

# Telstra Cable Locations

*The following letter was received from Telstra and is printed here for the information of members.*

I would like to notify your Society of the availability of Telstra cable location plans and search facilities.

Telstra has received a number of complaints from builders and other property purchasers whose solicitors have failed to undertake a cable location search during the conveyancing process. This has meant that builders have had either to abandon their plans to build, modify their plans or pay Telstra to remove its cable. In the event of a cut cable, Telstra may claim repair costs and loss of gross profit margin costs from the damager.

In order to prevent cut cables and other problems as set out above, Telstra provides cable location plans if members of the public (or their solicitors) call 1100. There is a charge for this service which will be quoted at the time of enquiry.

It should be noted that Telstra plans indicate the location of major cables but generally these plans do not include 2 pair lead-in cables to sites. Telstra issues these plans with a disclaimer for accuracy due to shifting soil levels and disturbances to our cable by other utilities.

Nevertheless, by requesting a cable location from Telstra, solicitors can help protect both their own interests and those of their clients.

Telstra can also make available cable locators to physically locate cables on property. This can further assist property owners to receive accurate information about the location of cable. There is a charge for this service.

It would be appreciated if you could promulgate this advice both to committee members and to the profession. The committee may wish to consider making searches of Telstra cable part of solicitors' standard conveyancing practice.

If you have any further queries regarding the issues raised, please contact Ms Robyn Watter, Solicitor, Legal Directorate on tel: 03 9634 5024.

Tony O'Malley  
Deputy General Counsel  
Telstra Corporation Ltd.



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