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Editorial: Telecommunications and Emergencies

Australia has flood, cyclones and fire destroying swathes of Farming Country, Forests, Houses, Buildings with small townships almost obliterated. Sections of the media have been critical of gaps in the public network, both NBN and mobiles.

Some people expect miracles after environmental/infrastructure emergencies, but restoring communications, power, water, road, rail and other infrastructure takes time. Sensationalising damage and politicising shortfalls is unhelpful, as government, agencies and citizens, start remediation.

Telcos have emergency experience and some backup capacity: emergency generators etc. and restore communications as quickly as possible. And in one area, was made more difficult after theft of telecommunications copper by a "low life" person or persons, which put down a section of the network.

But sometimes the role of telecommunications as an *emergency service* is not recognised. Access to priority fuel supplies for communications technical staff for example, is often not as good as for other emergency services. Public awareness can only be lifted by publicity from Telcos and government.

In the recovery phase, customer cabling remediation, particularly in flood situations, is a real problem. Who to turn to! Electricians? The Telcos? Telecommunications Technicians? Cabling Companies? Listings in the "white pages"; Google? Quite confusing! Advice to the public is in short supply. It is a good time for the regulator and Telcos to make public announcements advising the affected communities to only use registered cablers.

The multi - Registrar and Copper Industry Association supported *registered cabler website* is open to the public but has limited reach. In the recovery phase there is a lot of work in cable restoration, particularly in domestic and small business premises.

As a Registrar aware of breaches, we have suggested that the regulator and government should issue statements publicising compliance requirements. TITAB and other registrars have limited resources we but try to publicise technical compliance and ACMA cabler registration as much as possible.

Reporting breaches to the regulator, ACMA for record purposes, if nothing else – can be useful in the long term. In some cases, it wouldn't hurt to also report to the TIO (Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman). As an aside, the relatively small Number of annual complaints recorded by ACMA do not match the high volume of overall annual complaints recorded by the TIO. Anecdotal evidence suggests the public are unaware of where to go to report an incident of poor or possible, non-compliant cabling.





Vale Murray Teale



Murray was well-known in the Telecommunications Industry and unfortunately left us on December 5th 2025. His death came as a surprise to us. Murray was a respected technical expert and had worked in a number of roles in Telecommunications companies from Technician to National Manager.

Murray was particularly active in the development of Technical Standards and was Chair of several committees working with Standards Australia, particularly our mandatory “Wiring Rules” Technical Standards AS/CA S009 and Technical Standard AS/CA S008. He has been described by some peers as “Outcomes driven, with ethical and service policy motivation.”

Standards Australia (SA) have noted he championed World First projects, including the development of optical fibre system testing methods adopted globally and these led to the creation of critical AS/NZS Standards. His advocacy for safety and security in network infrastructure exemplified his forward-thinking approach. His contributions will be missed, as we badly need strong advocates for standards in an era where there is a tendency by the regulator to have a “hands off” approach to regulation.

We express our condolences to his family and friends and will remember him as a man who put in a lot of time as a mentor and industry leader, supporting best practices, innovation and safety for people working in the network. Of course, he will also be sadly missed by his family, for his other human qualities.

Growth of Data Centres in Australia

[Excerpt from Electrical Connection Magazine Issue 1, 2026 \(click here\)](#)

“There has been a lot of discussion in the media recently about data centres (DCs), which is not surprising since there are over 200 of them located in Australia now, and this number is growing rapidly at over 10% per annum. This increasing demand for DCs is driven by the growing demand for cloud computing, big data analytics, and the Internet of Things (IoT), together with more common usages like streaming TV, as opposed to simply watching free-to-air.”



“Australia manufactures leading-edge space-saving cables and data centre management equipment

To help DCs be located close to the points of data consumption, there is a great deal of focus on shrinking the size of components that are used in DCs so that more can be accommodated in a smaller space.

High-quality cables are available in Australia through our member organisations

In particular, cables for data centre applications with improved fire performance are preferred as these cables limit the damage that could occur in the unfortunate event of a fire. These cables are not only fire retarding, but they are made from special materials that do not emit corrosive gases if they are exposed to a fire situation.

Working innovatively to reduce cable size

Fibre optic cables have been manufactured in Australia for the past 40 years, and in that time, the fibre counts have increased dramatically. A typical cable may have, in the early days, accommodated 12 fibres, whereas today, cables containing 1,720 fibres are routinely manufactured in Australia with options available up to 6,192 fibres.

Typically, DCs are full of fibre optic cables and this trend to reduce the physical sizes of cables while simultaneously increasing the number of fibres and hence the transmission density has allowed much higher density DCs to be built.”



FSO Project: ICT Training Package Review



FSO are continuing with the review of the ICT training package. The review is focussing on 6 qualifications and their associated units of competency and Skill Sets. The completion date is March 2028 with writing of new and updated content to commence in May 2026. Further information on the timetable of activity and public consultation phases can be obtained on the FSO website at:

<https://www.futureskillsorganisation.com.au/ict-training-package-update/>

To be alerted by FSO of significant matters on this project you can become a collaborator by completing the information required at: <https://www.futureskillsorganisation.com.au/collaborator/>

TCA1 and TCA2 Fillable Forms

Issue	Attention Required	Risk Level
Inadequate separation of communications and electrical cabling	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Inappropriate or inadequate support provided to cables	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Cables not secured or fixed	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Non-compliant cabling/product used	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Non-compliant customer equipment installed	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Non-compliant earthing	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Wrong colour conduct used	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Records are missing or out of date	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Pre-existing cables are worn or frayed	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk
Pre-existing cabling is not compliant (other)	Urgent safety hazard Attention required - non-urgent	Long term - low safety risk

TITAB has developed TCA1 and TCA2 downloadable forms that can be filled in on your laptop or tablet and then emailed to your customer or employer. The completed soft copy form can then stored for the mandatory 12-month period. The content of these forms is based on the samples available on the ACMA website. This paperless approach may encourage more use of the forms in the field and assist in improving the quality of the installations over time by educating customers on the need to utilise registered cablers who provide you with this level of certification. See the Forms tab on the [TITAB website](https://www.titab.com.au).

S009 Wiring Rules Excerpt: Plug Terminated Cabling

The “Wiring Rules” are mandated by ACMA. The TITAB National Office has received a number of enquiries regarding Plug Ended Cables and the Cabling Advisory Group has also discussed problems with field awareness. *Australian Standard AS/CA S009 - Installation Requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules)* – covers this in Section 5.9 Plug Ended Cabling on Page 35. The standard is easily googled. It covers:

5.9 Plug Ended Cabling

- 5.9.1 Fixed or concealed cabling
- 5.9.2 Connecting cords, patch cords and extension leads
- 5.9.3 ES3 customer cabling
- 5.9.4 Suitability of plug

Cyber Wardens Program



Small businesses are the backbone of Australia's economy - and increasingly, they're a target for cyber criminals. That's where Cyber Wardens comes in. Cyber Wardens is a free, practical cyber security training program designed specifically for Australian small businesses. It helps owners and staff build simple, everyday habits that reduce cyber risk - without needing technical expertise.

The [course catalogue](#) supports businesses at every stage of their cyber security journey:

Foundations: Learn the basics

Build core knowledge around identifying risks and red flags that threaten your business.

Level 1: Take action

Develop practical skills and tools to protect your business from common cyber-attacks.

Level 2: AI safety

Learn how artificial intelligence can support your business, and how to guard against AI-powered threats.

Level 3: Supply chain

Strengthen your cyber security practices and meet the expectations of clients, partners and suppliers.

Champions: Promote cyber security

Empowers individuals to lead cyber awareness within their workplace or community and help others build safer digital habits.

Together, Cyber Wardens is helping build a safer, more resilient business community.

[Enrol in Cyber Wardens today and start your journey to cyber security in just 10 minutes.](#)

Cabling Tool PSIBER CT50 Review

Issue 1, 2026 of the Electrical Connection Magazine has a review of a cabling test tool that can identify the distance to short and open circuits with an accuracy of within +/- 2%. See the article in the hard copy magazine for a detailed review. Brief details can also be obtained on supplier websites, [link HERE!](#) -



Join Australian Registered Cablers (Advertisement)

Listing of your business on the Australian Registered Cablers website is open to any sole trader or business that has an ABN. This will enable customers to find a cabler based on location. To find out more information go directly to the appropriate location on the site at: <https://registeredcablers.com.au/list-your-business/>

Also read testimonials from existing businesses using this service by clicking on the picture below.

These 30
seconds will
grow your
business!

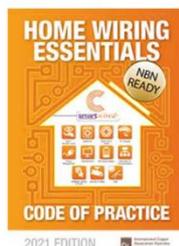
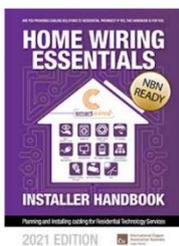


Must watch testimonials for the
Registered Cabler Website >



Smart Wiring Guides

Click on Images



Skills Development

Australian Registered Cablers YouTube Video Presentations, click on the images below



IoT Infrastructure
66 views • 3 months ago



Beyond the Basic AV Network
198 views • 8 months ago



Deploying WiFi in residential premises
881 views • 1 year ago



The Importance of Applying S009 and Adhering to its...
591 views • 1 year ago

Training



Click on Images

Associations



Useful Links

[ACMA](#)

[ACMA Complaints line](#)

[ADTIA](#)

[Authority to Alter Facilities in Residential & Small Business Premises](#)

[Before You Dig](#)

[Australian Telecommunications Alliance](#)

[Cabling Pathways Doc](#)

[Lead In Conduit \(LIC\) Build Process](#)

[NBN Co](#)

[Smart Wiring](#)

[Training Packages](#)

[Wiring Rules AS/CA S009:2020](#)

To order TITAB products, go online or call: (03) 9631 0800 | www.titab.com.au

General Enquiries regarding cabling, Email: info@titab.com.au

Enquiries regarding this Newsletter, Email: etelit@titab.com.au

