



## **Classification of subsurface utility information**

### **Part 2: Subsurface utility engineering**



AS 5488.2:2019

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- Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors
- AUSTROADS
- Dial Before You Dig
- Energy Networks Australia
- Engineers Australia
- Geospatial Information & Technology Association
- National Utility Locating Contractors Association
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- Roads Australia
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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-036, *Subsurface Utility Engineering Information*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a framework for the consistent engineering management of subsurface utilities. It has been written as an informative Standard, designed to aid in the proper understanding and use of information surrounding such utilities. Engineers may have received or compiled by various means, a mixture of evidence of the existence, type, condition and location of utilities. Such evidence may vary widely as to its credibility, primarily by virtue of disclaimers from the providers of the information. Application of this Standard and the establishment of a credible approach to the management of subsurface utilities will improve the critical items of time, cost, quality and safety, and reduce risk across projects involving subsurface utilities.

This Part 2 of AS 5488 should be read in conjunction with Part 1. Part 1 focuses on the classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI), while Part 2 focuses on Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE).

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

# Contents

Preface .....	ii
Foreword .....	v
<b>1 Scope and general .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope .....	1
1.2 Application .....	1
1.3 Normative references .....	1
1.4 Terms and definitions .....	1
<b>2 Subsurface utility model creation and data naming conventions .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Justification of a utility .....	4
2.2 String naming conventions .....	6
2.3 Specific attribute data .....	7
2.4 Appropriate level of model creation .....	7
2.4.1 General .....	7
2.4.2 Model Level 1 .....	8
2.4.3 Model Level 2 .....	8
2.4.4 Model Level 3 .....	9
2.4.5 Model Level 4 .....	10
2.4.6 Model Level 5 .....	11
2.4.7 Model Level 6 .....	11
<b>3 Utility project roles and utility clash detection approach .....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 General project roles .....	12
3.2 Design or utility engineer .....	12
3.3 Project owner .....	13
3.4 Utility authority .....	14
3.5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) .....	15
3.5.1 General .....	15
3.5.2 MOU purpose and scope .....	15
3.5.3 Principles of cooperation .....	15
<b>4 Utility clash detection .....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 General .....	16
4.2 Options of clash detection .....	17
4.2.1 General .....	17
4.2.2 Option 1 — Design change to eliminate potential utility clash or conflict .....	17
4.2.3 Option 2 — Approval of reduced cover or clearance .....	18
4.2.4 Option 3 — Protective treatments to eliminate utility conflict .....	18
4.2.5 Option 4 — Utility relocations .....	18
<b>5 Utility design .....</b>	<b>18</b>
5.1 Minimum utility design deliverable .....	18
5.1.1 General .....	18
5.1.2 Utility design and co-ordination throughout a project lifecycle .....	19
5.2 Conflict management process .....	19
5.3 Inspection and testing .....	19
<b>Appendix A (informative) Subsurface utility information model schema .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix B (informative) Risk assessment matrix .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Appendix C (informative) AS 5488 process flowchart .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Appendix D (informative) Utility conflict matrix .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Appendix E (informative) Public Utility Plant (PUP) conflict register .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Appendix F (informative) AS 5488 legend .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Appendix G (informative) Utility coordination spreadsheet .....</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>Appendix H</b> (informative) <b>Utility detection means</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>Appendix I</b> (informative) <b>Procedure for asset handover</b> .....	<b>52</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>53</b>

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## Foreword

Due to the age, complexity of the environments in which they operate, and changes in technology and requirements, the information available to (and from) utility owners and operators is often limited. Additional sources of data, including physical checks, can augment the information available from the utility owner, enabling better decision making when working with subsurface utilities.

Any available Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) data should be requested as a first step of interacting with utility authorities.

For reliable information during design and construction, the engineer, owner, and constructor should be certain —

- (a) that utilities, whether active, abandoned, or unknown, are identified;
- (b) that the utilities are recorded correctly;
- (c) that the numbers of actual utility pipes or cables under the ground are known or represented by correctly understood multiple numbers;
- (d) that the width of utilities is correct; and
- (e) that the depths of utilities are known and utility access needs are understood.

Traditionally, projects where subsurface utilities require amendment encounter issues that are routinely handled through variation orders, insurance payouts, contingency pricing and, especially in the construction sector, after a design has been completed. When problems create significant costs and safety risks, blame is pointed everywhere, including at the design or utility engineer who has documented their designs, regardless of disclaimers. All stakeholders will benefit from improved management of subsurface utilities.

## NOTES

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