

Engagement summary report

Audience: SLG and TasNetworks

Date held: 30 June 2026

9 June 2026

Official

Engagement objectives

- Facilitate an open roundtable discussion among Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) members
- Provide a project update and enable Q&A with TasNetworks and Genus representatives, including an overview of the recently launched Bright Futures Fund
- Seek SLG feedback on stakeholder identification completed as part of Genus' Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Facilitate discussion and seek endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference
- Present survey findings and discuss how outcomes will inform the group's approach to transparency and accountability
- Receive an update from Marinus Link on community engagement activities and the status of the construction commencement date

Member attendees

Participant name	Representing
Jess Berechree	West North West Working
Mike Brindley	Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT)
Gabriella Conti	West by North West - online
Rodney Greene	Collaboration for Impact
Richard Ingram	TasTAFE
Ian Jones	Business Northwest - online
Graham Marshall	Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC) - online
Narelle Punshon	Skills Tasmania
Philip Reid	Cradle Coast Authority
Luke Sayer	Department of State Growth
Nicci Skerl	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania
Veronica Terry	Cradle Coast Authority

TasNetworks attendees

Participant name	Role
Jordan Abell	Major Projects Engagement Partner
Louise Baring	Head of Community, Stakeholder and Communications
Leesa Butler	Community Benefits Partner
David Palmer	Leader Planning and Statutory Assessment

Guest attendees

Participant name	Representing
Ken Drake	Marinus Link
Melissa Lewarn	GenusPlus Group

Apologies

- Andrew Harris – Skills Tasmania
- Laura Johnson – Youth Panel
- Sarah Jones – UTAS
- Danielle Kidd – West North West Working
- Vanessa Skipworth – Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC)
- Zoy Yerondais – Housing Choices

Methodology

Meeting details

- Format: Hybrid (in person + online)
- Location: Burnie – Cradle Coast Authority Board Room
- Length: 3 hours
- Facilitator: Rodney Greene (SLG Chair)
- Organised by: TasNetworks (logistics and reporting)

Actions

#	Action	Responsible	Due date
1	Members to provide any further feedback and detail on the stakeholder mapping document prepared by Genus for incorporation and finalisation	SLG Members	Done
2	TN to invite all SLG members to attend charter co-design workshop in Launceston	Jordan / Ange	Done
3	TN to send SLG endorsed Terms of Reference	Jordan	With minutes
4	Members to consider whether they would like to be part of the group throughout the construction and commissioning phases of the project	SLG members	ASAP
5	TN to enquire what the Hadspen Discovery Park is currently being used for	Jordan	ASAP
6	TN to incorporate purpose tags on future agenda items	Jordan / Emily	Mid-September

Agenda items – summarised discussion points

1. Welcome – Rodney Greene

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- Today's agenda

2. Round robin – All attendees

- Member discussion about what they had been hearing and seeing amongst stakeholders and community members related to renewable energy. This included:
 - The Clean Energy Centre of Excellence (CECoE) will shortly transition to TasTAFE, with the handover expected to accelerate project delivery. TasTAFE has also been engaging with TAFE Gippsland to share insights and lessons learned from its CECOE, launched in early 2026.
 - The Regional Housing & Workforce Roundtable Report has been released, with proactive communications to follow shortly. The Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) is seeking to have all major project proponents, government, and utility providers sign a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), focused on improving the sharing of information and data.
 - CCA has work underway to develop a regional narrative on data centres, including risks, opportunities, and a forward strategy.
 - Andrew Kneebone was appointed to the CCA board as a Director and Chair of the Regional Economic Development Committee in June 2026.
 - Tasmania's new Building Tasmania department opens its doors this week.
 - ReCFIT has been progressing the Central Highlands Renewable Energy Zone community benefits scheme and supporting HIF's application for an e-fuel facility in South Burnie, with construction anticipated to commence in 2027.
 - The report by independent economist Saul Eslake, commissioned by Clean Energy Tasmania, which endorsed Marinus Link as a nationally significant investment to boost Tasmania's energy sector, received positive media coverage.
 - The Department of State Growth's updated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy will be released for consultation in early August, ahead of its final publication.
 - The level of understanding of the Marinus and North West Transmission Developments (NWTN) was very low at the event 'What Marinus Means for Tasmania', which was held at the UTAS campus in Burnie as part of the Island of Ideas public talk series.

3. NWTN project update – David Palmer and Jordan Abell

- A status of permits was provided to the group. Associated management plans are undergoing final revisions in relation to the Commonwealth EPBC approval, while TPC approval is progressing with plans submitted and updated, secondary consents underway, and the TASCAT appeal advancing toward scheduled hearings following submission of expert evidence.
- An engagement update highlighted TasNetworks' attendance at Agfest, which helped visitors understand the scale of the project, construction process, and role in Tasmania's energy future. Members of the NWTN team attended the National Reconciliation Week breakfasts across the state.
- High-level workforce numbers in relation to accommodation were shared, with Discovery Parks – Devonport identified as the primary accommodation hub serving project areas from Burnie to south of

Deloraine. Discovery Parks – Hadsden is being established as an additional accommodation solution for the Cressy end of the line.

- Members were provided with an update on key project milestones and timeframes, with financial close being reached in May, marking the final major step before construction begins on its largest-ever infrastructure project.

4.NWTD Head Contractor Genus – Melissa Lewarn

- GenusPlus Group Ltd (Genus) outlined the progress on its newly offices in East Devonport, which have undergone further upgrades with most management staff now based there. A second laydown yard has been opened in Spreyton.
- A high-level construction timeline was shown, along with a breakdown of current Tasmanian workforce numbers (51 per cent) and project supplier spend to date.
- The Stakeholder mapping component of the Genus Stakeholder Engagement Plan was shared with members to seek feedback and input on ensuring all key stakeholders are captured.
- It was noted that the Clean Energy Council need to be incorporated into the stakeholder mapping.
- Discussion on ensuring the project can effectively educate communities on the practical steps that Genus are taking to reduce and minimise any impacts on communities.
- Discussion on ensuring awareness can be generated on what Project Marinus means for the future of energy and the benefits to local communities.

5.Community investment (Bright Futures Fund) – Leesa Butler

- An overview of the Bright Futures Fund was provided, including the launch event in Burnie on 19 June and community drop-in sessions that were subsequently held.
- The seven-member independent community assessment panel have been recruited following a public recruitment campaign. The successful members represent a diverse composition of local voices and include different ages, cultural backgrounds and life experiences.
- Key dates in relation to round one of funding were detailed, including application and assessment periods. Dates for round two and the funding rounds for 2027 will be published on the TasNetworks website.

6.SLG revised Terms of Reference – Jordan Abell

- The revised SLG Terms of Reference were discussed and later endorsed in meeting.
- The revisions were based off member feedback and to ensure the function can best support the NWTD project through construction phase.
- They were updated to refocus on two-way engagement during delivery, move to quarterly three-hour meetings, formalise mutual commitments including TasNetworks' accountability, offer remuneration, and introduce ongoing evaluation processes to ensure effectiveness and continuous improvement.

7.Transparency, accountability & collaboration – Louise Baring

- Overview of the report findings from the *Transparency, accountability and collaboration* survey that received 43 responses, of which 12 were from SLG members.

- Key themes arising from the transparency, accountability and collaboration survey were presented, including clearer, earlier communication and ongoing accountability.
- A number of actions have been proposed to strengthen TasNetworks' engagement approach and build greater trust over time.
- The development of a Transparency, Accountability and Collaboration Charter is the first proposed action listed in the report, with a workshop to take place in Launceston on 27 August bringing together members from across different stakeholder groups to co-design.
- SLG member were encouraged to attend, noting the agenda and materials to support the co-design session will be circulated to all members prior.

8. Marinus Link update – Ken Drake

- Marinus Link shared community engagement activities, including attending the Clean Energy Job Read workshop and UTAS National Science and Engineering Challenge.
- Key workstreams remain underway, including the Workforce and Accommodation Strategy published in May, and ongoing progress of the Community Benefit Sharing Framework through council briefings, community feedback collection and analysis, with the final framework anticipated in late 2026.
- Contractor TVGL is progressing local recruitment, establishing a Burnie Community Information Centre for opening in late July/early August, and advancing stakeholder partnerships with TasTAFE and UTAS.
- The TasCAT appeal hearing was held from 17–23 June, with preparatory construction works underway, environmental monitoring and reporting in progress, and the majority of sub-contracts awarded to North West businesses.

8. Any other business – All attendees

- No other business was raised.



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