

# Why you should engage Certified Locators

Certified Locators are certified by industry experts to distinguish them from 'DIY' or self-authorized locators. The certification identifies them to potential clients and employers as having the expertise to complete all types of location work to accepted industry standards.

There are currently over 750 DBYD Certified Locators in Australia who can be identified by their Certified Locating Organisation ID card. Hiring locators that are not certified may be putting your business and the community at risk.

To gain certification, locators must pass a comprehensive theory exam and practical field test conducted by an industry assessor. The assessment includes auditing equipment for compliance and the ability of the user to competently use it, workplace safety knowledge and compliance with safe OHS practices. The assessment also includes knowledge and understanding of AS 5488 (classification of subsurface utility information).



Certified Locators registered with a Certified Locating Organisation (CLO) have exclusive access to endorsed utility assets for location purposes, for example Telstra pits and manholes.

DBYD Certification Ltd are actively engaging with construction and allied industry associations to recommend that their members only engage DBYD Certified Locators as the 'essential second step'.

# Safe Excavation

It is the responsibility of excavators to establish when and how the infrastructure asset will be identified. Excavators have a particular Duty of Care to protect workers and the community from serious injury as result from damaged infrastructure assets. Excavators should take all reasonable steps to obtain infrastructure asset information before commencing any excavation work.

All hazards associated with locating infrastructure assets need to be identified and appropriate controls and measures conforming to federal, state/territory, local and industry standards as well as WHS legislation should be established.



## AS 5488

The Australian Standard AS 5488 provides a framework for the classification of subsurface utility location and attributes information in terms of specified quality levels. A quality level describes the amount and accuracy of information that is collected or held on a subsurface utility. There are four quality levels - D, C, B and A.

Quality level A is considered to be the highest quality level. The higher the quality level, the more information is known about the subsurface utility and the more accurate that information is.

Quality level B provides relative subsurface feature location in three-dimensions. This can be achieved by using a DBYD Certified Locator. Quality level A is the only quality level that defines a subsurface utility as "validated" and is generally achieved by potholing or a similar method.

# EVERY LOCATOR A CERTIFIED LOCATOR



**CERTIFIED  
LOCATOR**  
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# About the Certification

In recent years, the asset owning members of DBYD have voiced their concerns with the inconsistency of skill sets associated with locating, which can lead to damages to their assets or more concerning serious injuries to workers or the public. There is also concern that anybody can call themselves a 'locator' regardless of their expertise and offer their services to unsuspecting clients.

DBYD has addressed this concern by working with industry to develop the Certified Locator Program based on a rigorous assessment by industry experts that contains both the theory and practical elements of professional locating. The DBYD Locator Certification recognises locators who have demonstrated a high level of understanding and practical expertise that meet industry and DBYD member requirements.

Our vision is to reduce damage and have safer communities through training and DBYD Locator Certification.

## NULCA

The National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) is committed to improving locating standards across Australia. NULCA has worked closely with DBYD and asset owner members in developing the DBYD Certification to meet industry requirements.

## Endorsements

DBYD Certification Ltd is actively working with asset owners throughout Australia including electrical, water, sewerage, gas and communications. So far Telstra, Optus, Energy Qld, Qld Water Directorate and Toowoomba Regional Council have formally endorsed DBYD Locator Certification and several other major asset owners are in the final stages of endorsement.



Part of the Energy Queensland Group

# Certified Locating Organisations

Certified Locating Organisations (CLO) have entered a formal agreement with DBYD Certification Ltd (as representative of the utility) that gives certain properly certified employees access permissions to utility networks for the purposes of cable and plant location.

Certified Locating Organisation (CLO) status assures potential clients that a company has calibrated location equipment and mandatory current business insurances for their risk assessment peace of mind. Certified Locating Organisations and their contact details including service areas are listed on [www.dbydlocator.com](http://www.dbydlocator.com).

Underground network is complex and requires expert knowledge to interpret information, to identify and locate components, to pothole underground assets for validation and to safely work around assets without causing damage.

Only a DBYD Certified Locator registered with a CLO is authorised to access Telstra network for locating purposes.

**Our vision is to have a DBYD Certified locator "prepare" at every dig site in Australia.**



# The Five P'S of Safe Excavation

## Plan

Plan ahead by lodging your Dial Before You Dig enquiry at least one business day before starting any excavation to ensure you have the correct information and safety measures in place. (AS 5488 quality level D).

## Prepare

Engage a DBYD Certified Locator - the essential second step which includes interpreting utility plans, identifying utility assets and undertaking electronic location (AS 5488 quality level B) prior to potholing. You can find a list of Certified Locating Organisations on [www.dbydlocator.com](http://www.dbydlocator.com)

## Pothole

To establish the exact location of all underground infrastructure, pothole if permitted using the asset owner's stated method as specified on the asset owner's plan and/or information pack. (AS 5488 quality level A).

## Protect

If potholing has occurred, protect the infrastructure by using various methods; such as communicating to all working on site, erecting barriers and / or marking the location of the exposed infrastructure.

## Proceed

You should only proceed with your excavation work after you have planned, potholed (unless prohibited) and have protective measures in place.

## DBYD Certified Locators

DBYD Certification Ltd offers certification for locators working with asset owners and contractors. The Certification recognises locators who have demonstrated a high level of understanding and practical expertise. The assessment is a three-step process including an online theory exam and an on-site practical assessment. To date over 750 locators have been successfully certified across Australia. For more information visit [www.dbydlocator.com](http://www.dbydlocator.com).