Dial Before You Dig

It is not just traditional excavation activities that require the use of the Dial Before You Dig service.

Energy Safe Victoria has issued a safety alert to warn roadside workers, landscapers, gardeners and others to be aware of the dangers when hammering star pickets into the ground. The warning follows a recent incident where a dog was killed when it contacted a wire mesh fence that was protecting a recently planted tree. A metal star picket used to support the wire mesh had been driven through protection covering slabs and then through the cable insulation, causing damage to the red phase conductor of the underground cable mains. The wire mesh and three star pickets had become energised at 240 volts.

Victoria’s Director of Energy Safety, Ken Gardner, said many crucial electricity cables laid in road reserves and nature strips are hidden dangers. “Damaging these cables could not only cost you thousands of dollars, but could result in serious injury - or even death,” he said. “People must exercise extreme care, perform a detailed safety assessment and obtain information on the network of electrical cables and gas pipes that may run underneath the area that they work on.”

Ken Gardner provided the following advice to people when digging deeper than 300 millimetres, or driving pickets or posts into the ground:

• Always Dial Before You Dig;
• Always carry out a job safety assessment before starting work;
• Where suitable, consider using timber posts;
• Avoid hammering pickets or stakes deeper than 300 millimetres into the ground by making a mark 300 millimetres from the bottom end of the pickets or stakes;
• Comply with the No Go Zone rules - visit www.esv.vic.gov.au, www.worksafe.vic.gov.au; and
• Immediately notify the relevant electricity supplier if you have struck electrical cables.

For further information on Dial Before You Dig and its services phone 1100, or visit the interactive website at www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au.

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Councils and Transend working together

Transend – a vital link in your municipality

- Population is growing, outlook is positive
- Growth increases demand for electricity
- Transmission capacity needs to keep up with demand
- Sometimes we need to build new infrastructure
- Councils: consider electricity infrastructure in your planning processes

Easements affect development

- We restrict activities within transmission line easements:
  - for public safety
  - to manage the transmission system
- Buildings cannot be constructed within easements
- Developers need to be aware of easement restrictions

Who is Transend?

- We own and operate the electricity transmission system in Tasmania
- We transmit electricity from power stations to Aurora’s distribution network
- Our transmission lines cross private and public land
- We have easements over land along transmission line routes

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New Online Cycling Resource Centre

A new online information hub on cycling has been launched by the Australian Bicycle Council to provide a convenient and user-friendly ‘one-stop-shop’ for those involved in the planning and provision of cycling facilities and programs.

The Cycling Resource Centre contains content of interest to planners, engineers, cycling groups and cyclists generally. Users can access thousands of online pages with information and links covering topics such as:

- Engineering and planning
- Design
- Managing cycling infrastructure
- End of trip facilities
- Cycling events
- Education and training
- Encouragement and promotion
- Enforcement and road safety
- Recreation
- Funding sources
- Research

The website also provides direct links to relevant cycling information on Australian, State and Territory Government agency websites, national and international news articles and research. The Cycling Resource Centre was developed with funding from the Australian Department for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Services and Local Government, and is managed by the Australian Bicycle Council.

For more information about the Australian Bicycle Council, visit www.austroads.com.au/abc. The online Cycling Resource Centre can be found at www.cyclingresourcecentre.org.au.

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Give the ideal gift, a Mirvac gift voucher, for accommodation or dining in Market Square Restaurant and Bar, from $50.
In early 2006 *LGAT News* published Tasmania’s first *Manager’s Resource Directory* exclusively for Local Government. It is updated four times per year and is now a permanent lift-out section of the magazine.

The *Manager’s Resource Directory* is produced to assist government managers in their search for goods and services, as well as consultants and businesses who can provide them with their special requirements.

As a bonus, every issue of *LGAT News* including the *Manager’s Resource Directory* is published on the association’s own website – www.lgat.tas.gov.au. The website is well publicised, particularly to state government departments who often work closely with Local Government on various projects.

Remember to ensure your business entries are always current and correct. Details may be updated each issue (every three months) if and when required.

**Are you in the directory?**

**IMPORTANT** – If you are not in the directory and would like your details included, please call us to discuss your requirements.

**Enquiries:** Michael Roberts  Tel: 03 6394 7383  Fax: 03 6394 7019
Toolkit for Field Testing Local Road Building Materials

The Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) has been commissioned, as part of the Commonwealth Government’s Low Volume Roads Technology Program, to develop a toolkit for field testing of local road building material.

The purpose of the project is to provide practitioners with the means to conduct quick and inexpensive testing of materials in the field to establish the potential of a given material to fulfil an envisaged function, and sound technical advice on interpreting test results in order that practitioners can achieve greater value from local materials used in road pavements.

The tool box, as envisaged, would comprise:

- A portable field testing tool-box, containing test equipment and reference material;
- A manual on interpretation of results; and
- Guidance on developing fit for purpose specifications for the use of tested materials.

The project will result in:

- Making better use of locally available road pavement materials that will ensure that roads will have a longer economic life to reduce on-going maintenance and lower road user costs;
- Lower demands on quarrying operations and reduce adverse environmental impacts; and
- A reduction in dust emissions and soil erosion, increased safety, and improved water run-off quality.

ARRB is interested to engage with practitioners in this field. For more information, or to be involved with the project, please contact George Giummarra, Principal Engineer - Local Government, ARRB Group Ltd at george.giummarra@arrb.com.au.
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