve the DBYD maps. Key enhancements included simplified view of cable infrastructure, displaying pits and improved resolution, a lighter colour as a background and parcel outline and improving positioning of street numbers on parcels. These changes were implemented in production in March 2019 and so far the feedback has been positive as now nbn DBYD maps reflect more closely to the industry standard.

Also, as part of DBYD Continuous Improvement, Phase 2 will see additional improvements to the maps with a planned deployment in May 2019. These changes include: Displaying a pillar / CCU symbol on the DBYD map output tile and legend; "Conduit" and "direct buried" is differentiated on the trench and can be identified via the legend; differentiate manholes from pits on the DBYD map output tile and legend; change classification of network (Pit and Trench) from in Service - Designed / Constructed as "Built" and "Planned" and reflected in the legend; different symbol for manholes, displaying different power cable types, nbn owned RF cables and improved discrepancy handling to produce DBYD outputs even when some basic data fields are missing. This will ultimately further improve the user experience by providing a more accurate and meaningful response.



Special thanks to the project team and contributors for their collaboration, inputs and championing the nbn's 'One Team' value.

This is a great achievement which has positioned us to protect our national assets better and the availability of the nbn network. This also demonstrates nbn's responsiveness to industry feedback, and the value of the conference in bringing the industry together to improve safety and protect assets.