Engagement summary report

Audience: SLG and TasNetworks

Date held: 22 September 2026

1 October 2026

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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 what's happening on the ground following the Notice to Proceed being issued to start construction.
- Seek SLG input via an interactive session on what they're hearing and seeing in the community and for members to influence engagement and responses to key issues identified during construction.
- A closer look at the landholder negotiations, including a featured case study.
- Next steps from the co-design workshop to shape TasNetworks' first Transparency Charter.
- Sharing information on the types of applications and investment from the first round of funding for the Bright Futures Fund and seeking member feedback on the approach for future rounds.
- A progress report on TasTAFE's Clean Energy Centre of Excellence.

Member attendees

Participant name	Representing
Michael Bailey	Northern Tasmania Development Corporation - online
Mike Brindley	Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT)
Jasmine Chapple	TasFarmers - online
Gabriella Conti	West by North West
Richard Ingram	TasTAFE
Ian Jones	Business Northwest
Sarah Jones	UTAS - online
Danielle Kidd	West North West Working
Narelle Punshon	Skills Tasmania
Luke Sayer	Department of State Growth
Sid Sidebottom	Independent Chair
Nicci Skerl	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Tasmania
Veronica Terry	Cradle Coast Authority (CCA)

TasNetworks attendees

Participant name	Role
Sonya Booth	Landholder Engagement Partner
Leesa Butler	Community Benefits Partner
Emily Norris	Major Projects Engagement Partner
Kristin Raw	Leader Major Projects Engagement

Guest attendees

Participant name	Representing
Matt Dance	TasTAFE
Ken Drake	Marinus Link
Melissa Lewarn	GenusPlus Group
Spencer Butler	UTAS Business Economics Student, work placement at CCA

Apologies

- Rodney Greene, Collaboration for Impact
- Graham Marshall – Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC)
- Zoy Yerondais- Housing Choices

Methodology

Meeting details

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

Actions

#	Action	Responsible	Due date
1	Arrange meeting with Genus and West North West Working.	Melissa Lewarn, Genus	27/10/26
2	Arrange meeting with Genus and Civil Contractors Federation.	Melissa Lewarn, Genus	27/10/26
3	Actions from interactive session to be presented at December meeting.	Kristin Raw, TasNetworks	8/12/26
4	Investigate SLG tour for December or February meeting.	Emily Norris and Melissa Lewarn	10/11/26
5	Talk to NRM about advice on biosecurity communications to subcontractors.	Melissa Lewarn, Genus	27/10/26
6	Genus to consider attendance at the East Devonport Jobs Forum on 5 November.	Melissa Lewarn, Genus	5/11/26
7	Implement the Charter as a tool in meetings (e.g. meeting critique as part of the agenda).	Sid Sidebottom and Emily Norris	8/12/26
8	Share Confidentiality Agreement with meeting minutes and discuss at next meeting.	Emily Norris, TasNetworks	8/12/26

9	Share the Bright Futures Fund data about the investment across the core values/requirements at next meeting.	Leesa Butler, TasNetworks	8/12/26
10	Bright Futures Fund, respond to query about all unsuccessful applicants receiving feedback.	Leesa Butler, TasNetworks	COMPLETE Response sent to Member and Chair 24/09/26
11	Bright Futures Fund, investigate grant writing workshops for future rounds.	Leesa Butler, TasNetworks	8/12/26

Agenda items – summarised discussion points

1. Welcome – Sid Sidebottom

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- Introduction of all members, including new members Sid Sidebottom (Chair), Michael Bailey and Jasmine Chapple.
- Today's agenda

2. Round robin – All attendees

- Member discussion about what they are hearing and seeing among stakeholders and community members related to renewable energy and share insights. This included:
- ***Building Tasmania*** are in the analysis stage as part of the development of the Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy for Tasmania. Seventy submissions were received along with interviews conducted by the Tamanian Policy Exchange. One of the key points is how vital energy infrastructure will be to the Tasmanian economy.
- Members discussed the recent release of the Intergenerational Report and its implications for Tasmania's economic growth. It was noted that Tasmania is well positioned to benefit from emerging energy opportunities. The key challenge will be increasing public understanding of the broader economic benefits. It was acknowledged that clear communication of these benefits will be important and is likely to be a shared area of interest for the SLG.
- A member noted mixed results from recent employment programs, with one program cancelled due to low participation and another oversubscribed. It was suggested that programs linked to specific employers or project opportunities may attract greater interest, and opportunities to partner with contractors on targeted pre-employment pathways could be explored. ***West North West Working*** suggested to talk to ***Civil Contractors Federation*** to discuss further.
- A member shared that ***Advance North West*** also have a distribution list of trade professionals where job opportunities could be shared.
- A member noted that ***Hydro Tasmania*** is currently progressing a power pricing agreement (PPA) process. It was highlighted that up to four projects, particularly in Northern Tasmania, could be awarded PPAs. Securing a PPA would provide proponents with greater certainty and trigger project delivery timeframes, shifting discussion from whether these projects will proceed to when they will proceed.

3. NWTD project update – Kristin Raw

- Introduction to Brian Mann, new General Manager Construction for NWTD. Brian has previously worked at Scottish and Southern Energy, the transmission operator in Scotland.
- Construction of NWTD has started. Brian gave an update on what's been happening with works at Burnie and Sheffield substations and enabling works for the transmission line such as access tracks, fences, wash bay stations and tower pads.
- Kristin shared some of the figures from the first few weeks of construction, including about 150 people currently employed (TN and Genus).
- Members were briefed on engagement accountability arrangements, with Genus assuming greater responsibility for project delivery and stakeholder management. Key responsibilities, processes and governance documents were outlined.
- A member raised the dry climatic conditions, particularly this year, and the importance of biosecurity protocols with heavy machinery. Suggestion: ***CCA and Northern NRMs*** may be able to help with communications on this.

5. Landholder case study – Sonya Booth

- Members were briefed on the work with landholders that took place to get agreements with the 138 out of 142 landholders.
- Sonya provided members with a landholder case study describing how measures were taken to minimise impacts to the landholder's working farm.

4. NWTD Head Contractor Genus – Melissa Lewarn

- Melissa gave a construction and engagement activity snapshot including an update on workforce, worker accommodation and local suppliers.
- Members discussed apprentice and local job opportunities. About 56 apprenticeship applications so far with approximately 30 places available.
- A member suggested initial discussions happened with ***West North West Working*** and perhaps now is a better time to have those discussions.
- Members participated in a Think Pair Share activity to identify key concerns, priorities and opportunities during construction. Key themes for TasNetworks and Genus to consider included improving project communications, sharing positive project stories, and maximising local skills and employment opportunities.

6. Transparency, accountability & collaboration – Louise Baring

- A recap was provided of the co-design session, the Transparency, Accountability and Collaboration Charter workshop. Workshop participants developed the vision, values and principles. SLG members that participated in the Workshop were thanked for their contribution.
- The next step is to agree on the commitments of the Charter so we're all clear on the actions. Members were encouraged to attend this upcoming session.

7. Bright Futures Fund – Leesa Butler

- Applications for Round 1 closed on 2 August, receiving 92 submissions.
- The Independent Community Assessment Panel decided on 12 successful projects as part of funding Tiers 1 and 2 applicants. These projects will benefit communities within Burnie, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley and Northen Midlands local government areas. Those applicants that were successful in the expressions of interest for funding Tiers 3 and 4 have been invited to submit their application in the next round.
- The second round of funding for 2026 opens for applications on 30 September and closes on 25 October.

8. Clean Energy Centre of Excellence – Matt Dance

- Members were provided with an update on the Tasmanian Clean Energy Centre of Excellence (TCECoE).
- Information shared included the scope of the project covering: capital infrastructure and new equipment, electrotechnology training strategy, clean energy learning hub, appropriate facilities for use by DECYP vocational students, TasNetworks training facility, dedicated contactor space for hiring, applied research, new product development.

9. Any other business – All attendees

- No other business was raised.



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