Tasmanian Spatial information council

What happens when it all goes wrong?

the importance of spatially locating underground services

When a water main bursts, it's important to know exactly where the valves are so workers can quickly isolate the damaged section of pipe.

Time is of the essence. Not only is there wastage of a precious resource, but the risk of damage to other structures through undermining and washing away.

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What happens when information about underground services is either inaccurate or simply doesn't exist?

Construction workers can avoid major damage and prevent potentially major disruption of services to the community when underground telecommunication cables are accurately spatially located.

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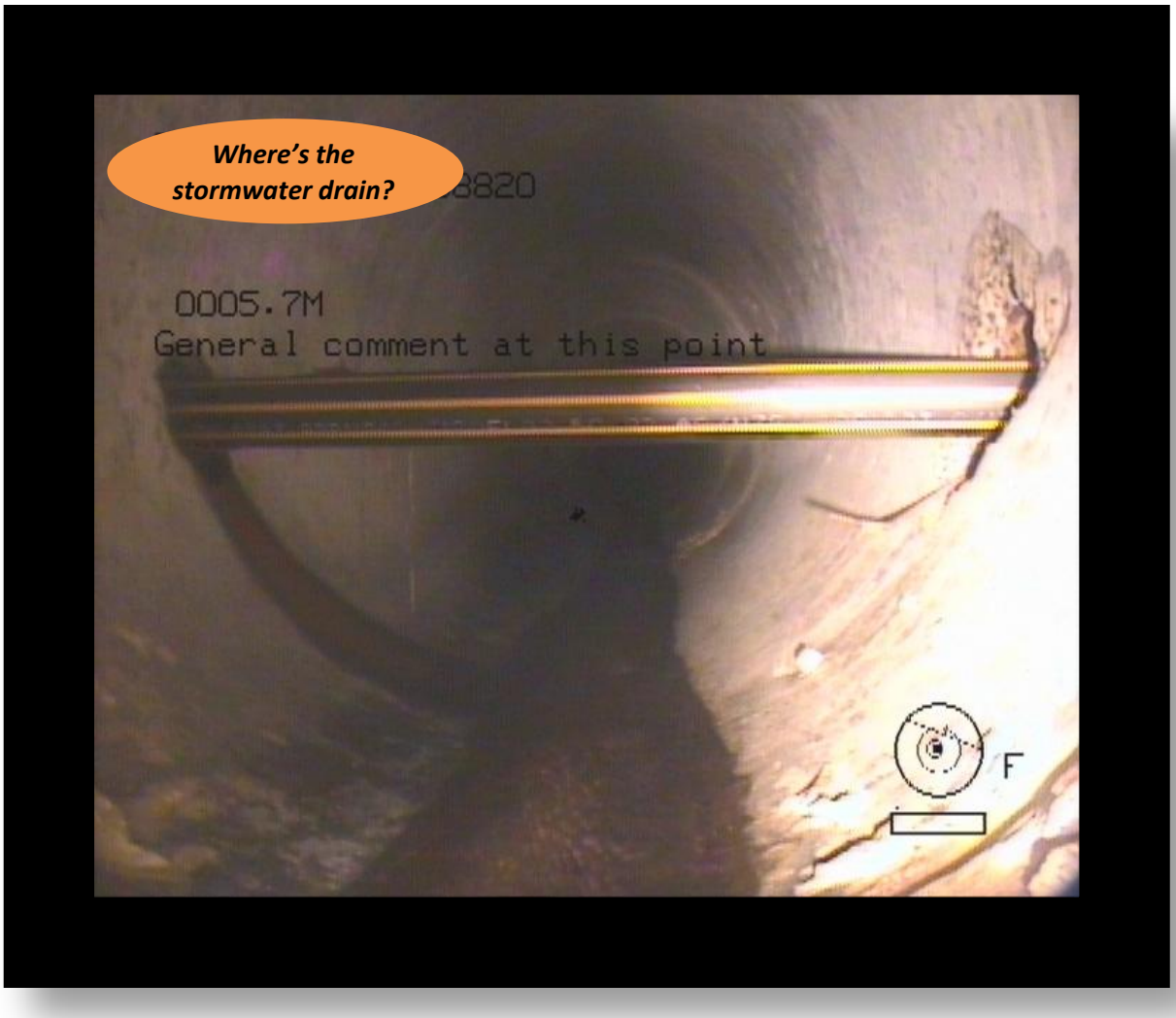

Trenchless technologies can save on resources and time – but there can also be unexpected, unfavourable consequences if the exact location of existing structures is unknown.

The damage caused by inadvertently drilling a gas main through a stormwater pipe can be substantial – and very costly.

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Another example of what can happen when trenchless technologies are used in the absence of accurate spatial information about underground services.

Drilling or digging in the wrong place without the right information can cause major damage to sewerage infrastructure and undesirable spillage of untreated effluent in public places.

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When the precise location of existing pipework is unknown, it can take a great deal of time, money and effort to find what you're looking for.

Accurate spatial location of underground services at the time of installation can reduce the breadth and depth of excavation for future maintenance and repair work.

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Even in our own backyards, it's important to know the in-ground location of existing pipes and cables.

Residential property is not immune to attempts to locate underground services and the resultant damage to homes and gardens can be extensive.