AS 5488—2013

Australian Standard®

# Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI)

This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee IT-036, Subsurface Utility Engineering Information. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 4 April 2013. This Standard was published on 14 May 2012.

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- Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors
- Australian Local Government Association
- Australian Services Union
- Austroads
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- NSW Streets Opening Conference
- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute
- Telstra Corporation
- University of New South Wales
- Water Services Association of Australia
- WorkCover New South Wales

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 5488.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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# Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI)

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# PREFACE

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

The objective of this Standard is to provide utility owners, operators and locators with a framework for the consistent classification of information concerning subsurface utilities.

While the depiction and location of subsurface utilities and related asset information may appear in as-built records, due to the lack of historical evidence utility information and locations may not be exactly as shown or the records may not fully account for all the buried utility systems. This makes the existence and location of subsurface utilities difficult to establish and verify. This deficiency in reliable information during planning, design and construction activities can result in costly conflicts, delays, utility service disruptions, redesigns, personal injuries and lost lives.

Knowledge of precisely where and what a subsurface utility is and its status in its asset lifecycle can significantly reduce the occurrence of interference and conflict with valuable subsurface utility infrastructure. The application of this Standard is intended to improve public safety and reduce costly property damage and to provide much more accurate information on the location and type of subsurface utilities than has been available in the past.

This Standard also provides guidance on issues such as how subsurface utility information may be obtained, and how that information should be conveyed to the information users. The Standard also recommends, through the adoption of quality level A, the absolute positioning of subsurface utilities in three dimensions, as an improvement upon the current widely adopted method of relative positioning. In countries prone to natural disasters or terrorist attacks, absolute positioning has a major advantage in locating subsurface utility assets and infrastructure after such an event.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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