

DNB Inc. Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) – update 5/2023

Details

GME Accusat, model MT610G (G = GPS model)

UIN: 3EEEE A7E4A FFBFF; Serial number 2211638917; Purchased January 2023

Registered with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) - <https://beacons.amsa.gov.au/>

Registered under name Dalmeny Narooma Bushwalkers

Contact names and mobile & home phone numbers registered: (1) Steve Deck (2) Michael McDonagh

It is also registered to DNB's website

First registered 27 May 2023. Re-registration is due every 2 years. Next re-registration is due May 2025.

The PLB has a 7 years warranty/life span. Due for replacement in May 2030

DNB Inc. procedures with the PLB

Walk Organiser (Steve Deck)

1. takes overall responsibility for the PLB on behalf of the club
2. does regular battery check
3. does 2-yearly registration renewal
4. updates contact details if necessary (by logging on to the PLB account)
5. notifies committee when 7 years registration expires and PLB should be replaced
6. ensures any walk leader carrying the PLB is instructed on how to use and when it is used

Conditions when PLB must be carried on a club activity

1. where the walk leader believes that over half the walk (over 50%) is out of mobile phone range, unless mobile contact is highly likely within 1 hour of safe walking
2. in any area considered remote, which includes walks generally inaccessible by 2WD or in mountainous or rough terrain, such as the Budawangs (Morton National Park)
3. on any extra-long walk over 20 kms or expected to take all daylight hours to complete, unless it is mostly within mobile phone range
4. on any overnight walk
5. on any 'away' camp walk where the mobile phone coverage is not known

Who carries the PLB

1. the person leading the walk or activity will take responsibility for carrying the PLB. This involves getting the PLB in advance, and later returning the PLB to the walks organiser.
2. any walker who has responsibility for the PLB must ensure that they know how to operate the PLB
3. the walks organiser may decide to carry the PLB on other walks but it is not a requirement

When to use

The PLB is only used in an emergency when two-way communication (mobile phone) is not possible.

The AMSA define an emergency as a situation of grave and imminent danger; or when facing a life-threatening situation. Always, two-way communication is the most effective emergency communication, ringing 000, preferably using the Emergency+ App. **The PLB is a tool of last resort.**

What happens after activation

Activating the PLB transmits a signal that is detected by satellite. Once notified, AMSA Search and Rescue will look up the club account and ring the emergency contacts. How long it takes for emergency personnel to launch a rescue and the cost of the rescue operations varies considerably.

Do not turn off your distress beacon until advised by rescue services.

Accidental activation

If the beacon is accidentally activated, **switch it OFF immediately** (within 50 seconds) and contact the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on **1800 641 792**. There is no penalty for accidental activation.