

North West Transmission Developments

Community Benefits Sharing Program
Co-design process summary – July 2023



NWTD 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.



Community benefits sharing programs

Community benefits sharing programs are a common element of major projects, nationally and internationally.

They recognise that while major projects may deliver broad benefits to communities across a region, state or country, project impacts are only felt by the local communities surrounding the project. Benefits sharing programs provide additional benefits to local communities to ensure there is a more equitable distribution of benefits.

Like any major infrastructure project, the NWTD will impact communities in the six local government areas in North West Tasmania the project is located within during its construction and operation. Developing a NWTD community benefits sharing program is part of TasNetworks' commitment to ensuring that it will leave an ongoing and sustainable positive legacy for the community in North West Tasmania.

Using a co-design approach

Co-design processes involve community members, stakeholders and decision-makers working together collaboratively to develop an outcome that reflects the values, perspectives and needs of all parties.

A co-design process was used to develop the Community Benefits Sharing Program for the NWTD project to ensure that the benefits the program will deliver are the ones that the local community will most value.

A key aspect of the co-design process used for the NWTD 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 very often completely absent from community engagement processes. The Youth Panel guaranteed the involvement of young people in this co-design process.



Phase one: developing the draft benefits program framework

Phase one of the co-design process was focused on the establishment of the Youth Panel and its development of the draft benefits program framework recommendations.

A total of 15 people were recruited to the Youth Panel. Panel members were relatively diverse. Based on demographic information they shared with us, the group included:

- Eight female, five male and one non-binary participants
- Three persons aged 18, two aged 22, six aged 23 and one person each aged 20, 21 and 25
- Two participants from the Kentish Local Government Area (LGA), four from Central Coast LGA, four from Meander Valley LGA and four from Waratah-Wynyard LGA
- Two participants identified as Aboriginal.

The Youth Panel was asked to draft recommendations for the framework of the benefits program. In particular, they were asked to identify:

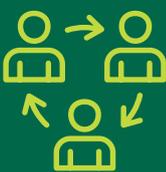
- What projects and/or activities should be awarded funding under the benefits program
- Who should be awarded funding under the benefit program
- How the community benefits program should be delivered.



Phase two: consulting on the draft benefits program framework and governance options

Phase two of the co-design process was focused on seeking stakeholder and community feedback on the Youth Panel's draft recommendations.

During this phase, we also worked with stakeholders to identify potential ways the benefits program could be delivered and the most effective administrative arrangements for its implementation.



Phase three: finalising the benefits program framework and governance options

During phase three of the co-design process, feedback gathered during phase two was shared with the Youth Panel to inform their refinement and finalisation of the eligibility requirements of the benefits program.

Potential governance options for the implementation of the program, which were developed from the stakeholder insights that were gathered in phase two, were shared with key stakeholders and their preferences identified.

Final recommendations

Once finalised, the Youth Panel's report of its recommendations for the benefits program for the North West Transmission Developments was formally provided to a TasNetworks Board representative.

A second stakeholder workshop was undertaken in November 2022 to consider the potential governance models for the benefits program that TasNetworks had developed on the basis of the outcomes of the first stakeholder workshop.

Following the close of the 2022 co-design process for the benefits program, the proposed benefits program framework and governance arrangements were endorsed by the TasNetworks Board. The draft recommendations and final framework are available at www.tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd-cbsp

Next steps

The benefits program will commence alongside the construction of the NWTD, subject to final investment decision. The program is expected to operate between 2025 and 2029 and will provide four tiers under which applicants can apply for funding for local community initiatives.

The detailed development of the governance and administrative arrangements for the benefits program is currently being undertaken. This will include designing the details of the:

- Independent Community Assessment Panel
- Application process
- Supporting administration arrangements

This development will involve further engagement to ensure the benefits program is delivered in a way that aligns to stakeholder and community expectations, and meets TasNetworks' probity obligations.



More information

We encourage you to visit **our website** and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date with the project and the development of the NWTD Community Benefits Sharing Program.



facebook.com/tasnetworks



linkedin.com/tas-networks

Contact us



tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd



NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au



1300 127 777