



BRIGHT  
FUTURES  
FUND

NORTH WEST TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENTS

# BRIGHT FUTURES FUND GRANT APPLICATION GUIDE



June 2026

# WELCOME!



**Thank you for considering applying to the Bright Futures Fund. We're excited to launch this fund to support positive change in the region. TasNetworks has been working with community members on the North West Transmission Developments (NWTN) since 2019, recognising the need to share the benefits of this once in a generation energy infrastructure project with the communities located within the NWTN project area.**

Talking to young people was an important first step in developing the Bright Futures Fund which is now available to communities in North and North West Tasmania. Not only will young people be living with the transmission infrastructure the longest, but they are often absent from community engagement processes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Youth Panel and stakeholders that were involved in developing the framework and criteria for the Fund. Community members, including young people, when empowered and supported, can develop positive and sustainable outcomes that are reflective of community values, interests and priorities.

This guide is designed to help you navigate the application process with confidence. It outlines eligibility requirements, key dates, and step-by-step instructions to ensure your submission is clear and complete. If you have a bright idea that benefits the future of your community, we want to hear from you.

**TasNetworks' Bright Futures Fund Team**

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## ABOUT TASNETWORKS



**TasNetworks is a State Government-owned company responsible for planning, building, operating, and maintaining Tasmania's electricity transmission and distribution networks. We deliver safe, sustainable and reliable electricity to more than 300,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.**

Our operations and people span the entire state of Tasmania, and our services help power the lives of our customers and communities.

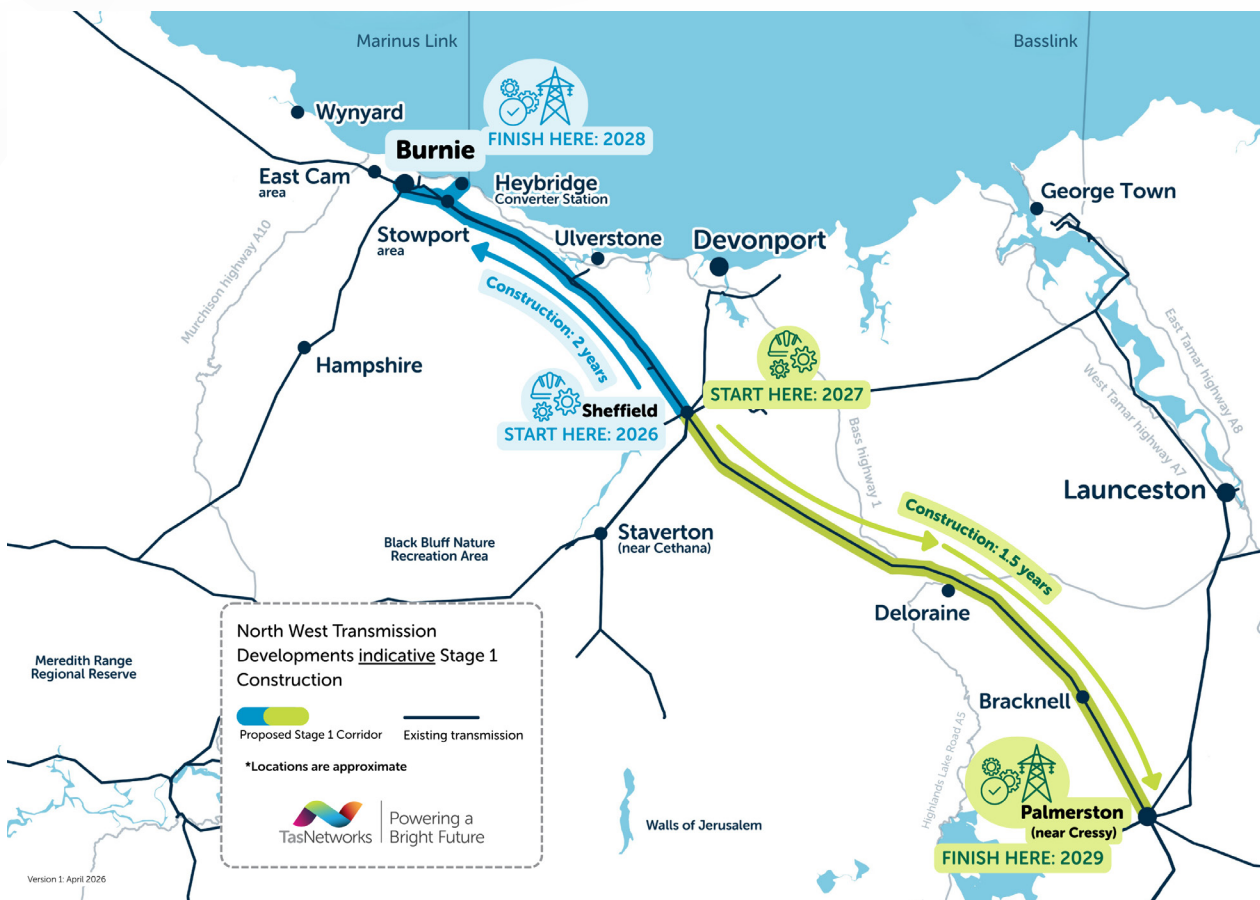
As Tasmania's electricity network planner, TasNetworks is working to ensure that our infrastructure will be capable and ready to support future renewable energy developments.

# NORTH WEST TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENTS

As Tasmania's energy demands increase, TasNetworks needs to strengthen the state's transmission network. Stage 1 NWTD will support new renewable energy developments including Marinus Link and will generate significant benefits and opportunities for Tasmanian communities and businesses.

Stage 1 of the NWTD project includes 3 km of new and 126 km of upgraded transmission lines. It also includes upgrades to the Sheffield, Palmerston and Burnie substations and a new switching station at Heybridge to support the Marinus Link converter station.

The Bright Futures Fund will run alongside construction of the NWTD. The fund is therefore expected to operate between 2026 and 2030, or until all of the \$10 million has been invested.



# WHAT IS THE BRIGHT FUTURES FUND?

**The Bright Futures Fund (BFF) is a critical part of TasNetworks' commitment to ensuring an ongoing and sustainable positive legacy for the region, both during and after construction of the NWT D.**

TasNetworks has committed \$10 million to support projects that deliver meaningful benefits to communities within the five Local Government Areas that Stage 1 NWT D spans.

The Bright Futures Fund offers four funding tiers, providing communities with flexible options from small grants to support local projects, through to funding for major regional projects.

A seven-member Independent Community Assessment Panel reviews all applications and selects successful projects for funding. An Independent Chair oversees the Panel to ensure fairness, integrity and effectiveness. Panel members from the region ensure local knowledge and perspectives are central to the decision-making process.

TasNetworks oversees the administration and governance of the Bright Futures Fund, ensuring it is delivered with transparency, accountability and strong community alignment.



# PURPOSE OF THE FUND

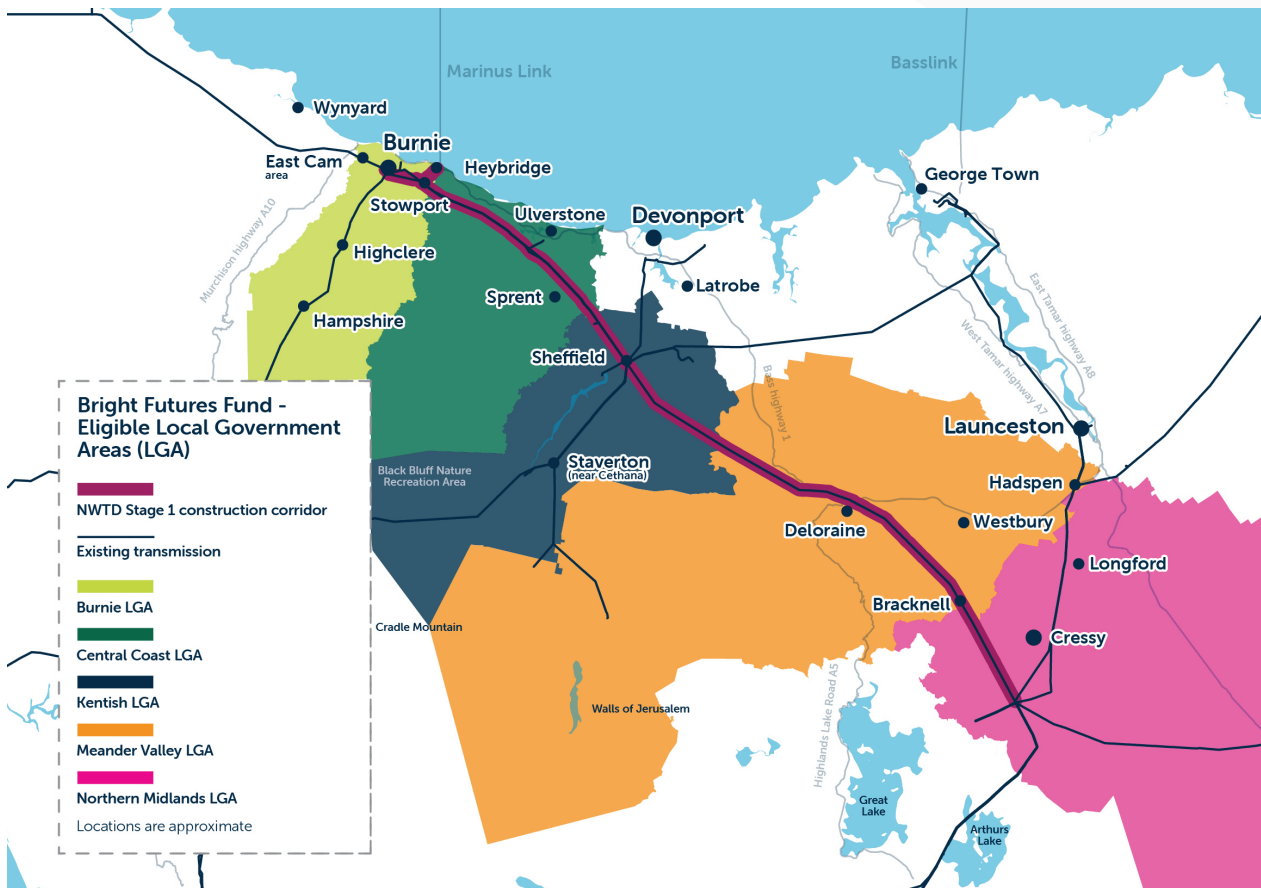
Major projects, like NWTD, deliver broad benefits to communities across a region, state or country, however, project impacts can be felt by the local communities surrounding the project. The Bright Futures Fund will provide additional benefits to local communities to ensure there is equitable distribution of benefits.

We will aim to:

- Ensure the benefits delivered by the Fund are sustainable and positive.
- Ensure equitable, effective and transparent governance for the Fund.



# WHO CAN APPLY?



## You will deliver benefits in at least one of the five local government areas

- Burnie City, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands.

## You are Australian owned

- Be Australian owned or registered in Australia, noting that priority will be given to applications from Tasmanian-owned organisations.



### **You are a not-for-profit organisation including:**

- Registered charities
- School associations
- Social enterprises
- Companies limited by guarantee operating on a not-for-profit basis
- Incorporated entities
- Any unincorporated entity that is sponsored by an eligible organisation.

### **You will comply with Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Standards**

- Where program activities involve children or young people (under 18 years of age), either as participants or as the intended audience, recipients must ensure appropriate measures are in place to support their safety and wellbeing. This includes complying with Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Standards, as well as all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements in Tasmania.

### **Applications we can't consider:**

- Applications for religious, political or individual gain
- Projects outside of Tasmania
- Provision of free or discounted electrical infrastructure, electricity, or any other core TasNetworks product or products of TasNetworks' subsidiaries
- Projects with poor safety and/or environmental outcomes
- Any project, event or organisation that could be inconsistent with our vision or role in the Tasmanian community
- Individual, or fundraising campaigns
- Where the applicant is a for-profit organisation or unincorporated entity
- Local, state and federal government entities are not eligible to apply for funding but may co-fund, partner with, or support, applying organisations.

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA



To be eligible, projects need to address the following focus areas and core values and deliver benefits to an identified community.

## Focus areas

Have a positive impact on the community, in at least one of the following six focus areas, by:

- Supporting emotional, mental, and/or physical health
- Preserving, benefiting and/or enhancing the environment
- Providing community infrastructure, and/or accessibility to community services, including transport
- Delivering community arts projects, including events
- Providing skills, training, and/or education
- Encouraging a sense of community.

## Core values

Demonstrate one or more of the following core values, noting that higher funding tiers (outlined in the following pages) must demonstrate all four of these values:

**Inclusion** – supporting participation by, and delivering benefit for, the broadest, most diverse group of people possible

**Accessibility** – addressing participation barriers, such as physical access, language and literacy, amongst others

**Lasting impact** – generating ongoing benefits that continue after the project has been delivered

**Environmental sustainability** – delivery of the project to have regard for and address/limit its environmental impact.

## Identified communities

Deliver demonstrable benefits to an 'identified community' within the five local government areas the NWTD spans.

- Examples of an 'identified community' include: a defined geographic location, or a specified demographic group, or a minority or disadvantaged group.

# AVAILABLE FUNDING



There are two funding application rounds per year which will be available throughout the NWTD construction period 2026-2030 or until the \$10 million fund has been invested.

## Funding round one

The first funding round will be open for tier one and tier two applications.

We will also be accepting expressions of interest (EOI) for proposed projects under tiers three and four. This will allow applicants to receive initial feedback from the Panel to optimise applications without needing to provide a full project plan.

## Key dates - 2026

| ROUND ONE                   | DATES                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Applications and EOIs open  | 10:00am, 19 June 2026          |
| Applications and EOIs close | 11:59pm, 2 August 2026         |
| Assessment period           | 3 August to 6 September 2026   |
| Applicants notified         | From week of 21 September 2026 |

## Funding round two

The second funding round will be open for:

- Assessing new tier one and tier two applications
- Reviewing new tier three and four EOIs
- Assessing confirmed EOIs from round one.

## Key dates

Dates for round two and the funding rounds in 2027 will be published on our website.

# FUNDING TIERS

| TIER 1  | TIER 2  | TIER 3   | TIER 4  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Less than \$10,000 (excluding GST)                            | Between \$10,000 and \$50,000 (excluding GST)                 | Between \$50,000 and \$250,000 (excluding GST) | Between \$250,000, up to or exceeding \$500,000 (excluding GST) |
| Must demonstrate at least <b>one</b> of the four core values. | Must demonstrate at least <b>two</b> of the four core values. | Must demonstrate <b>all four</b> core values.  | Must demonstrate <b>all four</b> core values.                   |

**The higher the funding tier, the more that will be expected of your application including addressing the core values requirements and community reach.**

For example, 'start-up' projects that develop or test new ideas may be submitted under Tier 1, with Tier 2 applications further developing and expanding an existing or new project.

Proven, successfully trialled projects or existing projects/organisations with a track record will be expected for Tier 3 and 4 funding. Proposals for the higher tiers will be expected to have broad reach and impact, and detailed delivery approaches, with staged funding to meet agreed milestones and/or key performance indicators.

# HOW DO I APPLY?



We use the SmartyGrants platform for applications and EOIs. Applicants will need to create an account with SmartyGrants and apply online.

To submit your application, go to:  
[tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund](https://tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund)

## Do you need support?

Applicants may seek guidance from the Bright Futures Fund team about their application and required content. Please email [brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au) or call TasNetworks on 1300 137 008 for more information.

## What to expect after applying

### 1. Application submitted

### 2. Shortlisting

- Eligibility checks
- Creation of shortlist of applications that meet all eligibility requirements.

### 3. Panel assessment

- Independent Assessment Panel evaluates the shortlisted applications
- Independent Assessment Panel determines the successful applicants
- Recommendations report provided to TasNetworks.

4. All applicants notified of the outcome of their application

5. Letter of Offer or Grant Deed will be issued to recipients outlining key terms and requirements

- Financial forms required to enable payment of grant funds will also be issued.

6. Completed forms, Letter of Offer or Grant Deed are returned to TasNetworks within two weeks

7. Successful recipients announced by TasNetworks media statement and social media

8. Funds provided to recipients as per the agreed terms in the Letter of Offer or Grant Deed. Funds may be paid in instalments in line with project milestone requirements.

9. Progress reports provided to TasNetworks until project completion. These terms will be outlined in your Letter of Offer or Grant Deed.

# CHECKLIST

## Step 1: Check you're eligible

Before you apply, make sure your project:

- ✔ Is run by an organisation registered in Australia
- ✔ Takes place in one of these local government areas:  
Burnie | Central Coast | Kentish | Meander Valley | Northern Midlands
- ✔ Supports at least one focus area
- ✔ Reflects at least one core value
- ✔ Benefits an identified community group (e.g. local residents, young people, vulnerable groups, a disadvantaged group)
- ✗ Is NOT for political, religious or personal gain.

## Step 2: Get your details ready

You'll need:

- Organisation name and ABN
- Contact person details
- Project name.

## Step 3: Describe your project

Keep it simple and clear. You'll be asked:

- ✔ What is your project?  
What will you do and why is it needed?
- ✔ Who will benefit?  
Be specific about the people or community group.
- ✔ What difference will it make?  
What will change because of your project?
- ✔ How will you measure success?  
How will you show it worked?

**Tip: Dot points are fine.**

## Step 4: Show where and who

You'll need to tell us:

- Which local government area your project is in
- Which towns or locations will benefit
- Which identified community group will benefit.

## Step 5: Link to focus areas

Explain how your project will support at least one:

- Emotional, mental and/or physical health
- Preserve, benefit and enhance the environment
- Community infrastructure and accessibility to community services, including transport
- Community arts projects, including events
- Skills, training and education
- Encouraging a sense of community.

## Step 6: Show your values

Your project must reflect at least one:

- Inclusion - supporting participation by, and delivering benefit for, the broadest, most diverse group of people possible
- Accessibility - addressing participation barriers, such as physical access, language and literacy, amongst others
- Lasting impact - generating ongoing benefits that continue after the initiative has been delivered
- Environmental sustainability - delivery of the initiative to have regard for and address/limit its environmental impact.

## Step 7: Add your budget

Tell us:

- How much funding you're requesting
- Your project income and expenses.

Your budget must balance (income = expenses)

## Step 8: Submit your application

You can also include:

- Supporting documents (optional)
- Up to 5 attachments.

### Tips for a strong application

- ✔ Be clear about who benefits
- ✔ Keep your answers simple and direct
- ✔ Focus on impact, not technical detail
- ✔ Use real examples where possible.

## Support

Please contact the Bright Futures Fund team about any questions you may have. We are happy to help.

email [brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au) or call 1300 137 008



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Eligibility

### Why have you chosen these focus areas and core values?

A Youth Panel from the region co-designed the framework for the benefits sharing program, including the eligibility criteria. This was then tested with stakeholders and approved by the TasNetworks Board.

### What types of organisations are eligible for grants?

We accept applications from all not-for-profit entities, including incorporated entities, registered charities, school associations, companies limited by guarantee operating on a not-for-profit basis, and any unincorporated entity that is sponsored by an eligible organisation. Local, state and federal government entities are not eligible to apply for funding but may co-fund or partner with, or support, applying organisations.

### Are there specific geographic areas or communities targeted?

Benefits in at least one of the following local government areas (LGAs) Burnie City, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley, and Northern Midlands. These have been chosen because the physical transmission infrastructure is in these areas. However, your application will be considered if your project delivers benefits outside of the five local government areas as long as the majority of the benefits are within an impacted LGA.

### Can we apply if we've previously received a TasNetworks Community Grant or NWTG sponsorship?

Yes, organisations that have completed their previously funded project and submitted the required reports are eligible to apply again.

## Applications

### Can I request feedback on an unsuccessful application?

We will endeavour to provide feedback on applications, if requested. Basic information may be included in your notification email, but due to the high volume of applications not all applications will receive detailed feedback.

### Can I know the questions which appear on the application form prior to applying?

Yes. We understand the importance of being prepared. The application form questions will be available to view on the SmartyGrants platform once the grant round opens, allowing you to review the questions and prepare your responses before starting an application.

### What if I miss a funding round?

Two funding round opportunities are available per year. Late funding applications cannot be accepted. Sign up to get reminders about when funding opens. Go to our website: [tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund](https://tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund)

## Applying for a grant

### When must our project start?

Projects must start within 12 months of grant approval.

### Can I apply for a project that has already started?

Yes, but preference will be given to new projects. For ongoing projects, make sure that you explain how the grant would enhance or expand the existing project.

## What can I do if there are technical issues?

We recommend submitting your application as early as possible to avoid last-minute issues. Should you need help, email us at [brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au).

To ensure fairness, we are unable to accept any application after the close of the application period. There will be two funding rounds per year. If you miss a round, please keep an eye on the timeframes for the next round – found at: [tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund](http://tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund)

## Can we include supporting documents in our application?

Yes, we encourage you to upload relevant documents, images, or other materials that demonstrate your project's expected outcomes and impact.

## Where can I seek advice about my application?

Applicants may seek guidance from the Bright Futures Fund team about their application and required content. Please email [brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:brightfuturesfund@tasnetworks.com.au) or call 1300 137 008.

## Assessment and decision-making

### How are applications assessed?

An Independent Community Assessment Panel is responsible for reviewing and selecting successful projects. This 7-member panel comprises community and skilled regional representatives. The panel's responsibilities will include reviewing all eligible applications in accordance with the assessment guidelines.

### How does TasNetworks ensure fairness and transparency in the grant process?

TasNetworks will oversee the administration and governance of the BFF, ensuring it is delivered with transparency, accountability and strong community alignment.

An Independent Community Assessment Panel (ICAP) will review applications and select successful projects for funding. This will ensure the fairness, integrity and effectiveness of the Fund.

## After you apply

### Will I be contacted about our application?

Applicants will receive a confirmation of their application via email. If there are clear errors or missing information, we may contact you for clarification. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application once final decisions are made.

### When will I know if we have been successful?

We aim to notify all applicants as soon as we can after making final funding decisions. This may be up to eight weeks after the close of applications.

### What happens if our application is successful?

Successful applicants will need to complete the necessary paperwork to finalise their grant including a Letter of Offer or Grant Deed. Funds will be transferred via electronic funds transfer, and details of your project will be published on our website.

# PRIVACY POLICY



TasNetworks recognises that the privacy of all people that we deal with (including employees and people external to the organisation) is very important and we are committed to protecting the personal information we collect from you. View our Privacy Policy: [tasnetworks.com.au/about-us/policies](http://tasnetworks.com.au/about-us/policies)



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