NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group

29 April 2025

TasNetworks | Powering a Bright Future

Today's agenda

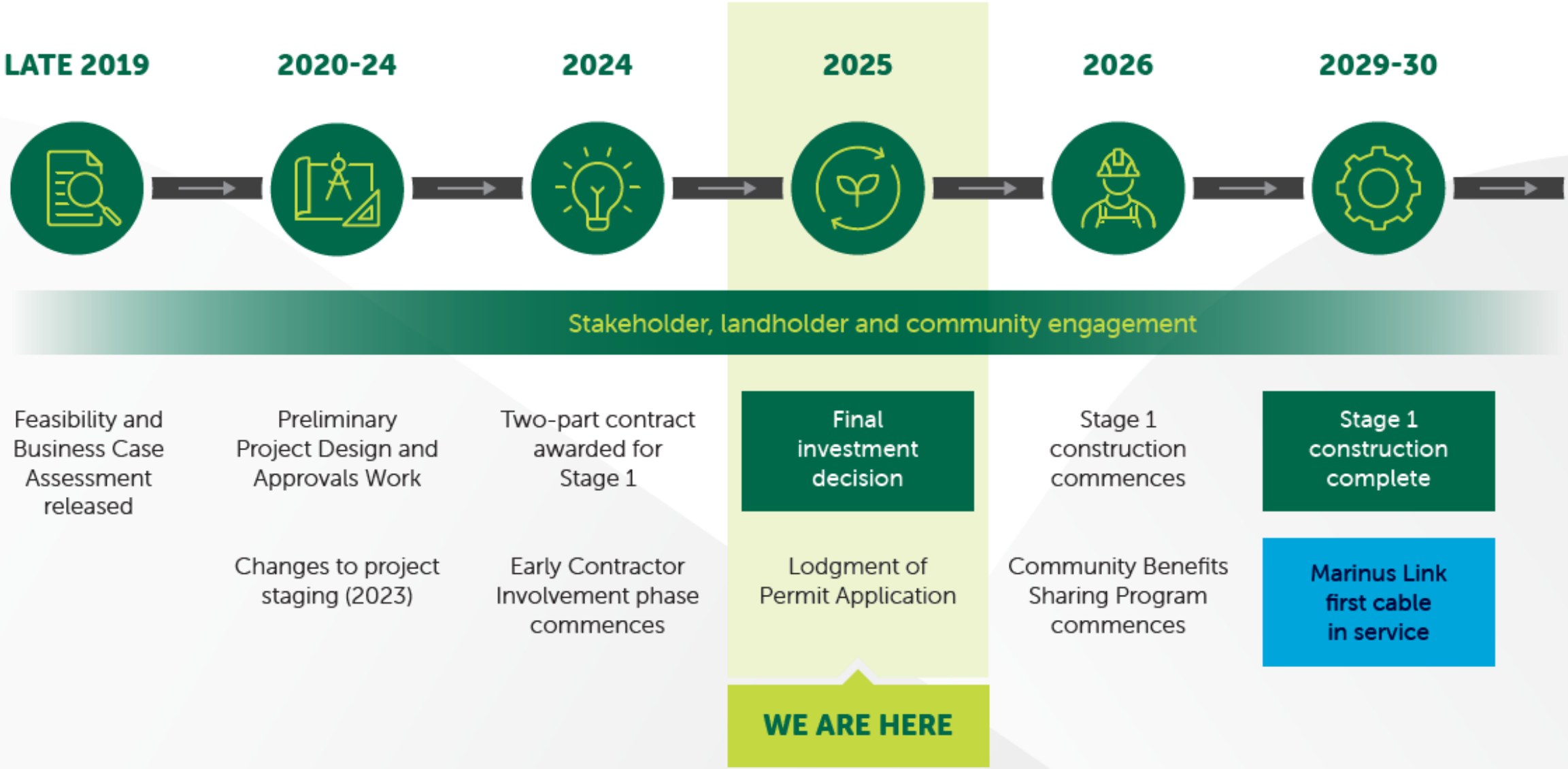
- Round robin
- NWTD Permit Application
- NWTD project update
- Community investment
- Economic Development Action Plan review
- Marinus Link update
- Cumulative Impact Assessment
- ReCFIT update

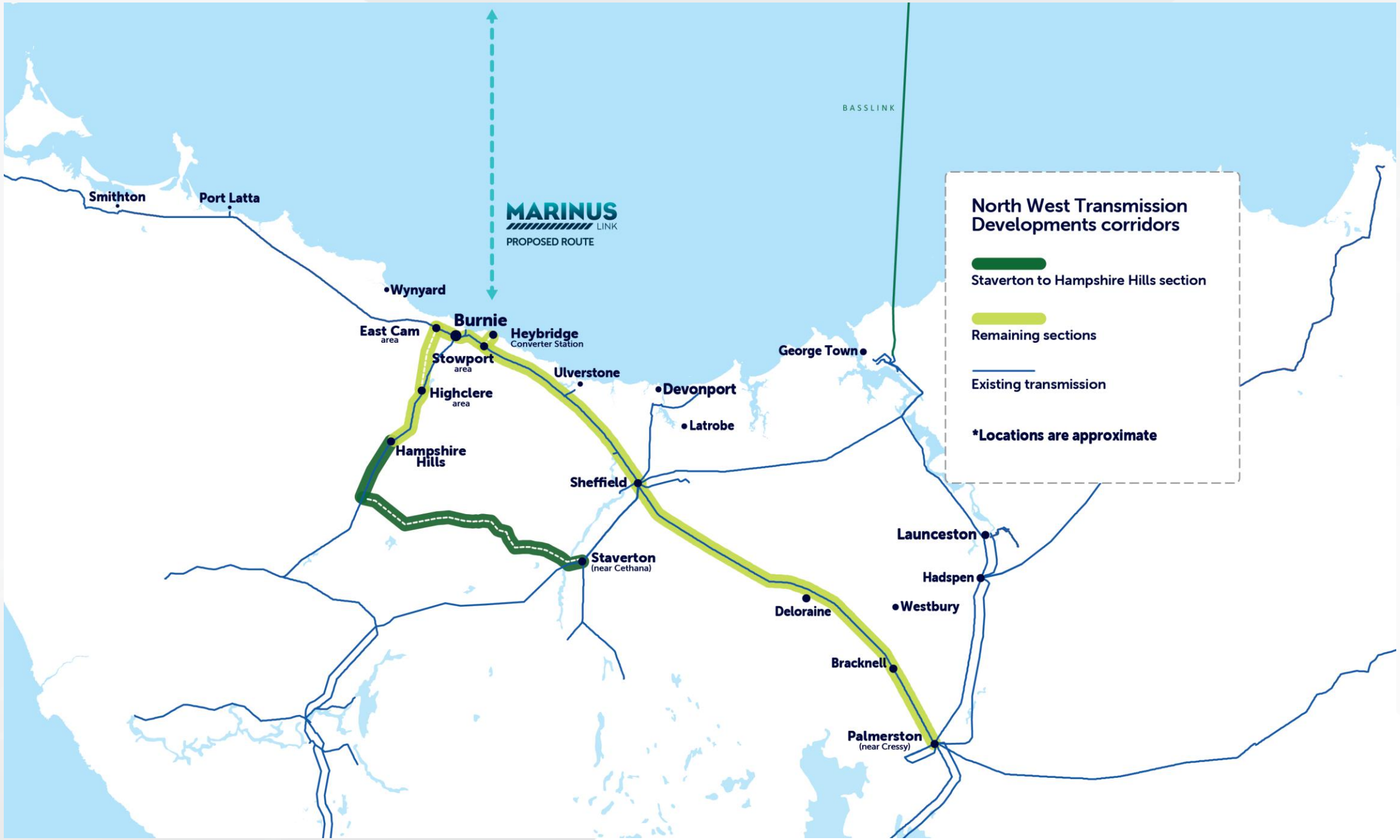
TasNetworks | Powering a Bright Future

Member round robin

NWTD permit application

Project timeline




BASSLINK
MARINUS LINK
PROPOSED ROUTE
Smithton
Port Latta
Wynyard
Burnie
East Cam
area
Heybridge
Converter Station
Stowport
area
Ulverstone
Highclere
area
Hampshire
Hills
George Town
Devonport
Latrobe
Sheffield
Staverton
(near Cethana)
Launceston
Hadspen
Westbury
Deloraine
Bracknell
Palmerston
(near Cressy)
North West Transmission
Developments corridors
Staverton to Hampshire Hills section
Remaining sections
Existing transmission
*Locations are approximate

Process overview

Project scoping	• Initial assessments are conducted to define the project scope and preferred route, including identifying potential impacts and benefits
Preparation of documents	• Technical studies are undertaken to assess the potential environmental effects of the project (see following boards for more information) • The project prepares a permit application to respond to the TPC's planning criteria. This will include an EIS that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the project
Submission of documents	• The permit application is submitted to the TPC for review
Public exhibition	• Once the TPC is satisfied with the permit application, it will be placed on public exhibition for comment
Regulatory approvals	• To proceed, the project must be approved by the TPC and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. The project will also be assessed in relation to Aboriginal Heritage and historic cultural heritage
Final design and planning	• Based on feedback and additional investigations, the final project design is developed • Once the design is finalised, secondary approvals will be obtained from relevant authorities, such as councils and State Government agencies
Construction starts	• Once all required approvals are secured construction starts

Ecology

Study overview

Qualified ecologists surveyed over 3,400 hectares of land surrounding the preferred transmission line route to understand the impacts on native vegetation and identify any threatened species and habitats that may be affected by the project.

The study involved:

- Reviewing existing data, environmental legislation and regulations, literature and reports to identify and map native vegetation, declared weeds and sensitive ecological areas along the preferred route
- Field studies and surveys to identify any threatened species, habitats, native vegetation and weeds
- Helicopter and field surveys along the route to identify and map the location of eagle nests and verify active nests
- Assessing impacts of the project on ecological values and developing measures to reduce these impacts.

Key findings

- The study identified a range of significant flora and fauna species, including several that are classified as threatened or listed under state and national legislation
- Critical habitats, such as nesting sites, dens, migration corridors and native vegetation were mapped to highlight areas of particular ecological importance.

Summary of key impacts:

- Approximately 1,111 ha of vegetation will be impacted to varying degrees for the upgrade of the transmission lines during construction and operation. Majority of this area (87%) is located in already modified land used for agriculture, plantations and electricity easements. The remaining 144 ha (13%) is native vegetation
- Vegetation clearing, access track construction, helicopter surveys, noise-generating activities, and vehicle movements could affect some animals who are sensitive to these impacts, particularly during breeding and nesting seasons
- Movement of workers, vehicles and machinery during construction may lead to weeds being spread intro new areas and/or the spread of these species.

Traffic, transport and roads

Study overview

Technical specialists undertook a traffic and transport study which involved:

- Analysing traffic data to understand the roads, intersections, and current traffic volumes within the study area
- Conducting site investigations to assess the public road network, including the condition and safety of roads
- Assessing the potential risks to the public road network (road condition, operation, and safety) during construction and operation of the project based on the proposed construction locations, traffic volumes, access routes and vehicle types.

The study focussed on public roads and did not consider private roads or access tracks. Any use of private roads will be discussed with the owner and their use agreed in advance.

Key findings

More than 200 public roads were assessed as potential traffic routes during construction, including roads owned by the Department of State Growth and various councils.

Summary of key impacts:

- Construction activities will see a temporary increase in traffic along some public roads and an increase in heavy vehicles. Additional traffic isn't expected to impact the capacity of these roads
- There will be an increase in traffic during the morning and afternoon peak near schools located in Deloraine, Forth, Railton, Ulverstone, Burnie, and Ridgely
- There are 13 bridges that do not permit access by a 160-tonne crane (the largest vehicle expected during construction). Further investigations will be undertaken to identify measures or alterative traffic routes to allow these vehicles to access construction areas safely.

Noise and vibration

Study overview

Technical specialists undertook a thorough noise and vibration assessment study along the preferred transmission line route which involved:

- Measuring noise and vibration levels for two weeks at five representative locations along the preferred route with weather conditions taken into consideration as part of the assessment
- Identifying the different types of construction and operational activities that are likely to generate noise and vibration
- Modelling the predicted noise levels of the different construction and operational activities within 500 metres of the preferred route
- Modelling the predicted vibration levels of the identified construction and operational activities within 100 metres of the preferred route
- Identifying measures to reduce noise and vibration impacts.

Key findings

The project will be constructed through locations that range from uninhabited areas to sparsely populated agricultural areas, urban areas and residential suburbs. This study focussed on impacts on buildings, structures and people, with impacts on animals explored in the Ecology Study.

Summary of key impacts:

- Some construction activities, including drilling to install tower foundations and earthworks for access roads, will temporarily increase noise levels, particularly in densely populated areas like Burnie, Stowport, and Heybridge
- The majority of the construction activities will be carried out during the day, seven days a week and during normal construction hours (7am-6pm weekdays and reduced hours on weekends). However, some activities may need to be undertaken outside of normal working hours for safety, operational reasons or where general construction works won't disturb people or animals
- While most construction activities will occur away from buildings, some access tracks will be close to existing structures, potentially affecting the comfort of people within 100 meters due to vibrations. These impacts will be short-term and managed to comply with current standards to minimise discomfort
- The ongoing operation of the transmission lines will produce intermittent noise from maintenance activities, wind interacting with transmission lines and corona discharge.

Landscape and visual

Study overview

Technical specialists undertook a landscape and visual impact assessment to assess scenic quality, critical viewpoints, visibility of transmission towers, and the overall impact the project would have on the landscape and visual amenity of the project area. The study involved:

- Developing a series of photomontages to show what the transmission lines would look like in the existing environment
- Engaging with landholders and stakeholders to understand what features of the landscape are important and valued
- Completing an analysis to assess what might be visible from various locations along the route. The analysis considered over 90,000 potential observation points within 25km of the preferred route
- Completing a review of the landscape to identify its character, including biophysical values and social and cultural features
- Conducting in-depth technical assessments to understand how the transmission lines will impact upon or modify the landscape.

Key findings

The proposed transmission lines will travel across a range of landscapes and will be able to be seen from multiple locations.

The project area already features existing transmission lines, and every effort has been made to locate new transmission lines next to existing transmission lines or replacing them with new transmission lines featuring higher towers, reducing the number of towers required and minimising changes to the landscape.

Summary of key impacts:

- There will be some change to views in areas where new towers are constructed, existing towers are replaced with larger towers and land cleared for easements and access tracks. The assessment found that the overall impacts of these changes are generally low to moderate
- The assessment identified one area where the visual impact will be high. This is the Dial Range area, where the transmission line will pass through a natural, bushland setting used for recreational purposes. To minimise impacts in this area, the new transmission line will be built within an existing easement, replacing the current transmission line
- The promotion of the natural landscape by tourism operators may create an expectation of a natural setting. This expectation is likely to be tempered when visitors arrive to the area, and they see the landscape is already modified by existing transmission lines.

Social and economic

Study overview

Technical specialists undertook a socio-economic study via a two-phase assessment which involved:

- Developing a social and economic profile of the project area by reviewing demographic data, interviewing stakeholders, businesses, and residents, and analysing economic modelling and published literature on the local and regional context.
- Assessing the positive and negative impacts the construction and operation of the project may have on the local and regional community and economy.

Key findings

Summary of key impacts:

Community identify

- Temporary impact to amenity and character of the project area (changes to visual amenity, air quality, and noise and vibration) particularly for residents near Burnie, Stowport, and Heybridge
- May temporarily reduce access to some natural and recreational reserves.

Economy and livelihoods

- Construction will create 1,223 full time equivalent jobs during construction (45% from North West Tasmania, 10% from other locations in Tasmania and 45% interstate) and support local businesses across the supply chain, including those in the construction, manufacturing and short-term accommodation sectors.
- It may result in temporary and short-term changes to the amenity and character of areas used for tourism
- Some employment sectors, including mining, agriculture and manufacturing, may experience higher costs due to competition
- The project's non-residential workforce may contribute to demand for rental housing exacerbating existing rental availability and affordability issues
- Vegetation removal may impact the agriculture and forestry industries through reduced productivity, economic viability and biosecurity risks.

Infrastructure and services

- The increase of non-local workers may increase demand on health and emergency services in the short-term including GPs, ambulances and hospital services
- Construction may impact access and connectivity through increased traffic, potentially resulting in potential delays and road safety concerns for vulnerable road users, including children and school buses.

People's productive capacity

- Anxiety and distress to some community members may continue (with concerns about potential impacts on property, health, safety, and the environment, including EMF, bushfire risks, and biosecurity)
- Create new jobs in the civil construction industry which is typically male dominated, potentially impacting employment opportunities for women, young people and vulnerable groups without affirmative action.

Land use – forestry and agriculture

Study overview

Technical specialists undertook a land use study which involved:

- Undertaking a desktop analysis of the existing conditions, values and potential impacts
- Reviewing data on agriculture and forestry for the affected area
- Conducting site visits
- Consulting with landholders and property managers.

The potential short and long-term impacts on agriculture and plantation forestry production values at a local and regional level were also assessed.

Key findings

The preferred route for the transmission lines will travel across both public and private land which is currently used for a variety of different purposes. The dominant land uses are agriculture and plantation forestry, which are the focus of this study.

Summary of key impacts:

- During construction easement areas will increase from 1,224 ha to 1,638 ha, but once complete and the existing Palmerston to Sheffield line is removed, the total easement area will reduce to 1,167 ha—representing a total decrease of 57 ha
- Agricultural production losses across grazing, cropping and horticulture were found to be between 0.6% and 1.3% during construction (indicative value of $4.8 to $10 million/year), reducing to 0.3% to 0.8% during operations (indicative value of $2.3 to $5.8 million/year)
- Approximately 63 ha of forestry land will be impacted during construction which represents 0.1% of regional production
- Biosecurity and food safety will need to be closely managed during construction to minimise the risk of pests, weeds and diseases being introduced through increased movements from workers and construction vehicles.

Next steps

Make a formal submission

You will be provided with an opportunity to make a written submission on the North West Transmission Developments permit application when it is placed on public exhibition in 2025.

Contact us

Visit
tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd

Email
nwtd@tasnetworks.com.au

Call
1300 127 777

To be notified when the application is on public exhibition or for other upcoming engagement opportunities, you can register at tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd

NWTD update

Confirmed community engagement for 2025

- Agfest, Carrick, Thu – Sat / 1 – 3 May
- Burnie Show, Fri – Sat / 3 – 4 October
- Tulip Festival, Wynyard, Sat 11 October
- Tasmanian Craft Fair, Deloraine, Fri – Sun 31 Oct – 2 Nov
- Taste of the North West, TBC

Community investment

RAW Easter Egg Hunt

- As part of NWTD's partnership arrangements, Rural Alive and Well (RAW) hosted an Easter Egg Hunt in Bracknell.
- Approximately 200 community members attended the event, with the funds from TasNetworks providing fun and activities in the form of chocolate Easter eggs, free coffees, sausage sizzle and others delicious treats.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was aimed at promoting social connection and building resilient communities.

"The Bracknell community are very thankful to RAW and TasNetworks for holding the event for the second year running and everyone is looking forward to next year."

- Sallyann Harper, Communications & Events Officer, RAW Tas

RAW partnership

Further to NWTD's partnership arrangements, RAW rolled out more self-care workshops to the NW community following a successful program in 2024.

- Hoedown, Hagley, 22 Feb
- Macrame workshop, Lower Barrington, 13 Mar
- Paint and sip, Cressy, 25 Mar

"A heartfelt thank you to TasNetworks for your support in bringing these events to life. Your backing is deeply valued and empowers us to keep making a difference in the community."

- Sallyann Harper, Communications & Events Officer, RAW Tas

Community grants update

Two projects in Burnie share a common vision – to create a better future for local young people and their families. We visited Parklands High School and Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC) recently to learn more about these projects and the people behind them.

Parklands High School community garden – Building works on a new community garden has commenced. Drafted in consultation with students, the master plans include a yarning circle, sensory paths, a bush tucker garden, raised garden beds, orchard and a pizza oven. Located on the boundary of the school grounds, the garden will be open to everyone, and hopes are that the garden will strengthen community ties with the school.

YFCC, ARVOs program – Offered once a week after school and during school holidays, YFCC runs the ARVOs program for young people aged 11 - 17. A laneway in the heart of Burnie leads to the Junction Hub, a welcoming indoor space where young people are encouraged to drop in, stay a while, participate in an organised activity or just 'chill' and grab a snack.

Progress of community garden at Parklands High School.

Artwork on display at YFCC's ARVOS program in Burnie.

Economic development action plan review

Contents

- Summary of Key Inputs
- For each Theme Area:
  - Progress summary (at the opportunity level)
  - Gaps summary
  - Stakeholder feedback summary

Key Inputs

- **Desktop research** to identify and review relevant stakeholder strategies, plans, programs and initiatives that align with and deliver against the Plan.
- **12 executive interviews** undertaken with:
  - Various TasNetworks employees;
  - Education, skills and training stakeholders; and
  - Regional stakeholders.
- **Written feedback** received from members of the Stakeholder Liaison Group.

Theme 1: Workforce Development, Skills & Training

Progress

- NWTD estimates on job numbers and occupations over time
- CCA's proposed Cumulative Impact Assessment
- RECFIT's Renewable Energy Education Pack
- NWTD Scholarship Program
- Tasmanian Clean Energy Centre of Excellence
- Skills Tas Workforce Needs Assessment

Theme 2: Procurement & Opportunities for Local Businesses

Progress

- NWTD procurement strategy and non-financial evaluation criteria
- Head contractor appointed
- NWTD ‘Meet the Head Contractor’ event
- ICN Gateway and project portal
- ICN’s Renewable Energy Supply Chain Directory
- TasNetworks sponsorship of Social Traders

Theme 3: Infrastructure, Assets & Market Benefits

Progress

- Ongoing RECFIT communications and campaigns
- CCA advocating for regional infrastructure project funding

Theme 4: Local & Regional Community Benefits

Progress

- Brand Tasmania's "Powered by Tasmania" campaign
- Ongoing RECFIT communications and campaigns
- TasNetworks Easement Engagement Plan
- NWTD Community Benefit Sharing Program
- NWTD Community Investment Program
- RECFIT's "Renewable Energy Developments in Tasmania: A Guideline for Community Engagement, Benefit Sharing and Local Procurement"
- RECFIT's Renewable Energy Coordination Framework and Renewable Energy Action Plan

Theme 5: Public & Private Sector Investment

Progress

- Brand Tasmania's "Powering Tasmania" campaign
- ICN's Renewable Energy Supply Chain Directory
- OCG's promotion of renewable energy industry in Tasmania
- RECFIT's programs and grants to assist businesses to reduce their carbon footprint

Marinus Link update

Community Engagement – Mar / Apr ‘25

- DCCI Exec, members and Mayor / CEO
- BCC Food and Feedback
- Ecofest
- Burnie School for Seniors
- Burnie Rotary (included West Burnie Rotary and Somerset Rotary)
- Supported TasNetworks Burnie drop-in

Marinus Link – Status Update

- **Tasmania Environmental Approvals Process**
  - Responses to EPA Tasmania requests currently underway
- **Balance of Works**
  - Currently at week 15 of 20 week procurement process with shortlisted tenderers
  - Preferred contractor selection expected Q3 2025
- **FID – mid this year**
- **AER**
  - AER consultation submissions closed 18 April 2025
  - Thank you to those who completed a submission

Upcoming Engagement

- Introduce MLPL CEO to local Stakeholders
- 2nd appearance – Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters
- Tasmanian Renewable Energy Conference 2025

Cumulative Impact Assessment

State Budget Submissions

Cumulative Impact Assessment

Each individual renewable energy project has an impact. Together the projects have larger, more significant consequences.

A Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) is a process used to understand how multiple activities or developments, when combined, might impact:

- a region,
- environment,
- community, or
- economy over time.

CRADLE COAST AUTHORITY

Stronger Councils, Stronger Region

Key Focus Areas

Social, economic, and infrastructure-related impacts including:

Workforce Issues: Recruitment, training, accommodation, and deployment challenges.

Social Impacts: The effect on local communities, including the potential for social disruptions, changes to community demographics, and pressure on local services.

Collaboration and Governance: Mechanisms for coordination and collaboration among project developers and other stakeholders to manage impacts and share resources.

Infrastructure Needs: Impact on transport, utilities, and accommodation facilities, with potential for joint investment in local infrastructure.

CRADLE COAST AUTHORITY

Stronger Councils, Stronger Region

Governance

Steering Committee to guide the work including:

- Renewable Energy Proponents
- Supporting organisations – CET, AWNW, CCA.
- Tasmanian Government
- Local Government

Dedicated Chair:

- Recruitment efforts will encompass candidates from across Australia
- Paid position

CRADLE COAST AUTHORITY

Stronger Councils, Stronger Region

Outcomes

1. Completion of the **Cumulative Impact Assessment** with **actionable recommendations**.
2. Successful development of a **central construction portal concept** and implementation roadmap.
3. Development of a sustainable and collaborative **skilled workforce pool strategy**.

CRADLE COAST AUTHORITY

Stronger Councils, Stronger Region

ReCFIT update

Renewable Energy Approval Pathway

Key components of the REAP include:

- Establish a Major Renewable Energy Project case management function in State Government, including a cross-agency team to facilitate a more integrated and coordinated pre-assessment process
- Sector specific renewable energy information requirement guidelines for the Major Projects process
- More resourcing for regulators such as the Tasmanian Planning Commission, Environment Protection Authority and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
- Coordinated pre-assessment process, including consideration of critical land consent processes

Case Management Service

- The case management service has now been established.
- This central single point of contact in government is to provide coordinated advice.
- Timely and accurate information sharing including project schedules, updates, and engagement and benefit sharing approach.
- Participation including project briefings, site visits and meetings.
- Responsive to guidance and feedback
- Contact details: reap@recfit.tas.gov.au

We are here – please use us!

Source: Woolnorth Renewables – *Bluff Point Wind Farm*
https://woolnorthrenewables.com.au/wind-farms/bluff-point/

ReCFIT
Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania

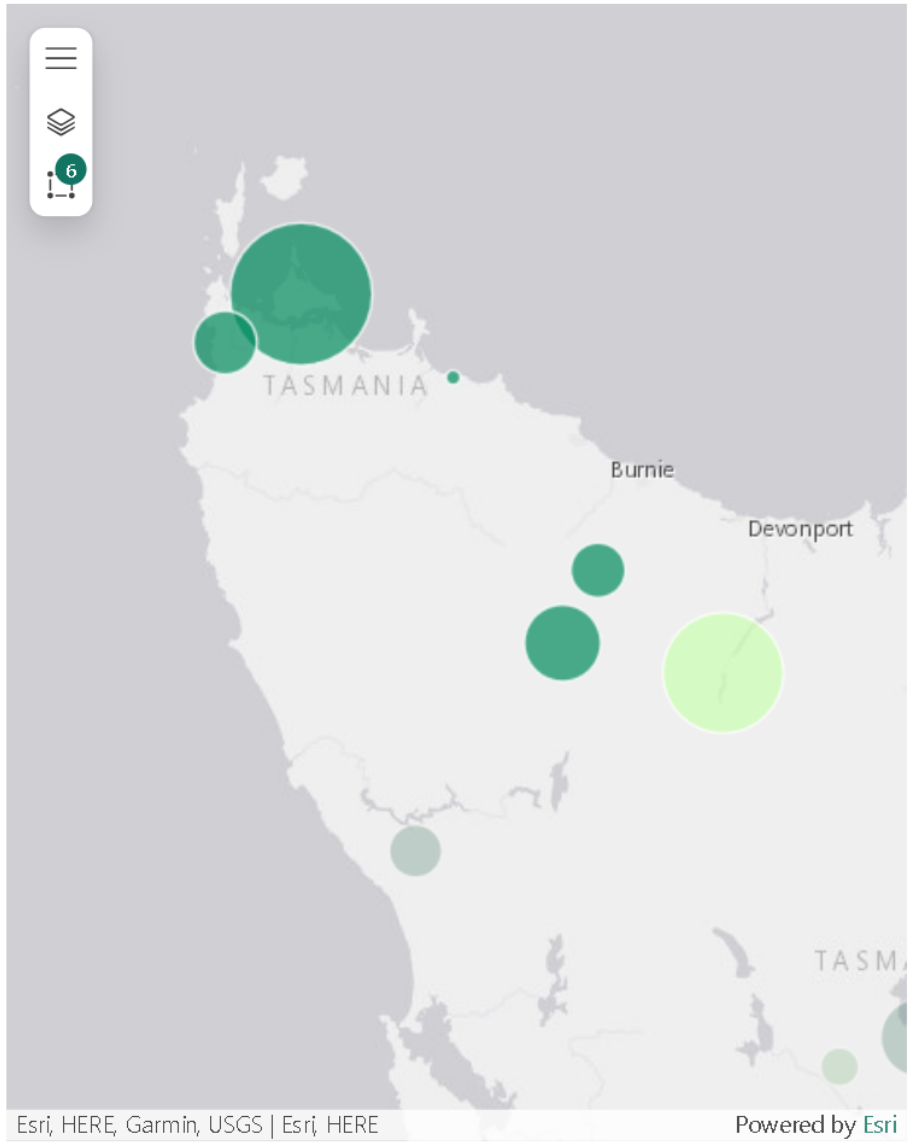
No. Projects	Total Capacity (MW)
6	2.79K

Choose Type of Renewable Project

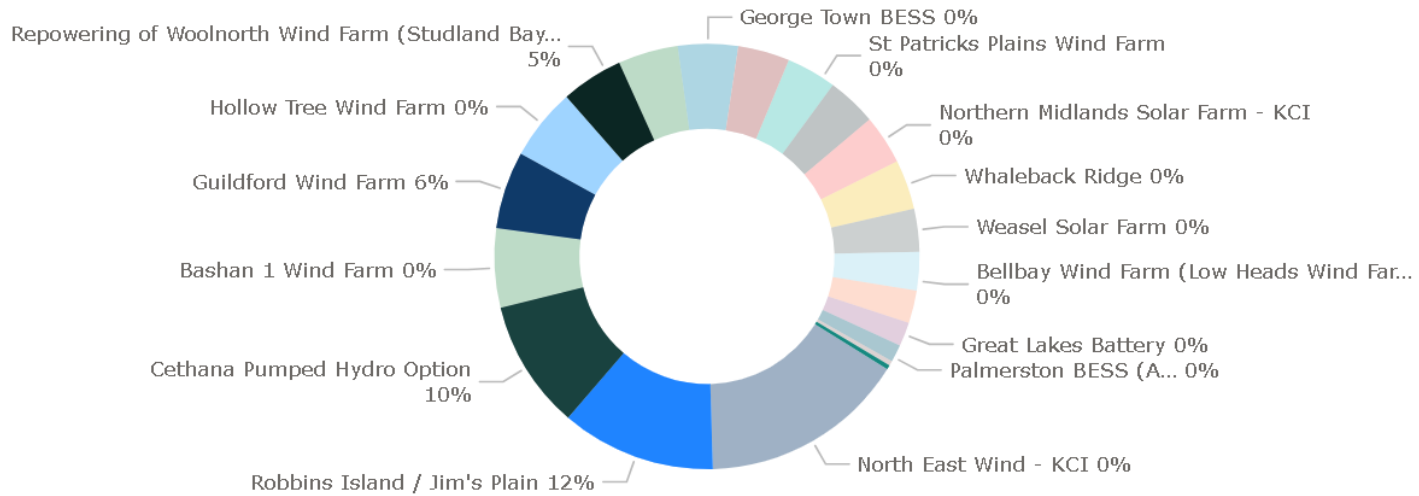
click one or more buttons to see details

Select all | Onshore Wind 2035 | Pumped Hydro 750

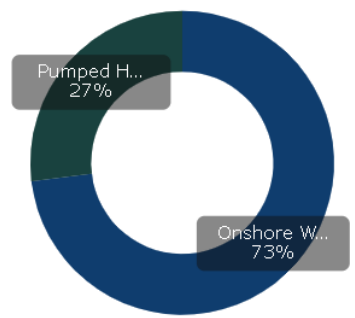
Capacity, Project Type & Location



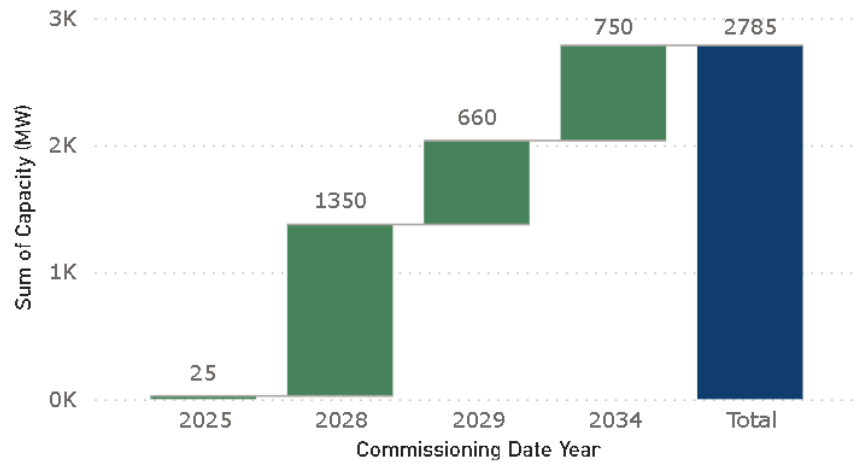
% Capacity by Project



Percentage Total Capacity by Project Type



Capacity (MW) Coming Online YoY



Renewable Energy Zones

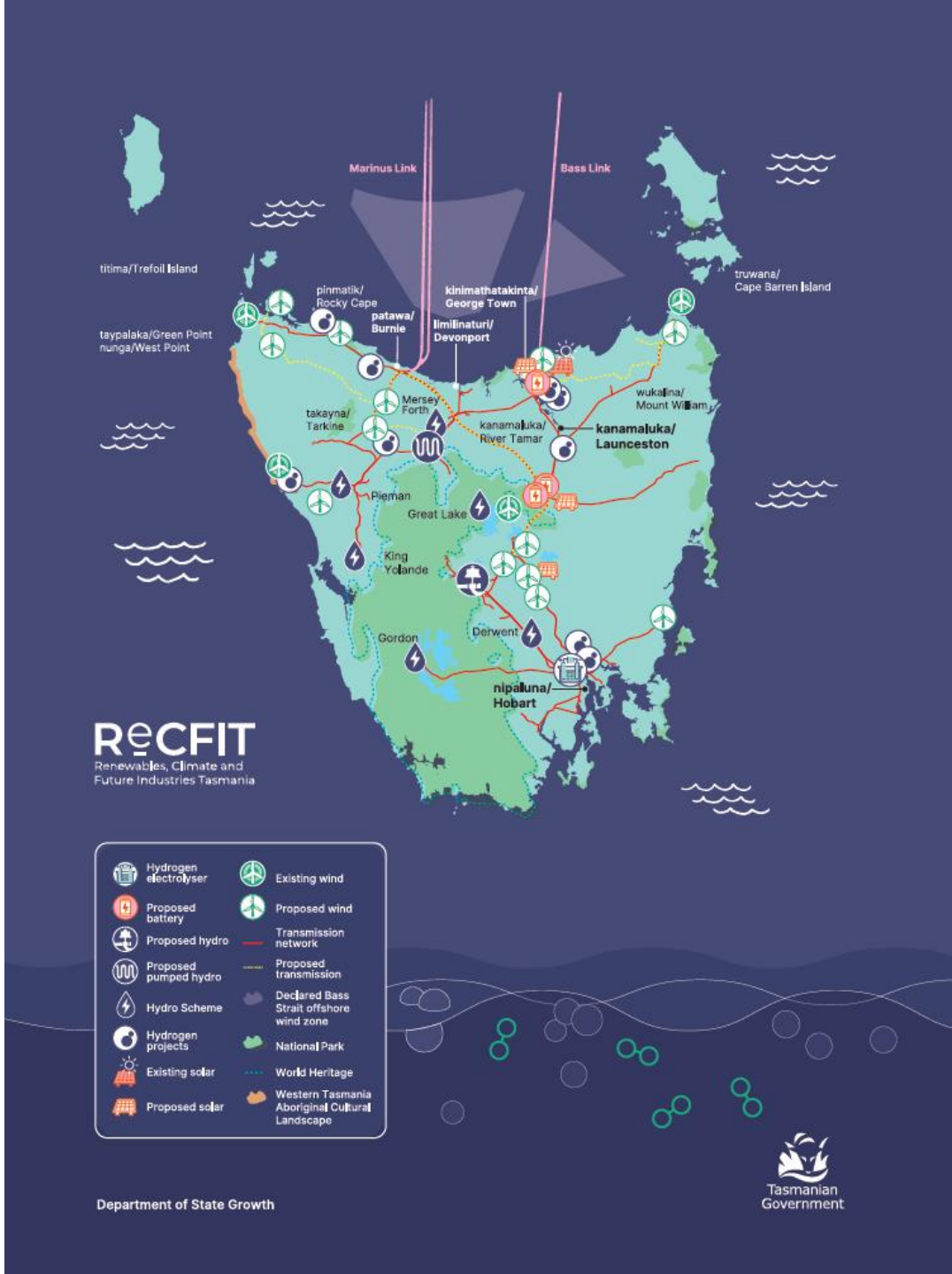
Draft REZ Bill

- Consultation outcomes
- Next Steps

2024 Integrated System Plan – NW REZ

- Existing transmission capacity – 277MW
- Highest forecast development (400MW by 2040)
- NWTD Stage 1 – upgrading to a 220kV line (additional 750MW capacity)

* Offshore wind not included

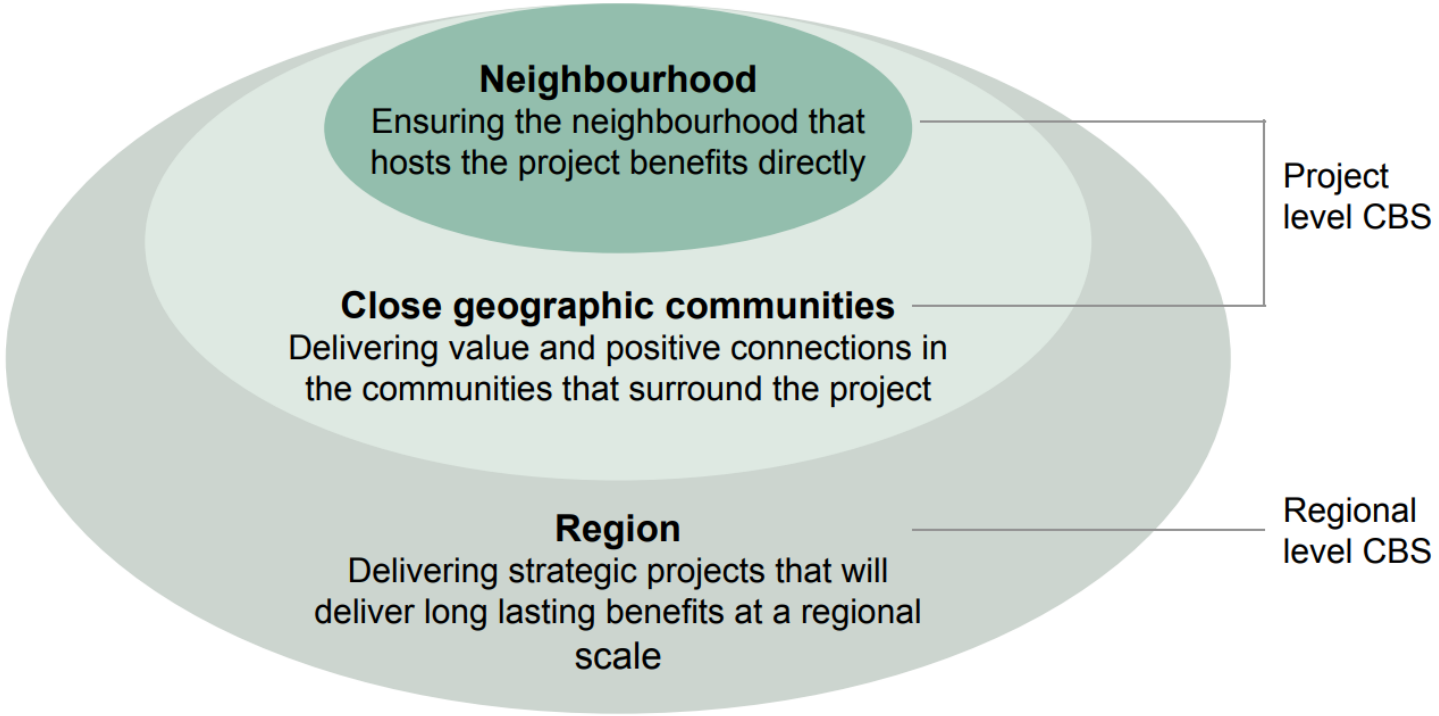


Community Benefits

Guidelines on engagement, benefit sharing, and local procurement released

Training scheduled for 2025 to support the implementation of best practice

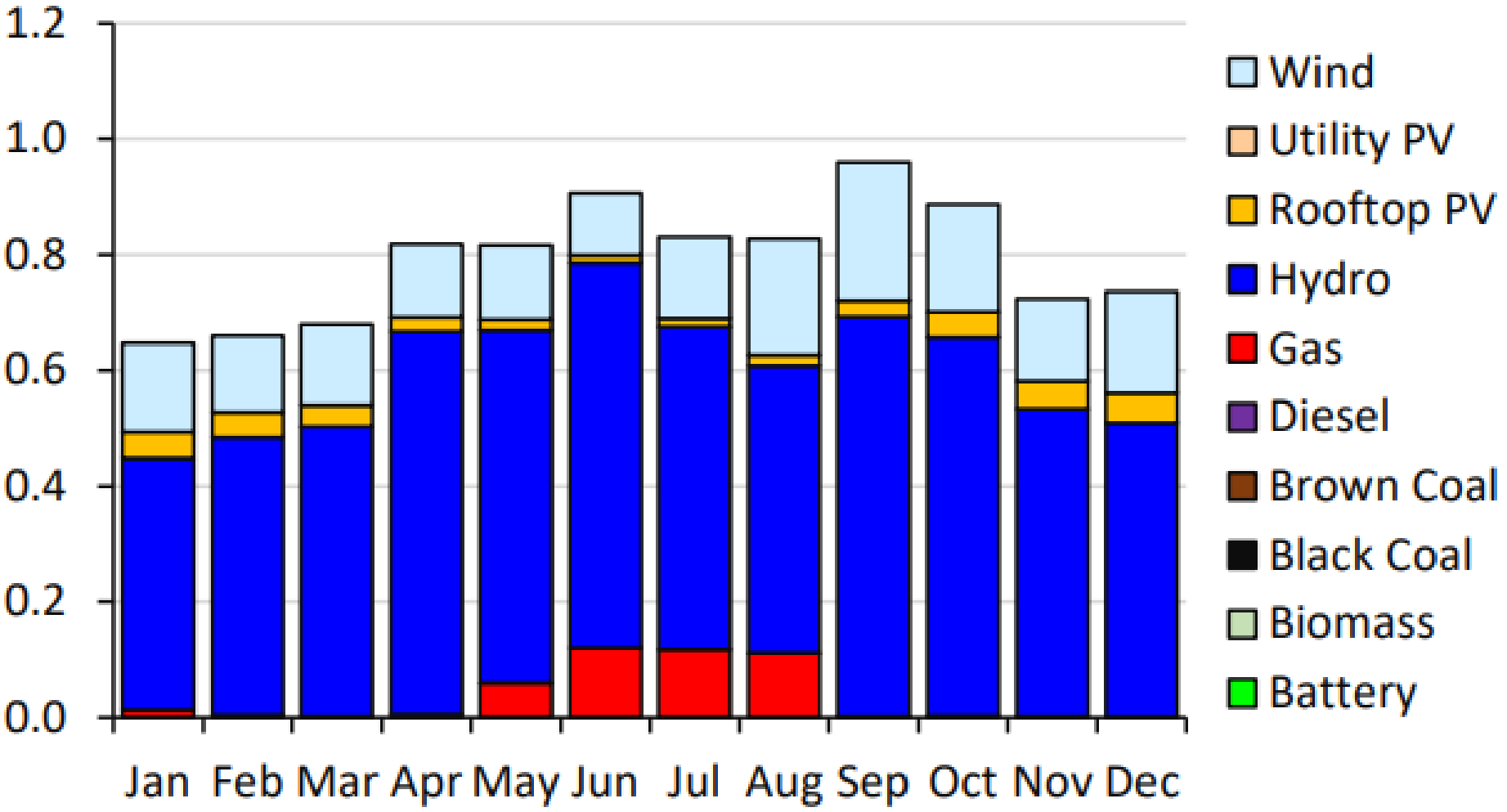
Regional models – a new approach



Thank you

2024 TAS generation by month

Terawatt-hours (TWh)



Any other business?

www.tasnetworks.com.au