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Telstra's Lismore exchange showing height of flood

# Telstra failed flooded communities, NSW inquiry finds

### Government should integrate warnings into a single app.

(This article was written by Natalie Apostolou from itnews on 11/8/22)

Telstra has been castigated for making "useless" infrastructure location decisions, failing to effectively plan to mitigate future disasters, and not learning from past disaster experiences by the parliamentary inquiry into the response to major flooding across NSW in February and March.

In its findings, the committee said: "Telstra has not learnt from previous flood experiences.

"Instead of relocating mobile phone towers to higher ground, it continues to place support equipment and energy supply at ground level, rendering them useless during floods."

The inquiry also found that NSW government agencies and telecommunications providers failed to ensure that communities affected by the February-March floods had adequate emergency communications.

The critical findings were released this week after a series of regional and city hearings and formal submissions.

In total, the committee made 21 findings and 37 recommendations.

Chaired by Labor's Walt Secord, the committee begin its inquiry in April 2022 and received presentations from Telstra network operations executive Peter Sutherland, NSW government chief information and digital officer Greg Wells, and Telstra Infraco operations executive Bronwyn Clere.

The Northern Rivers region is predominantly serviced by Telstra and NBN Co, with various satellite services facilitating mobile blackspot and remote areas.

### Read more



### ACMA Compliance Priorities 2023/24 -TITAB submission

In previous submissions to ACMA on a number of cabling related matters and in our general publications, we have regularly made the point that there should be more audits and inspections of cabling installations and on compliance generally, in the sector.

TITAB, in association with the Australian Digital and Telecommunications Industry Association (ADTIA), has made a detailed submission to the ACMA on what we see as compliance priorities for their program, 2023/24.

This joint submission was assisted by the Cabling Advisory Group (managed by ADTIA) and addressed the issues listed in the ACMA discussion paper, that had previously been circulated.

In summary the following points were covered in our submission:-

- We stressed the practical reality that telecommunications is an <u>essential service</u> that is gradually being more formally recognised as such, by government authorities
- Given its importance as demonstrated in recent times of fire, flood and other emergencies, as well as the key role the telecommunications network played during the Covid crisis enabling "work from home", reliability is essential
- Service standards can only be guaranteed when compliance to national technical standards is at a high level and auditing and inspection can play a key role in compliance

• We again stressed the need for on-site inspections and audits, with a "carrot and stick" approach where the "good guys" can be given guidance on compliance and the "bad guys" can face some consequences, as with other utilities

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## Are you a Victorian business that produces, provides or critically relies on technology products and/or services?

The Victorian Government has partnered with Deloitte Access Economics to undertake a survey of the state's ICT/digital technology sector. This is your chance to help shape the delivery of digital economy initiatives which support Victoria's thriving ICT/digital technology sector, as well as help inform the development of new programs.

Keen to have your say? If you have already received a survey link via email, it's best to use that individualised URL. Otherwise, you can complete the survey here: <u>https://surveyapac.deloitte.com/jfe/form/SV\_4Ys2MdyU0XZpntl</u>

The survey is due to close on 4 April 2023.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact ICTsurveyVic@deloitte.com.au.

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## What is a Safety Shovel:

A shovel that allows you to detect metal and power under the ground simultaneously. This tool is ideal for the prevention of harmful **asset strikes.** 



CITT

## How does it Help

- The Safety Shovel prevents costly asset strikes
- Prevents costly repairs from asset strikes
- Protects you and your employees/contractors
- Protects your reputation
- Improves productivity increasing your profits.

## See it in Action







## THE BEER'S N US.





Join us for a beer and to learn about the benefits of CEDIA membership, certification and the opportunities in the smart home technology market.

BALLARAT Wednesday,

3 May 2023 5pm-7pm

Irish Murphy's

36 Sturt St, Ballarat Central

GEELONG Thursday, 4 May 2023 5pm-7pm Beav's

Bar 77-79 Little Malop St, Geelong

Wednesday, 17 May 2023 5pm-7pm White Hills

BENDIGO

**Bowls Club** Cnr Bosquet St & Dundas St, White Hills

WARRNAMBOOL Thursday, 18 May 2023 5pm-7pm

Hotel Warrnambool

185 Koroit St, Warrnambool MORNINGTON Tuesday, 13 June 2023 5pm-7pm

> Casa de Playa

39 Main St, Mornington

### **Register for free at** https://cedia.swoogo.com/MeetCEDIA

TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS

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### Open registration skill set in Western Australia

Week 1 OHS Hand and power tools Electrical Principles

### Week 2 Open Registration

### There are two payment types

- 1. Fee-free training must meet eligibility criteria below
- 2. Subsidised training

### Eligibility criteria for fee-free training:

- Are you aged between 15-24 years and not enrolled in secondary school?
- Are you receiving JobSeeker or JobKeeper?
- Are you receiving or a dependent of a person receiving Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY or ABSTUDY?
- Do you hold, or are you a dependent of a person who holds:
- a Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card; or
- a Repatriation Health Benefits Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs?
- Are you a dependent of persons who are inmates of a custodial institution?

If you answered yes to any of the above eligibility requirements, you will be eligible for fee-free training.

### Please note students attending high school do not qualify for any subsidies

If you did not answer yes, you are still eligible for subsidised training, please see the fee table below.

**Fee Type Amount** Eligible for fee-free training No charge Eligible for concession \$81.60 Eligible for subsidised training \$275.40

For more information log onto the Comtech Website

Or call our centre on 08 9355 5770

#### **Useful Links**

TITAB **nbn**<sup>™</sup> <u>ACMA</u> <u>ACMA Complaints line</u> <u>Dial before you dig</u> <u>A2A and Network Boundary Issues</u> <u>Communications Alliance</u> <u>Registered Cablers website</u> <u>Smartwired</u>

