

# Proposed North West Transmission Developments **Field Surveys**

November 2021





# Ecology field surveys

**Ecology field surveys for the proposed North West Transmission Developments are part of Tasmanian and Commonwealth Government environmental assessment processes.**

TasNetworks is seeking access to your property so that ecologists can undertake field investigations. The ecological survey will be looking for plants and animals that are protected under Tasmanian and Australian Government legislation.

Access is required to properties located within the survey areas which include the existing or proposed easement (new or widened) and immediately adjacent land.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- **Who will be undertaking the ecology field surveys**
- **What these surveys look for and aim to achieve**
- **Where the surveys will take place and what they involve**
- **What TasNetworks needs from you, and**
- **The proposed timing for these surveys**





## Who is undertaking **these surveys?**

.....

Consultants from Tasmanian-based firm Entura are conducting the ecology surveys on behalf of TasNetworks. These consultants are qualified and experienced in assessing the potential environmental impacts of a project of this scale.

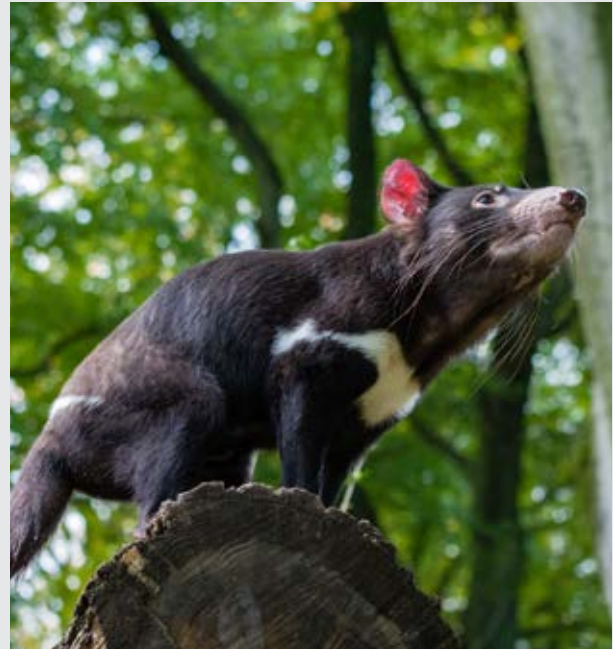
## What do ecological **surveys look for?**

.....

**To understand the potential ecological impacts of the proposed North West Tasmania transmission developments, TasNetworks needs to better understand the existing ecological values. The existing ecological values are identified through these surveys.**

The ecologists conducting the surveys will be looking for plants and animals that are protected under Tasmanian and Commonwealth law. Should the developments proceed, it is likely that some areas of vegetation will need to be cleared. This clearing can have an impact on these protected plants and animals.

Qualified and experienced ecologists will be looking for habitat and evidence that threatened species such as Tasmanian Devils and Eastern and Spotted-tail Quolls live in the area, and for Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle nests. The ecologists will also be looking for rare plants and sensitive and threatened ecological communities such as highland and lowland Poa grassland, and threatened flora species such as riverbed wintercress and crowded leek-orchid.



*Tasmanian Devil*



*Highland Poa  
Grassland*

## The aim of these ecology surveys is to:

- verify and, where necessary, update Tasmanian mapped vegetation communities
- identify and record the condition of vegetation protected under Tasmanian and Commonwealth law
- identify plant species protected under Tasmanian and Commonwealth law
- identify and record the potential habitat of state and Commonwealth-listed threatened animal species, and
- record introduced weeds.

Collection of plant specimens may be required, for which the necessary permits are held by the ecologists engaged to conduct the survey. No trapping or invasive survey techniques are planned for this survey.

## Where will the ecology surveys take place?

Ecology surveys will cover a survey corridor including any existing easement areas.

Further surveys will be required to ensure species can be identified in the appropriate season of the year. As the project progresses, surveys may expand to cover any new easement areas or access tracks.

## What do ecology surveys involve?

Target areas within the survey corridor will be identified and surveyed using a 'meander search method'. This involves walking over the survey area in a random manner to record all plant species encountered and target habitats and vegetation communities that are likely to hold threatened plants and animals.

# Cultural heritage field surveys

---

TasNetworks is seeking to access your property to enable cultural heritage specialists to undertake field surveys. The specialists will look for Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values. Access is required in a survey corridor including existing easement areas where these exist.

## What are they **looking for?**

---

The aim of the cultural heritage field surveys is to identify Aboriginal and historic heritage sites that may be present, as well as areas of potential archaeological sensitivity. This survey will contribute to an overall assessment of the cultural heritage values and sensitivity of the area potentially impacted by the proposed developments.





## A range of different site and artefact types are possible within the survey corridor. These include:

### Artefacts

These comprise single items or groups (scatters) of items of cultural material made and used by Tasmanian Aborigines in their everyday life.

### Stone quarries

Stone was used in the hunting and gathering of food and in food preparation and processing.

### Culturally modified trees

Scars on trees that may be the result of removal of strips of bark by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of utensils, canoes or for shelter.

### Sacred or spiritual places

Places used or valued by Aboriginal people as part of their connection to the land and exercise of their customs and beliefs including story lines, ceremonial sites, spirit places and burial sites.

### Historic heritage

Including historic sites, structures, places and areas associated with early settlement. These sites may include archaeological material that contributes to our understanding of Tasmania's colonisation.



*Example of items within an artefact scatter*



*Example of historic heritage*

**Identified heritage sites or areas will be recorded and photographed. In addition, Aboriginal Heritage forms will be completed and submitted to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) for all Aboriginal sites located.**

## What happens if **something is found on my property?**

**If cultural heritage values are found on your property, finds will be managed in accordance with relevant legislation and TasNetworks will consult with landowners and relevant authorities on their management.**

Proposed developments like the North West Transmission Developments, fall within the scope of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 (Tas)*, which sets out certain requirements in relation to surveys in areas that may be impacted by the project to assess the potential impacts.

If we find artefacts, further investigations may be required to address the Tasmanian Government's requirements. If this is the case, these requirements will be discussed with you.

## Who will conduct **the surveys?**

The field team will comprise of an archaeologist and Aboriginal Heritage Officers from a Tasmanian firm, Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA). Aboriginal Heritage Officers are Aboriginal

people with specialist training and skills endorsed by the Aboriginal community. They will investigate the area for the presence or absence of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and provide advice on the ongoing management of Aboriginal cultural heritage if found.

The archaeologists and the Aboriginal Heritage Officers will walk a series of survey transects along the entire length of the transmission line route, with the transects confined to the survey corridor.

## Geotechnical surveys

**Geotechnical investigations are required at some proposed tower foundation locations. This will require drilling test holes and extracting soil samples.**





# When will the surveys **take place?**

.....

Surveys will commence once TasNetworks has arranged access with landowners. Some areas surveyed in these initial surveys may require a subsequent investigation once the soil and subsoil conditions are known.

.....

Survey period	Purpose
Spring 2021	Ecological Cultural heritage
Summer 2021-22	Geotechnical Targeted ecological surveys as required based on Spring survey findings

# What does TasNetworks need from landowners?

Tasnetwork's landowner relations advisors will provide an overview of the proposed field surveys on your property and document agreed property specific access conditions to be observed by Tasnetworks and its contractors.

Typical access conditions relate to:

- **communication and notification requirements**
- **restricted 'no go' areas**
- **property operations such as crop and livestock production cycles**
- **access point and track locations**
- **fences, gates and grids, and**
- **biosecurity requirements.**

The landholder relations advisor will ensure that all parties entering your property are aware of and comply with the access conditions and if required, will remain with the survey team while they undertake their activities. They will also liaise with you directly about the work and answer any questions you may have.



## How do I find out more?

visit: [tasnetworks.com.au](https://tasnetworks.com.au)  
email: [NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au)  
call: **1300 127 777**







[tasnetworks.com.au](http://tasnetworks.com.au)