

North West Transmission Developments

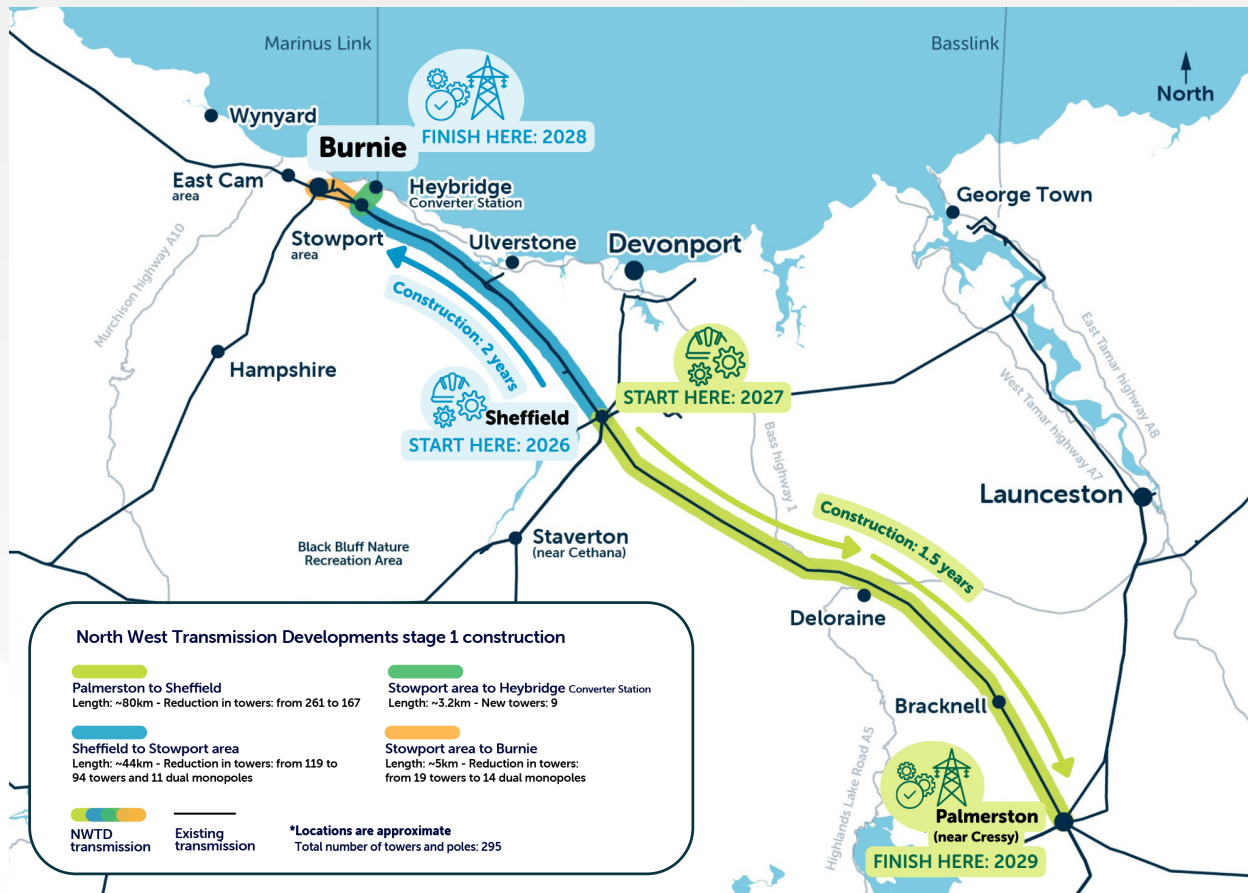
Engagement Report January – June 2026



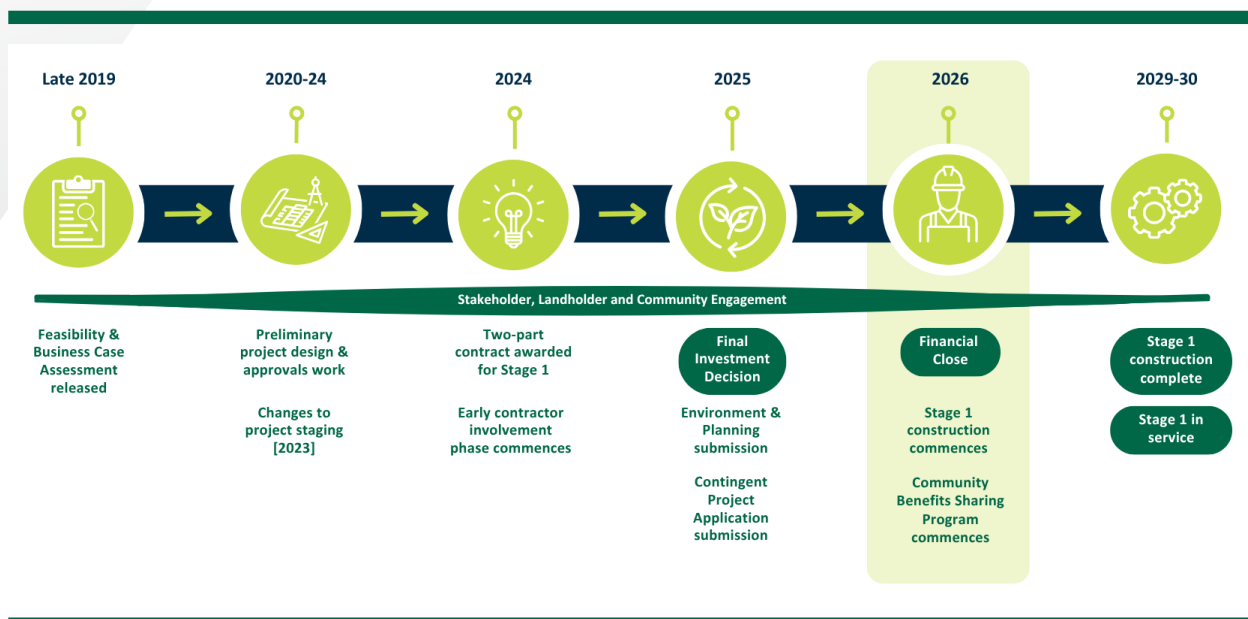


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Project timeline



About the project

The North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) project is a once-in-a-generation upgrade to the electricity transmission infrastructure to allow Tasmania's power system to remain strong and stable while providing the increased capacity needed to accommodate new and existing renewable energy developments in the region, including Marinus Link.

NWTD will include new and upgraded transmission lines and substations. The project is proposed to be delivered across two stages with the first stage to link Cressy, Sheffield and Burnie. The project is currently in the design and approvals phase, with construction for Stage 1 due to start in the second half of 2026.

Introduction

This document provides an outline of the project's engagement activities between January and June 2026. It builds on previous engagement reports which you can find here.

Our engagement approach is centred on early, open, and transparent engagement with stakeholders and communities to understand their concerns and collaboratively identify ways to reduce impacts. Feedback continues to help shape the direction of the NWTD and we remain committed to working collaboratively with our stakeholders as the project progresses throughout the construction phase.





How we have engaged

We engaged with a range of stakeholders and community members between January and June 2026 to raise awareness and collect feedback about the project.

Our engagement activities over this period included:

-  **Two Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings held in March and June.**
-  **Five Rural Alive and Well community events, supported by the partnership with TasNetworks.**
-  **Five Bright Futures Fund launch drop-ins in Burnie, Deloraine, Longford, Sheffield and Ulverstone.**
-  **Three engagement stalls at regional community events in Mole Creek, Heybridge and Carrick.**
-  **Three events in Burnie, Campbell Town and Deloraine in which we participated.**
-  **Six e-newsletters (January - June) to 1,000 subscribers per issue.**
-  **Public enquiries via email and dedicated phone line.**

We promoted NWTD using a range of communication channels, including:

- TasNetworks website
- E-newsletters
- Facebook and LinkedIn
- Media releases
- Advertising of the BFF including local newspaper advertisements, billboards and poster drops to local businesses




Getting out in the community

During the first half of 2026, we continued to connect with the community by attending local events and hosting our own sessions in preparation for the construction period.

Our focus was to share clear and accurate information about the progress of key milestones and approvals, provide regular and timely updates about pre-construction and construction activities and to launch the Bright Futures Fund.

The conversations we had at these events helped us refine our plans, address concerns and strengthen our connections across the region.



Community engagement sessions

Date	Event	Number of attendees
February - April	Rural Alive and Well events supported by TasNetworks:	110
	All Together in the Vineyard, Sassafras	
	Beach and Bush self-care workshops, Deloraine and Lower Barrington	
	Wire Workshops, Bracknell and Sprent	
March	Women in Agriculture Ladies Day, Mole Creek	200
March	Marinus Link drop-in session, Heybridge	50
April	Cradle Coast Housing Action and Worker Accommodation Roundtable, Campbell Town	25
April	YOUth Speak: Change Happens, Deloraine	30
May	The National Science and Engineering Challenge, Burnie	100
May	Agfest, Carrick	200
June	Bright Futures Fund launch sessions at Burnie, Deloraine, Longford, Sheffield and Ulverstone	150

What we heard

Community feedback

The most common issues raised by stakeholders and community related to the following topics:

- Timing of construction for Stage 1 NWT
- Employment opportunities during construction
- The potential benefits of Project Marinus for Tasmanians
- How Tasmania's electricity network operates
- Environmental management and sustainability
- The Bright Futures Fund.

Community feedback helps us to communicate more effectively. Our monthly e-newsletter, sent to 1,000 subscribers, aims to address current issues, including questions raised at engagement sessions. Additionally, a range of resources covering topics of interest are available on our website: tasnetworks.com.au/resources



Stakeholder Liaison Group

The NWT Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) is an independently chaired group made up of 15 members with representation across key industry groups, peak bodies, education, skills and training sectors and state government organisations.

The meetings provide an opportunity for us to understand stakeholder perspectives and receive input and feedback on a range of matters related to the NWT.

Two SLG meetings were held between January and June 2026 in Burnie. The group discussed a range of topics including:

- Key project milestones
- Landholder engagement and land access
- Environment and planning permit progress
- Community engagement activities and investment
- Head contractor updates
- Worker accommodation options
- The Bright Futures Fund
- Sustainability objectives
- Marinus Link updates.

What we heard and what we did

Leading into the construction phase, the Stakeholder Liaison Group has been revising its terms of reference. These updates included a refocus on two-way engagement to best support the project through construction, a change to the meeting schedule, formalised mutual commitments including TasNetworks' accountability, offered remuneration, and introduced ongoing evaluation processes to ensure effectiveness and continuous improvement.

The SLG participated in a transparency, accountability and collaboration survey across TasNetworks' four engagement groups. Key themes arising from the survey included clearer earlier communication and ongoing accountability. The survey also provided valuable insights into how engagement groups wish to engage with TasNetworks moving forward, including the level of information, influence, responsiveness and collaboration expected throughout key decision-making processes. Members supported the survey's eight action areas and a follow-up Transparency Charter workshop is scheduled.



More information about the SLG, including agendas, presentations and meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

Bright Futures Fund

In June 2026, TasNetworks officially launched the Bright Futures Fund (BFF), marking an exciting milestone for the NWT. BFF is a critical part of TasNetworks' commitment to ensuring an ongoing and sustainable positive legacy for the region, both during and after construction of the NWT.

TasNetworks has committed \$10 million to support projects that deliver meaningful benefits to communities within the five local government areas that Stage 1 spans. BFF offers four funding tiers, providing communities with flexible options from small grants to support local projects, through to funding for major regional projects.

Over 60 people attended the official BFF launch with representatives from state and local government, community groups, stakeholders and partners showing their support and marking the first funding round open.

Following the launch in Burnie, we connected with community members at our drop-in sessions in Deloraine, Longford, Sheffield and Ulverstone.



From planning to construction



Project approvals

Since 2019, TasNetworks has been developing the plans and technical designs to complete the comprehensive approvals processes through State and Commonwealth governments. The project has also undergone a rigorous and regulated economic cost-benefit analysis through the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). In the first half of 2026 these project approvals were realised.

- In February 2026, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) approved the construction costs for Stage 1 of NWTG, providing revenue certainty for TasNetworks.
- In March 2026, after a detailed assessment, the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) granted a planning permit for the project, subject to conditions.
- In April 2026, approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act was also granted from the Commonwealth, subject to conditions.
- In May 2026, TasNetworks reached financial close for the NWTG marking the final major step before construction begins on Stage 1.

What we heard

As part of our engagement with the community, we heard concerns about the complexity and volume of information of the upcoming environmental, planning and heritage documentation and the relatively short timeframe set by regulators for the public exhibition period. We heard that these factors would impact people’s capacity to review and understand the information.

What we changed

TasNetworks committed to sharing the findings of the key technical studies in which we knew the community were most interested. We released seven fact sheets and held five information sessions with subject-matter experts to support the information sharing ahead of the public exhibition dates.

In 2026, one appeal was lodged with the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Pending the appeal, construction will start when the TPC planning permit and EPBC approval take effect.



Independent Community Assessment Panel

Following a public recruitment campaign, TasNetworks announced its new local panel to guide investment through the Bright Futures Fund. The seven-member Independent Community Assessment Panel brings together a diverse group of locals who will review eligible applications and select successful projects for funding.

Panel members from the region ensure local knowledge and perspectives are central to the decision-making process. An Independent Chair oversees the Panel to ensure fairness, integrity and effectiveness.

In February 2026, Burnie local Alexander McKenzie was appointed Chair, who has extensive community and governance experience. He has been joined by six panel members in Amber Bramich, James Spring, Jane Hall, Karen Oborn, Lily Nutting and Sylvia Marris.

Landholder engagement

TasNetworks has been engaging with landholders for several years to minimise the overall impact of the project on individual properties.

What we heard

Tower locations were discussed with landholders with feedback often received around improving land use efficiency, safety and supporting ongoing productivity.

We have worked with each landholder to capture the standards, commitments and measures when managing construction activities, along with any additional property specific commitments when entering and working on landholders' properties during NWTDT construction.

What we changed

During the design phase for Stage 1 of the NWTDT more than 100 towers have been moved as a direct result of landholder feedback.

Each landholder is provided with a formally endorsed property management plan to ensure clear, shared understanding of agreed access protocols and responsibilities.

The Energy Charter

The Energy Charter Better Practice Social Licence Guideline was developed in collaboration with state and national agricultural representative groups and six Transmission Network Service Providers (TNSPs), including TasNetworks. In 2026, a second Independent Review was completed by Next Generation Engagement and The Australian National University to assess the participating TNSPs' progress against 20 priority commitments.

The Review recommended participants should consider the following factors:

- Specific management approaches to care for regional engagement teams.
- Management of contractor behaviour.
- Improved levels of biosecurity training to understand and respond appropriately to emerging biosecurity risks (this could occur in partnership with farming bodies).
- A concerted effort regarding the Farm Infrastructure Priority Actions.
- Transparency regarding the rationale for use of police.

The Independent Review from June 2026 can be found here.



Contact us

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.



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