

Proposed North West Transmission Developments

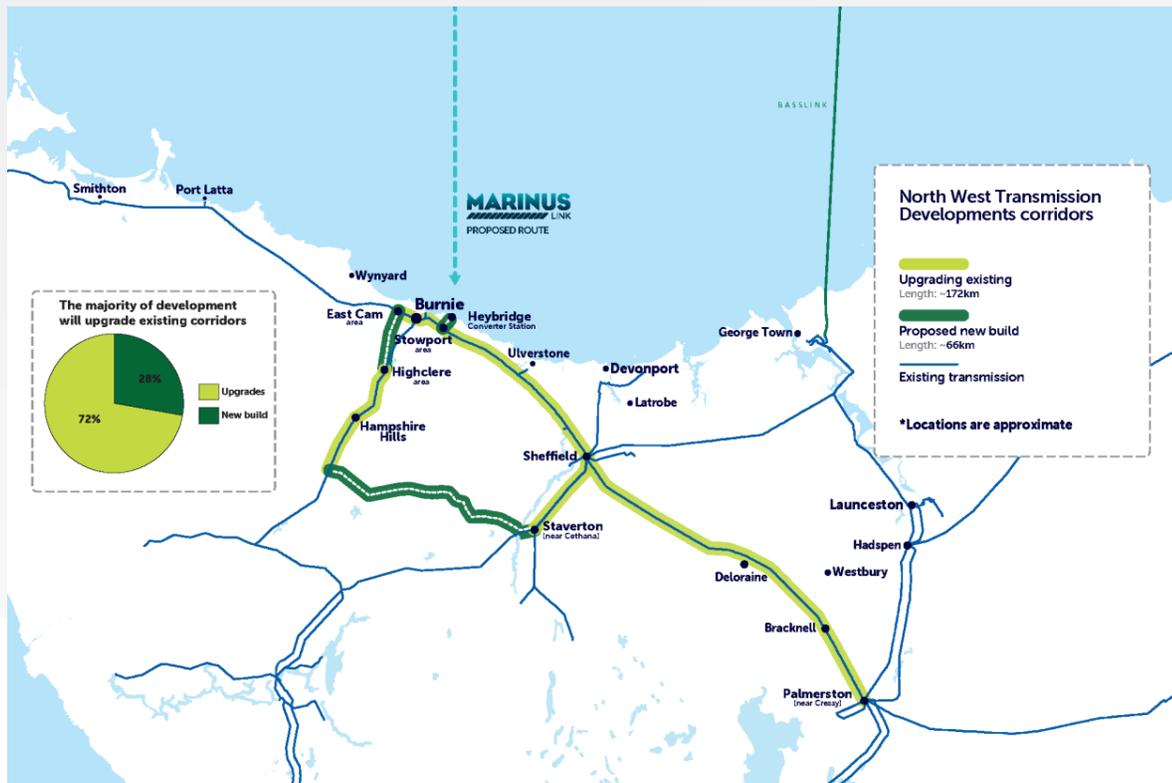
Engagement Update January to June 2023





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About the project

The proposed North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) include 240km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure that will increase the capacity of Tasmania's electricity network.

The developments will link the transmission network from the Cressy area to Sheffield, Burnie, Hampshire, and Staverton, providing enough capacity for Marinus Link and other renewable energy developments to connect into the electricity grid.

The developments will support Australia's energy transition alongside Tasmania's ambition to be a world leading renewable energy provider. You can find out more about the project by watching this video.

The project is currently in the design and approvals phase. You can find out more about the approvals process by watching this video.

Introduction

This document provides an outline of the engagement activities that were carried out between January and June 2023. It builds on previous engagement reports which you can find here.

Involving stakeholders and the community in the development of our projects ensures we achieve the best outcomes possible. Your feedback to date is already helping to shape the direction of the NWTD and we are committed to working with you as the project progresses.

This report focuses on feedback gathered from the general community and stakeholders about the project and does not include detailed feedback from landholders. Engagement with impacted landholders is ongoing and will continue throughout all phases of the project.

Project timeline



How we have engaged

We engaged regularly with a broad range of stakeholders and the community between January and June 2023 to raise awareness and collect feedback to inform the development of the project.

Feedback collected during this phase of the project has helped us understand your concerns, what's important to you and the topics you want to know more about.

The figure below provides a snapshot of the activities that were carried out between January and June 2023.



21 completed an online survey



Three NWTDLiaison Group meetings held



250 attended five community information events



1.1 k visits to the online engagement portal



Five e-newsletters to 800 subscribers



We promoted engagement activities using a range of communication channels, including:

- TasNetworks website
- TasNetworks online engagement portal
- Facebook
- E-newsletters
- Media

What we asked and who we heard from

We heard from many community members and stakeholders during this phase of engagement. The focus of our engagement included NWTDL design and development, community benefits sharing and economic development.

Over the past six months, we continued to raise awareness about the project and understand what is important to you and what you are concerned about. We also engaged with Tasmanian businesses to provide information about how they can get involved in supplying goods and services to the project.

Information sessions

The purpose of these sessions was to provide information about the NWTDL, the Community Benefits Sharing Program and capture feedback. We heard from a broad range of community members across North West Tasmania including directly impacted landholders, residents, businesses, and visitors to the area.

We held five pop-up community information sessions at events and locations near the proposed transmission line route. We spoke to several people at each event, captured below.



Stakeholder Liaison Group

The NWTDL Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) was established in October 2021 and includes 15 representatives from key industry groups, peak bodies, education, skills, housing and training sectors and state government organisations.

We held three meetings with the SLG between January and June 2023 at the University of Tasmania Burnie Campus and the Cradle Coast Energy Hub in Burnie. We discussed a range of topics including:

- Regional Economic Development Action Plan
- Workforce skills, development and training
- Worker accommodation options

- Communications and engagement activities
- Environmental, planning and heritage approvals
- Procurement strategy
- Renewable Energy Zones.

SLG members were asked to provide feedback on the common concerns and opportunities raised by the communities they represent, as well as engagement and communications activities.

More information about the SLG, including agendas, presentations and meeting minutes can be found here.

Working with the community: Dial Range mountain bike trail upgrades



TasNetworks proudly supports initiatives that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community. NWTDL helped deliver the upgrade of a popular mountain bike track, the Montgomery Loop trail, located near Penguin. This opportunity arose from discussions with the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club regarding minimising potential impacts to those who access the Mount Montgomery Reserve transmission easement. Closed for the past two winters, the upgrade to the track means that it can now be used year-round.

Community Benefits Sharing Program

During 2022, TasNetworks undertook a co-design process with the local community and stakeholders to develop, refine and finalise a proposed community benefits sharing program (benefits program) for the North West Transmission Developments. This included engagement to collect feedback on the eligibility, funding, governance and administration aspects of the program.

A key aspect of the process was the creation of a Youth Panel. Young people are the community members who will be living with the project for the longest, but they are also often absent from community engagement processes. Incorporating a Youth Panel within the process guaranteed the involvement of young people in the co-design of a benefits program.

In March 2023, the TasNetworks Board endorsed the benefits program and approved, subject to project approval, a \$10M (maximum) allocation to fund the program throughout the project's construction period.

You can view the final Community Benefits Sharing Program framework here.

The next step will involve finalising the governance and administrative arrangements for the program. We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

What we heard



NWTDL design and development

Information sessions

Below is a snapshot of what we heard at the pop-up information sessions:

The most common questions raised by attendees related to the following topics:

- Overhead versus underground
- Scope and location of the project
- Cost of the project and who will pay
- Business case and cost benefit assessment
- Impact on power prices, reliability, and energy security
- Renewable energy developments.

The most commonly raised perceived advantages of the project included:

- Employment and jobs
- Economic benefits
- Renewable energy developments
- Increased network capacity and reliability
- Lower power prices
- Improved energy security for Tasmania
- Facilitating Tasmania's role in the clean energy transition.

The most commonly raised perceived disadvantages of the project included:

- Visual impacts
- Cost of project
- Power price increases
- Impacts on the environment
- Impacts on landholders and farmers
- Health impacts e.g. electromagnetic fields (EMF).
- No benefits to Tasmanians.

Stakeholder Liaison Group

SLG members shared valuable insights into community perceptions of the NWT D project, economic development and topics of interest. The SLG also provided valuable feedback on the wider program, engagement activities and communications materials.

At the start of 2023, the SLG Chair facilitated an economic development workshop to prioritise a set of actions taken from the project's Regional Economic Development Action Plan. It was noted that substantial work had been undertaken over the past year to detail the regional profile, benefits, opportunities and actions. This included co-design workshops with the region's stakeholders, which a number of SLG members had participated in, to outline the opportunities and challenges in pursuing economic development off the back of the significant pipeline of works that will potentially be unlocked as a result of Marinus Link and the NWT D.

Workforce development, skills and training was identified as a key area of focus for the SLG with a number of initiatives from the Regional Economic Development Action Plan being initiated by members. Subsequent meetings have included presentations on Tasmania's Housing Strategy, Renewable Energy Zones, renewable energy training and industry skills compacts. The SLG also advised of the importance of continuing engagement and clear communications as the project progresses.

Online survey

We have received feedback from online survey respondents on the project, topics of interest and what they value most about their area. This feedback has assisted us to understand community perceptions of the project, the topics of interest and land use and has been used to inform our communications and engagement with the community. Below is a summary of the online survey feedback:

- The most commonly raised items respondents like about the project included enabling renewable energy connections and economic benefits.
- The most commonly raised dislikes about the project included visual impact, no economic benefit for Tasmania and impacts on the environment, including concerns about weed invasion.

- We heard that the elements of the project respondents would like to learn more about are:
 - Impacts to landholders and residents
 - Environmental impacts
 - Government decision-making and approval processes.
- We heard that respondents value their local environment, its biodiversity, the area's natural landscapes and beauty, their community and local tourism.
- The most common use of land under current transmission lines was identified as farming, including grazing and cropping.

How your feedback will be used

Helping us shape the development of the project

The feedback collected through our community information sessions, SLG meetings and landholder discussions are helping us understand what you value about your local area and what you are most concerned about.

A summary of the feedback from each engagement activity has been provided to our technical experts to be considered in the development of the technical and environmental studies. The feedback summaries have also been provided to our engineers and designers to identify opportunities to refine the design of the transmission line to address specific concerns and minimise impacts.

Our work with landholders to understand their land use requirements has resulted in the project making over 42 adjustments to the placement of transmission towers along the route on properties to minimise impacts on farming operations. Another 20 towers have been moved due to technical findings because of field studies and some adjustments have also been made to the design of towers.

Investigations and consultation with landholders will continue to be undertaken throughout the transmission corridors as the project progresses.

Helping us communicate and engage better

Your feedback is helping us communicate better and make it easier for you to find information about topics you care about. Recently, we have made a number of changes to how we share information with you including:

- **Refreshing our website:** We have updated our website and introduced new tools and resources including maps, graphics, and videos to share information about topics you have said you want to know more about. Explore our new look website here.
- **Launching two information videos:**
 - 'About the NWT D' video. This video provides key information on the NWT D and assists with building understanding of the project. You can view the video here.
 - 'Environmental, planning and approvals process' video. This video provides key information on the planning and approvals process. You can view the video here.
- **Social media:** Through our 2022 telephone survey we heard that social media is a trusted source of information about the NWT D project. We also gained insights into what elements of the NWT D people would like to know more about.

We have used this information to inform our approach to the use of social media and create dedicated updates about the project. These updates enable us to share key information, project milestones and news as well as connect with the community on topics they want to know more about.

We will continue to use a range of methods to share information about the project including the TasNetworks website, social media channels, project e-newsletters, local newspapers, and face-to-face events.

Our engagement program for 2023 has also been informed by your preferences and feedback. Our program includes dedicated sessions and communications to provide general information about the project, procurement, planning and approvals process, and environmental impacts.

To be the first to know about upcoming engagement opportunities, you can register for our e-newsletter by visiting tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd

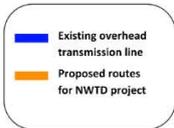


New interactive map

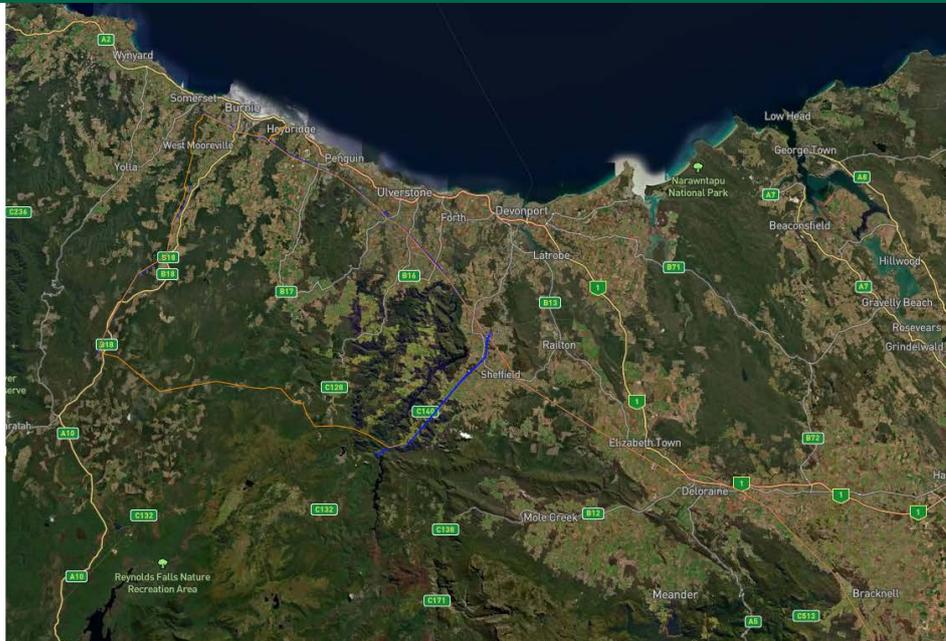
Interactive map 2023

The North West Transmission Developments will strengthen the transmission network in North West Tasmania by creating a 240km, 220 kilovolt (kV) 'loop' that connects new and upgraded transmission substations and switching stations.

The easements in this interactive map are indicative only and will vary depending on use, location, elevation and final technical design. Only the overhead transmission lines in or near the proposed project corridor are visible on this map to indicate existing infrastructure (depicted in blue).



[For further information on towers and easements, please visit the NWT Towers and Easements Map](#)



An interactive map is now available on the Talk with TasNetworks website. Users can enter in an address to view its proximity to the proposed developments. The easements in this interactive map are indicative only and will vary depending on use, location, elevation, and final technical design.

Explore our interactive map here.

Contacting the team

We are committed to making improvements to our engagement approach. Let us know how we can better understand what is important to you and what we need to consider to achieve the best outcomes for the environment, landholders, and community.

Contact us



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