North West Transmission Developments

Information Pack | April 2025

Upgrading the electricity transmission network in
North West Tasmania to support our renewable energy future.

TasNetworks | Powering a Bright Future

Contents

Supporting Australia's energy transition

Australia is in the midst of an energy transformation. Over the next 50 years, the source of electricity in the National Electricity Market is expected to transition from coal to a diverse combination of renewables, thermal, hydro and storage including both batteries and pumped hydro.

To support this transition and connect Australian communities and businesses to these lower cost energy sources, the national electricity grid needs to evolve.

North West Tasmania can play a key role in delivering low-cost, reliable and clean energy to Tasmania and other parts of the National Electricity Market.

Tasmania's 200% Renewable Energy Target

While Tasmania currently has the capacity to generate 100 per cent renewable energy, Australia only generates approximately 30 per cent. Tasmania has a world leading legislated target to reach 200 per cent by 2040. This means more affordable, reliable and clean energy to power our state and the National Electricity Market.

Tasmania has the potential to become Australia's renewable energy battery, with interconnection playing a key role.

The role of TasNetworks in Tasmania's power system

TasNetworks owns, operates and maintains the electricity transmission and distribution network in Tasmania, delivering safe, cost-effective and reliable electricity supply to more than 295,000 homes and businesses.

As Tasmania's electricity network planner, TasNetworks is working to ensure that the network will be capable and ready to support future renewable energy developments.

North West Tasmania's role in the energy transition

The Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO**) has developed a blueprint to manage the evolution of Australia's power system. This blueprint is called the Integrated System Plan (**ISP**).

The Integrated System Plan positions the North West Transmission Developments as a critical grid investment that is needed urgently to support the national transition to renewable energy sources. This is because North West Tasmania has excellent potential for developing renewable generation, storage and dispatchable 'on demand' energy projects, including:

- new large-scale wind generation in the order of 2,000 megawatts (MW)
- latent/existing excess hydro power of up to 750 MW
- new pumped hydro energy storage developments of at least 750 MW
- renewable hydrogen projects, and
- Marinus Link.

TasNetworks is helping to build an interconnected future grid that supports Australia's transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and will contribute to:

- doubling Tasmania's clean energy production by 2040 (through the legislated 200% Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target)
- avoiding 140 million tonnes of CO_2 by 2050 (which equal to taking 1 million fossil fuel cars off the road).
- lowest possible power prices for all National Electricity Market customers; and
- thousands of indirect and direct jobs in Tasmania through construction and thousands more through the pipeline of renewable energy projects that follow.

What is Marinus Link?

Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and telecommunications interconnector between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

The project comprises high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables, fibre optic cables, and converter stations in both Tasmania and Victoria. The converter stations will connect Marinus Link directly into the transmission networks in both Tasmania and Victoria.

It will enable Tasmania to import renewable energy, such as solar and wind, while reserving its hydro and storing the extra energy, which can then be exported back to the mainland when it is needed.

The project will unlock Tasmania's renewable energy and storage resources to deliver reliable and clean energy for customers in the National Electricity Market (NEM).

Marinus Link will be delivered in two stages. Initially as a 750 megawatt (MW) project (Stage 1) with a second 750 MW link to follow at a later date (Stage 2).

Marinus Link is jointly owned by the Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian Governments.

For further information about Marinus Link, please visit www.marinuslink.com.au

MARINUS LINK

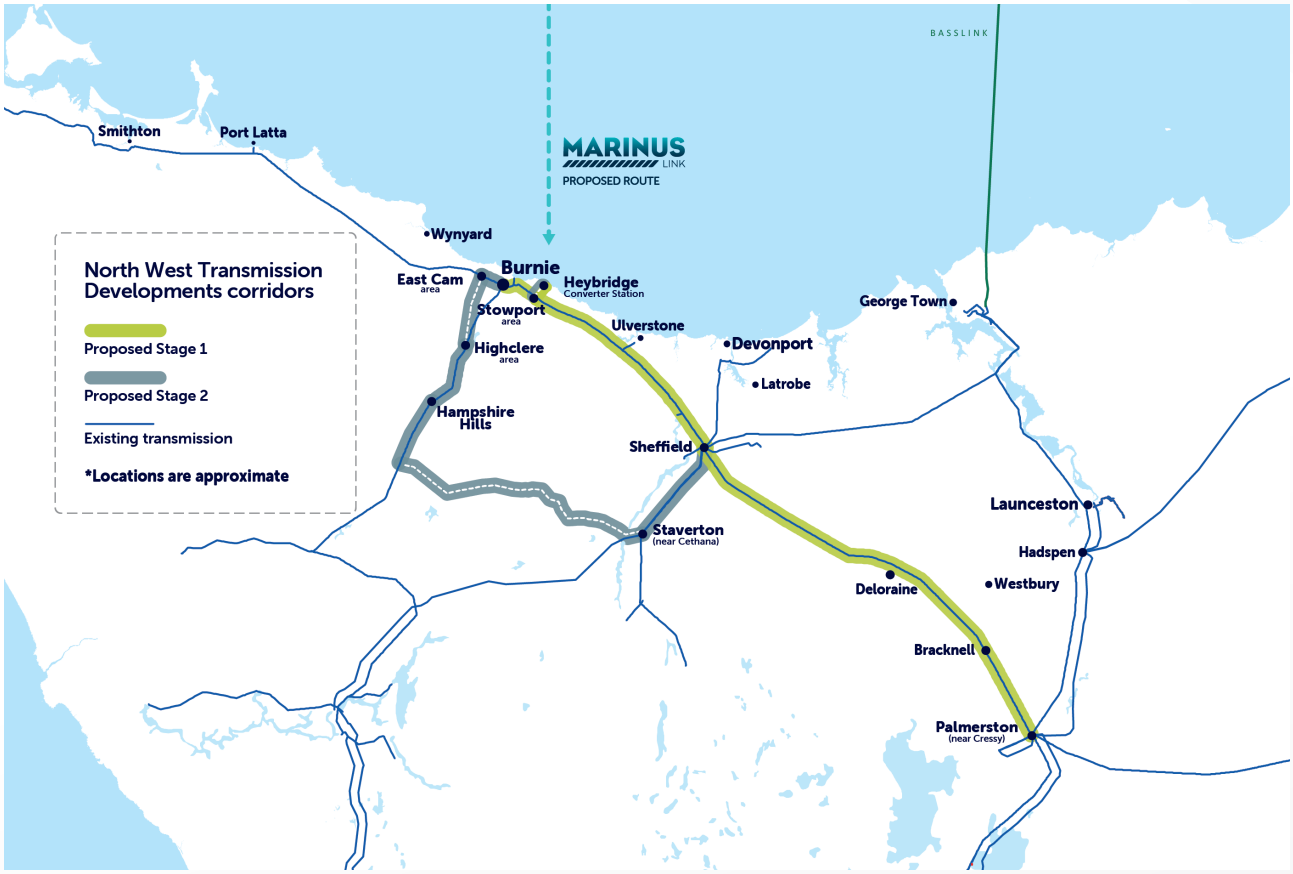
Did you know?

A megawatt (MW) is approximately equivalent to the energy needed, at any point in time, for powering 1,000 homes.

This means that Marinus Link will have the capacity to transport low cost, reliable and clean power for approximately 1.5 million homes and approximately three times the capacity of the existing Tasmania to Victoria Basslink.

North West Transmission Developments

TasNetworks plans to strengthen the transmission network in North West Tasmania. The proposed North West Transmission Developments (**NWTD**) project will include 240 km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure. The developments will 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.



240km of new and upgraded overhead transmission lines and other energy infrastructure

Together with Marinus Link, creating 1400 local jobs

Contributing to $1.4 billion in economic stimulus for Tasmania

72% of the project will upgrade existing infrastructure. The remaining 28% will be new build

Unlocking a pipeline of future renewable energy projects in the region

Supporting Australia's transition to a clean energy future

Project benefits

Together with Marinus Link, the NWTD will benefit Tasmania by:

- Putting downward pressure on wholesale energy prices, customers will pay less compared to a future without the NWTD and Marinus Link.
- Providing long term energy security for the State by enabling a significant increase in on-island generation and storage capacity to meet Tasmania's growing needs. Surplus electricity generated will be exported to other parts of the National Electricity Market, generating revenue for Tasmania.
- Allowing better utilisation of Tasmania's power system assets, creating greater value for Tasmanian customers.
- Growing Tasmania's economy by creating 1,400 direct and indirect jobs at peak of construction in Tasmania and generating $1.4 billion economic activity in the State.
- Creating an opportunity for careers and skills development in Tasmania, as a pipeline of future renewable energy developments unlocked by the project are set to add a further 2,350 jobs and $5.7 billion to the Tasmanian economy over the next decade to 2040.
- Supporting the future of Tasmanian business and industry by enabling growth of new and existing industries through increased availability of affordable and clean renewable energy, and a strong and reliable electricity network.
- Supporting the national transition to a clean energy future.

Who will own the infrastructure

Tasmania will own 100% of the NWTD through TasNetworks, retaining ownership of the on-island electricity transmission infrastructure required to support Marinus Link, including towers and overhead lines.

Project timeline

The NWTD project has three phases:

1. **Design and Approvals.** During this phase, the project develops all the necessary plans and technical designs and undertakes land-use planning and comprehensive approvals processes at local Council, Tasmanian Government and Australian Government levels. The project also undergoes a rigorous and regulated economic cost-benefit analysis. The NWTD is subject to final investment decision (**FID**), and will only progress to construction once the necessary approvals are in place.
2. **Construction.** It is anticipated that main construction activities will commence in 2026, following FID approval.
3. **Operation and Maintenance.** Once construction has been completed, TasNetworks will operate and maintain the infrastructure.

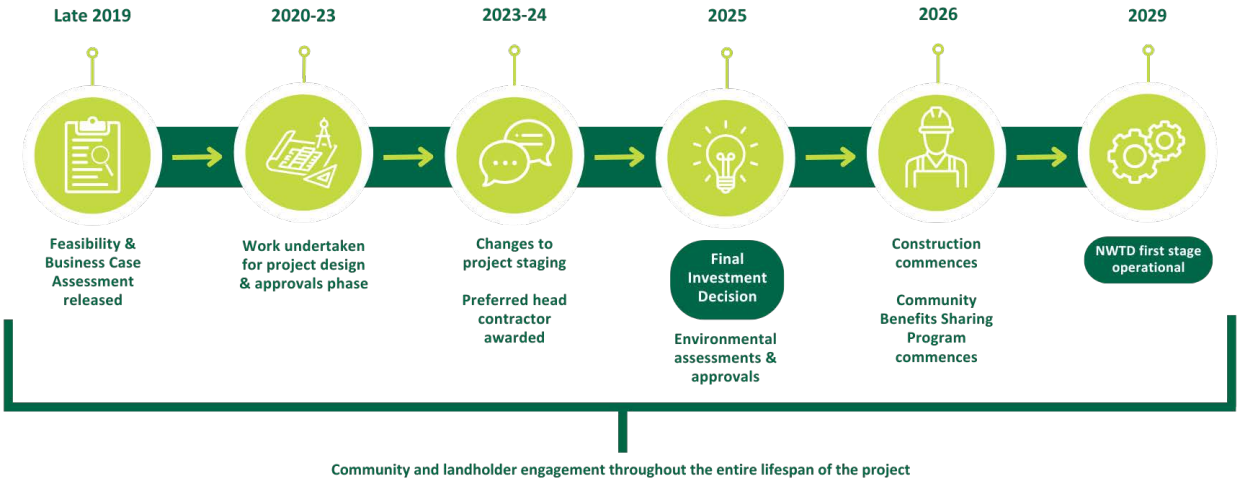
Project staging

The North West Transmission Developments project will be delivered across two stages, focusing on the delivery of Stage 1 until a final decision is made on the second Marinus Link cable.

Stage 1 is planned to commence construction in 2026 to align with construction of the first Marinus Link cable. Stage 2 will deliver the balance of the NWTD project scope, which includes the section between Staverton to Burnie via Hampshire Hills, to align with the second Marinus Link cable.

This approach will see approximately 60 per cent of the NWTD built in the first stage.

All stages of the project are subject to Development and Environmental Approvals and Final Investment Decisions.



Engaging with our community

Community engagement

TasNetworks understands that effective and authentic engagement with communities and impacted landholders is critical to the success of the NWTD project.

Involving stakeholders and the community in the development of projects ensures the best possible outcomes are achieved. Since 2019, community feedback has helped to shape the direction of the NWTD and TasNetworks is committed to this continuing as the project progresses.

Engagement activities to date have included pop-up information stands and attendance at local community events and online webinars and surveys. These events provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions or raise any concerns about the project and talk to senior leaders, decision makers and technical experts.

TasNetworks uses 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.

Stakeholder liaison group

The North West Transmission Developments Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) is an independently chaired group with representation across key industry groups, peak bodies, education, skills and training sectors and state government organisations.

The SLG has been meeting bi-monthly since 2021. The meetings provide an opportunity for TasNetworks to understand stakeholder perspectives and receive feedback on a range of matters related to the NWTD.

Meeting minutes, agenda and presentation materials are available on the TasNetworks website: **www.tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd**

Engaging with our landholders

There are more than 300 affected landholders across the North West Transmission Developments, with a diverse range of land uses/zoning, including:

- Rural residential
- Farming/agriculture
- Small rural lifestyle
- Urban residential
- Commercial forestry
- Public utilities

TasNetworks understands that it has a responsibility to recognise and minimise the impacts transmission infrastructure has on landholders. Engaging meaningfully with landholders helps the project to fully understand what these impacts are and what matters most to the landholder.

To ensure landholders are well supported, TasNetworks has assigned each landholder with a dedicated Land Agent, who acts as a central point of contact for the project. The role of the Land Agent is to help guide and assist landholders through the complexities of Access Agreements, compensation, tower placement, License and Easement Options Agreements and Land and Easement Acquisition etc. They can act as a liaison between the project engineer and the landholder to convey how the landholder uses their land.

Our commitment to landholders

TasNetworks is committed to collaborating with all affected landholders and will work to minimise impacts of the NWTD project, such as easement acquisition, as much as possible. TasNetworks believe that by working together, providing clear and timely information, and understanding landholders' specific requirements, it is possible to reach voluntary agreements that are mutually acceptable.

TasNetworks is further committed to achieving positive social licence within communities and is working with landholders and other relevant authorities to ensure TasNetworks' easement acquisition practices and compensation framework are contemporary and fair.

Landholder compensation

TasNetworks' objective is to work co-operatively with landholders to reach a mutually acceptable negotiated agreement for TasNetworks to obtain land or an easement over landholders' land for the required electricity infrastructure.

The amount of compensation that TasNetworks can pay to a landholder and recover from electricity consumers is regulated by the National Electricity Rules and is subject to approval by the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**).

The Land Acquisition Act (LAA) 1993 (TAS) sets out, under section 27, the relevant compensation components TasNetworks will need to take into account and compensate landholders against with respect to any land or easement acquisition, these include:

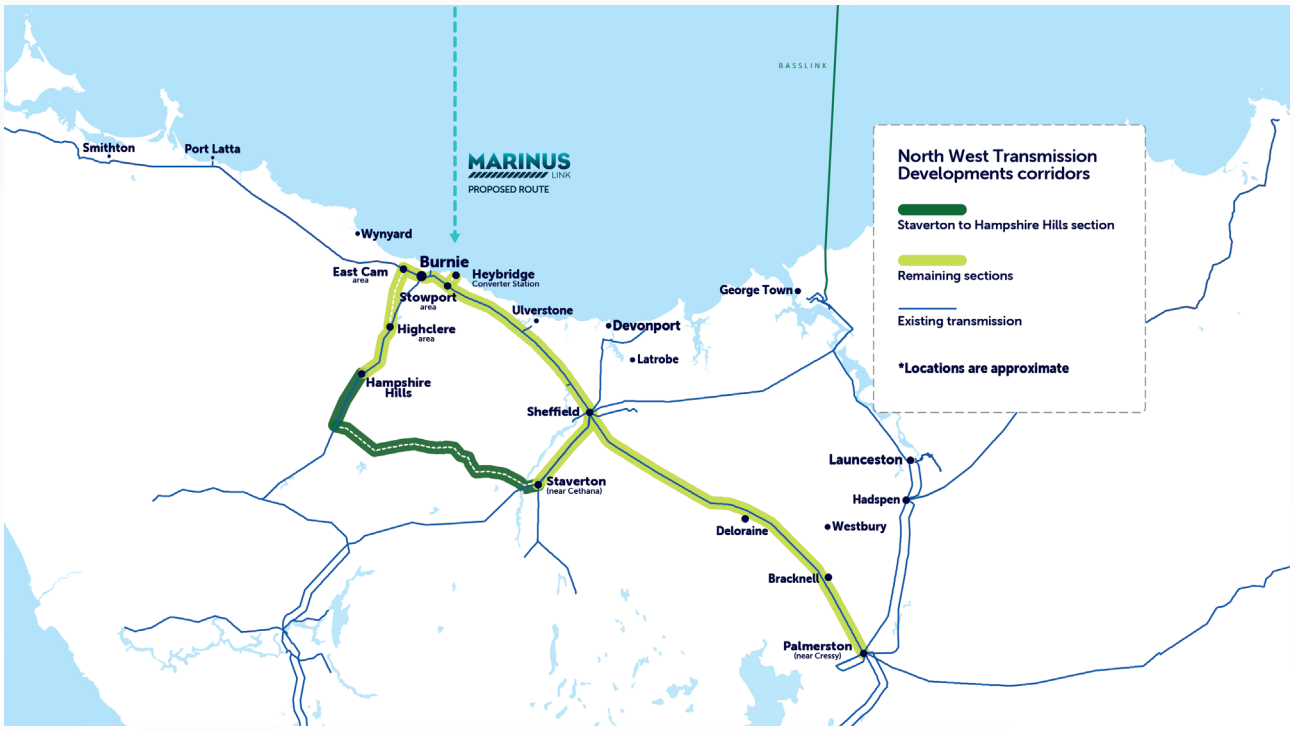
- Market value
- Special value
- Severance
- Betterment
- Injurious affection
- Disturbance

While TasNetworks and landholders are required to work within the regulatory requirements when negotiating landholder compensation payments, TasNetworks recognises the disruption and cost to landholders. To support the delivery of a modern electricity grid for Tasmania that benefits communities and consumers, the Tasmanian Government is establishing a Strategic Benefit Payment (**SBP**) Scheme for new major transmission projects. Once finalised, TasNetworks has agreed to provide the SBP to eligible landholders impacted by transmission developments.

The proposed SBP will be reflective of the nature of the energy developments proposed in Tasmania. It will be payable to eligible landholders impacted by transmission infrastructure and will be in addition to that afforded under the LAA.

For further information about landholder engagement please visit **www.tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd**

Design and approvals



Proposed Staverton to Hampshire Hills and Remaining sections of the NWTD project

Environmental approvals

The North West Transmission Developments project must go through a comprehensive environmental assessment and approvals process before construction can commence.

TasNetworks will lodge two separate permit applications with the Tasmanian Planning Commision (TPC) for assessment, with the first focusing on the Remaining sections of the project (refer to map). The applications will address the planning criteria, which the TPC developed for the project.

The TPC will assess the application material against the planning criteria and determine whether a permit will be granted. If approved, there will be a number of permit conditions, which will outline how the construction will proceed.

A team of technical and environmental specialists have been engaged to undertake technical studies to understand the existing conditions along the sections of the route (refer to map).

These studies commenced in 2020 and include:

- Field investigations to survey existing conditions across twelve key study topics for the Staverton to Hampshire Hills section and fifteen key study topics for the Remaining sections of the route
- Using mapping, modelling and other methods to assess potential impacts on the environment
- Consultation with stakeholders, community members and landholders.

The information collected through the technical studies was used to assess the potential impacts of the project and develop the permit applications for Staverton to Hampshire Hills and Remaining sections of the project.

As part of the assessment process, the permit applications, including all the supporting technical reports, will be publicly exhibited and anyone may make a submission. The TPC is required to consider all submissions when undertaking its assessment and determining whether to grant a permit.

The decision of the TPC may be appealed to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

As the project has been identified as being a 'controlled action' in relation to Matters of National Significance (MNES) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the approval of the Commonwealth Minister for Environment is also required.

For further information please refer to the NWTD Assessments, approvals and studies fact sheet at **www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources/**

Protecting Aboriginal heritage

TasNetworks recognises that Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and artefacts exist on and near the proposed routes. In particular, routes along coastal and near-shore areas, and near inland watercourses, are likely to indicate evidence of past Aboriginal occupation and associated story lines.

As part of the NWTD planning and approvals process, Aboriginal Heritage Officers have conducted field surveys and investigations along the proposed project routes, with Aboriginal people from the local area invited to visit sites of interest.

The aim of the cultural heritage field surveys is to identify Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage sites and areas of potential archaeological sensitivity that may be present. These surveys are ongoing and will culminate in a report containing specific recommendations to avoid and mitigate impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

Technical design

Route Selection

Where practicable, for the NWTD project TasNetworks has followed existing electricity transmission corridors and easements to reduce impacts on land use and native vegetation. Where this was not feasible, due to the need for additional network capacity, terrain or other constraints, alternative routes were chosen to minimise the impact on communities and the environment, cultural heritage and land use.

A detailed route selection process has been used to determine the preferred routes. The process considered the technical requirements for the project, as well as key environmental and social factors, to find feasible routes that minimise impacts and deliver cost effective and strong performing network outcomes.

Of the routes chosen for the NWTD, 72 per cent (177 km) are upgrades to existing transmission corridors and 28 per cent (66 km) are new-build or greenfield corridors.

Route Selection Process

The routes and site selection process commences by finding feasible options, which are investigated and analysed against technical parameters and environmental and social criteria to identify proposed routes. This aims to ensure that the most efficient route with the least impacts is selected.

The route selection parameters and criteria include:

- proximity to houses and communities
- visual impacts
- cost for construction
- ease of access
- steep terrain and slope stability
- system requirements, including safety and maintenance
- land use
- planning zones and overlays
- significant agricultural land
- native vegetation
- threatened plants and animals
- cultural heritage values
- potential for contaminated land disturbance
- areas of local and state significance.

Why is the NWTD project using overhead transmission?

TasNetworks is designing the NWTD project to meet Tasmania's future energy needs while ensuring this is the most efficient and affordable upgrade for Tasmanians.

Overhead transmission using High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) has been selected as the preferred method to transport electricity for the NWTD.
This technology has been chosen because:

- The NWTD will strengthen the existing transmission system in Tasmania which consists of highly connected overhead HVAC electricity infrastructure.
- Overhead HVAC lines will ensure Tasmania has the necessary energy transmission compatibility and capacity needed at an appropriate project cost.
- HVAC overhead transmission lines will be constructed in a way that reduces impacts to landholders as much as practical.
- Overhead lines accommodate rugged terrain and landslip prone areas, which are features of the proposed NWTD transmission line corridors.
- Ongoing maintenance of overhead transmission lines is generally easier to access and quicker to repair.

In 2021, following concerns raised by landholders and to further inform the NWTD's assessment to progress overhead lines in place of underground cable, a feasibility study was commissioned by TasNetworks and conducted by JMME (Jacobs Group Australia).

The study focused on the Palmerston to Sheffield section of the NWTD route. This section of the route is approximately 80km long and traverses rural farmland, consisting of terrain that is relatively flat, with favourable geotechnical conditions including soft soils with few rocky outcrops and good access compared to other more hilly and/or remote sections of the NWTD.

Overall, findings of the feasibility report found that undergrounding this section of the route would be "6 to 10 times more expensive than traditional transmission line construction" and substantially increases the levels of technical complexity.

The full report 'JMME Memo Palmerston to Sheffield Under Ground options' explaining the conclusions in detail can be found on the TasNetworks website: **www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources**

Why is Marinus Link going underground in Victoria?

The construction of Marinus Link involves installing underground cable from Waratah Bay to the Latrobe Valley in Gippsland, and underneath the seabed of Bass Strait, connecting with North West Tasmania.

Underground transmission of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) has been selected as the preferred method to transport electricity through Marinus Link because:

- HVDC is the most efficient and effective way to transfer bulk energy across long distances. Marinus Link has a 255km Bass Strait marine crossing from Burnie in North West Tasmania to Waratah Bay in Victoria, with a further 90km on land from Waratah Bay to the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.
- HVDC cable technology does not require 'compensation stations' at regular intervals along the transmission route, which is important, as these could not be built and maintained in the Bass Strait marine environment.
- Marinus Link is a direct transmission line and is not connecting into any other projects along the route, such as offshore windfarms in Victoria.
- Once built, Marinus Link won't be visible, except for the converter stations at each end of the route. The cables will be buried beneath the seabed across Bass Strait and will run underground through South Gippsland, to the Latrobe Valley in Victoria, with minimal above ground infrastructure required to support the alignment.

For further information about Marinus Link, please visit **www.marinuslink.com.au**

Selecting contractors and businesses to deliver the works

The procurement process to select a suitable contractor was finalised in 2024, with TasNetworks appointing Head Contractor GenusPlus Group Ltd (Genus) to deliver the scope of works for the NWTD project. TasNetworks has worked hard to ensure that the contract will deliver the right balance of value for money for our customers while adhering to the highest safety and quality requirements.

The creation of employment opportunities for Tasmanians and maximising spend in north-west Tasmania are high priorities for the project. Genus, which already has established operations in Bridgewater and Spreyton, is committed to employing Tasmanians and engaging the services of Tasmanian businesses throughout the delivery of the project.

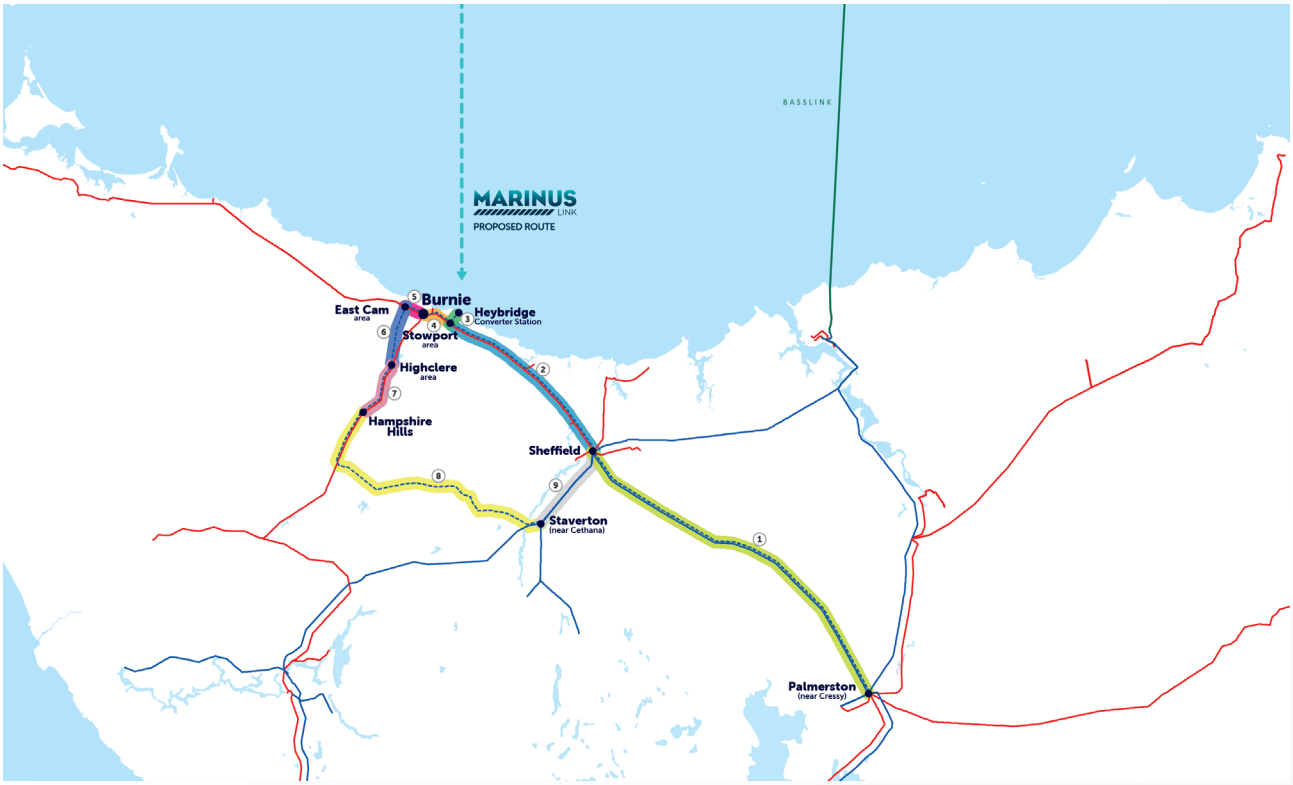
The construction and commissioning phase of the project will create significant local job opportunities and increased economic activity throughout the region, bringing benefits to Tasmanians and Tasmanian businesses.

There will be a need for specialist electrical workers, civil construction and engineering businesses, along with a wide range of services, including accommodation, catering, security, equipment hire, transport and storage.

For further information please visit **www.tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd**

Planned upgrades and new transmission corridors

The following provides a summary of the planned upgrades and new transmission corridors for each component of the North West Transmission Developments.



North West Transmission Developments indicative routes

1. Palmerston to Sheffield
   Length: ~80km - Reduction in towers: from 261 to 179
2. Sheffield to Stowport area
   Length: ~42km - Reduction in towers: from 119 to 93
3. Stowport area to Heybridge Converter Station
   Length: ~3.2km - New towers: ~18
4. Stowport area to Burnie
   Length: ~5km - Reduction in towers: from 19 to 14
5. Burnie to East Cam area
   Length: ~4.6km - New towers: ~13
6. East Cam area to Highclere area
   Length: ~15.2km - New towers: ~29
7. Highclere area to Hampshire Hills
   Length: ~9.3km - New towers: ~20
8. Staverton to Hampshire Hills
   Length: ~60km - New towers: ~124
9. Staverton to Sheffield
   Length: ~18.6km - New towers: 0 (existing)

220 kV existing transmission

110 kV existing transmission

New 220 kV transmission in new or widened easement

***Locations are approximate**

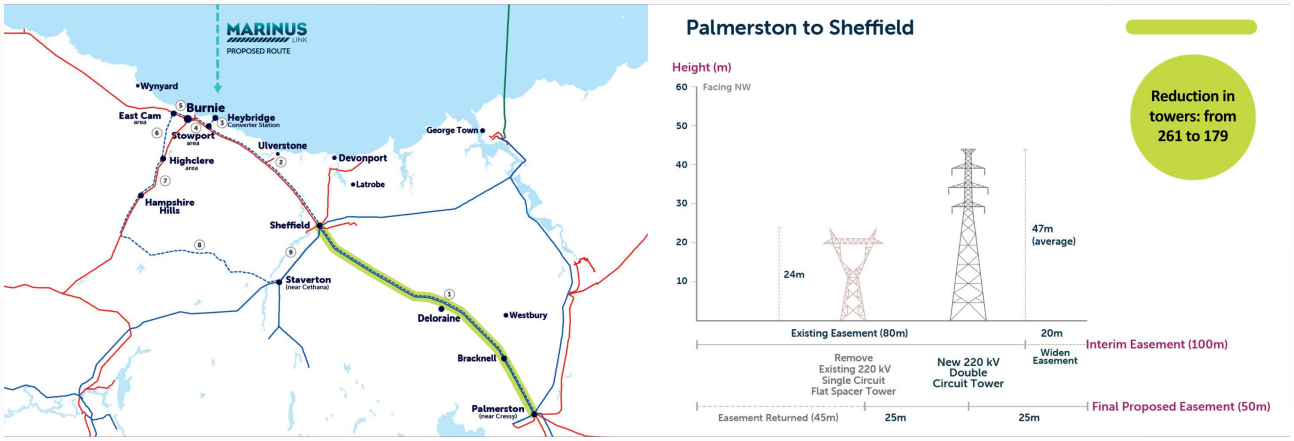
Tower designs and easements are indicative only and will vary depending on use, location, elevation, and final technical design. Total number of towers: 490

Stage 1

Palmerston to Sheffield

Between Palmerston and Sheffield, a new double circuit 220 kV transmission line is proposed to be constructed adjacent to the existing single circuit 220 kV transmission line on the northeast side. This would require widening the existing easement by approximately 20 metres.

The new line is approximately 80 kilometres long and involves approximately 179 new towers.

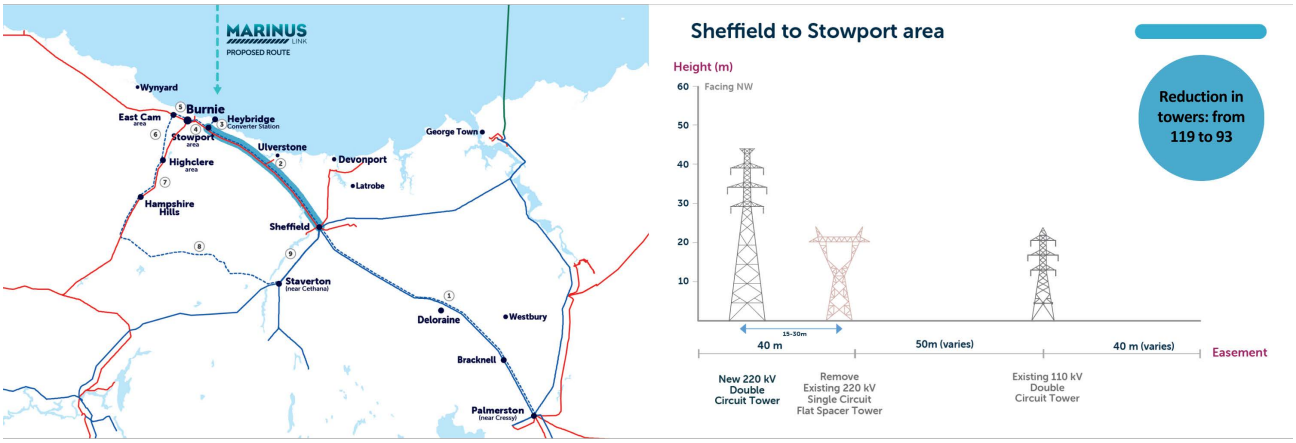


Sheffield to Stowport area

A new 220 kV double circuit transmission line is proposed to be constructed adjacent to the existing 220k kV single circuit line predominantly on the southeast side. Some sections are planned to be constructed to the northeast and on the existing transmission line alignment.

Widening of the easement by approximately 20 meters would be required where the new transmission line runs southeast of the existing transmission line.

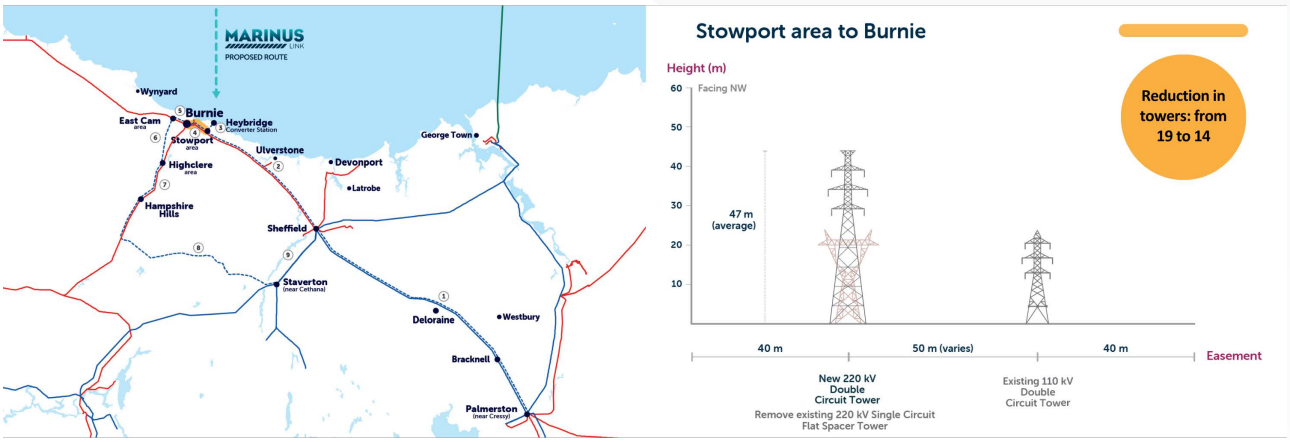
The new line is approximately 44 kilometres long and involves approximately 93 new towers.



Stowport area to Burnie

From Minna Road, the existing single circuit flat spacer transmission infrastructure will be replaced with a new double circuit 220 kV transmission line.

This section is approximately 5 kilometres in length and will involve around 14 new towers in total.



Stowport area to the Heybridge Converter Station *(stages 1 & 2)*

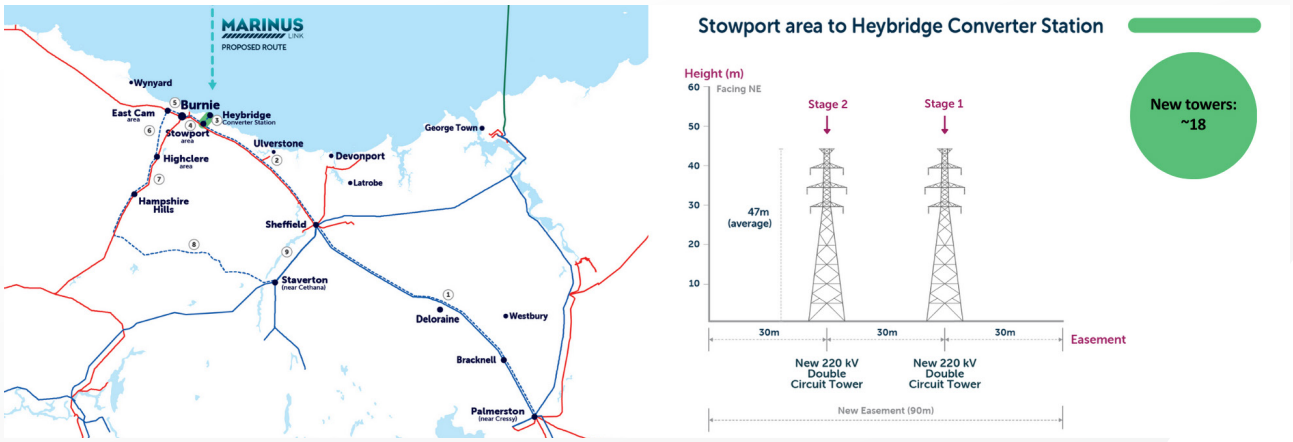
From Stowport to the Heybridge Converter (and Switching) Station, a new easement will be required for this 3.2 kilometre section of corridor to link the transmission network with the Heybridge Converter Station to connect Marinus Link.

Two new 220 kV double circuit transmission lines are proposed to be built in a 90-metre-wide easement.

The first double circuit transmission line will be constructed as part of Stage 1 and the second double circuit transmission line will be constructed as part of Stage 2 of the project.

These lines will carry loads to and from Sheffield and the Converter Station, and to and from Burnie and the Converter Station.

It is anticipated this 3.2 kilometre section will involve approximately 18 towers, 9 towers for each double circuit transmission line.



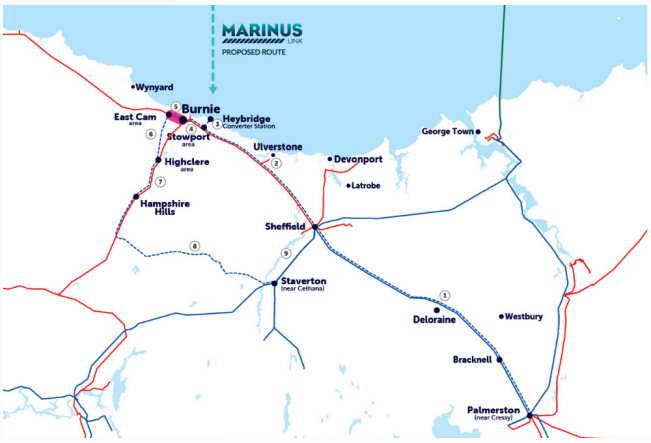
Stage 2

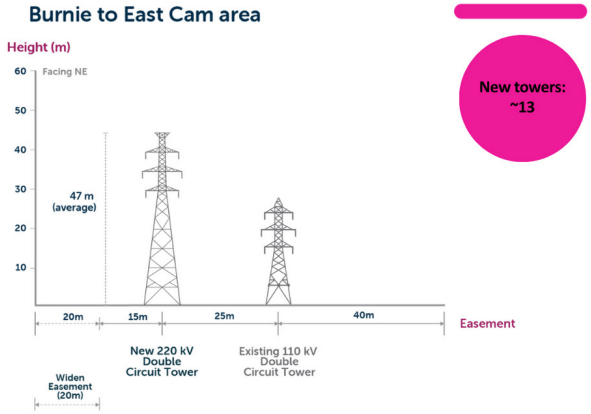
Burnie to East Cam area

Between Burnie and East Cam, a new transmission line will be constructed next to the existing one, on the southern side, which will require the easement to be widened by 20 metres.

This new transmission line will connect the Burnie Substation to a new transmission line at East Cam. The new connection at East Cam allows for a future switching station for future connections.

This line is approximately 4.6 kilometres in length and will involve around 13 new towers.



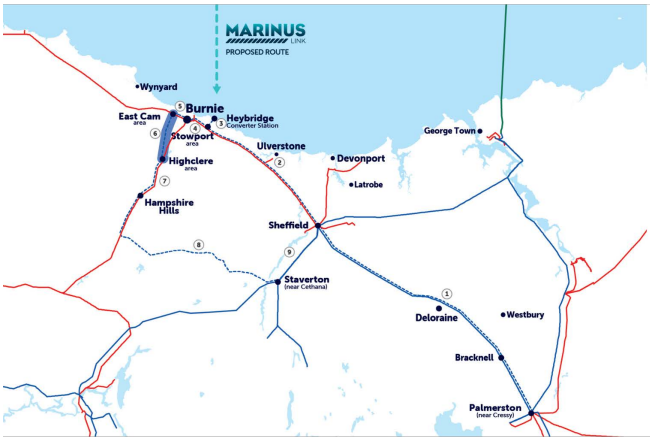


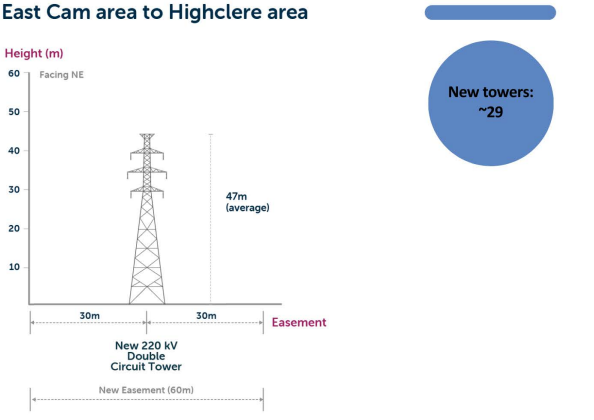
East Cam area to Highclere area

Between East Cam and Highclere, a new double circuit 220 kV transmission line will be required in a new 60-metre-wide easement.

The route was chosen because it reduces impacts on environmentally significant vegetation and reduces the route's exposure to historic landslides and landslip-prone land. Land-use along this route predominately comprises plantations, native vegetation forestry and some private land.

This line is approximately 15.2 kilometres in length and will involve around 29 towers.



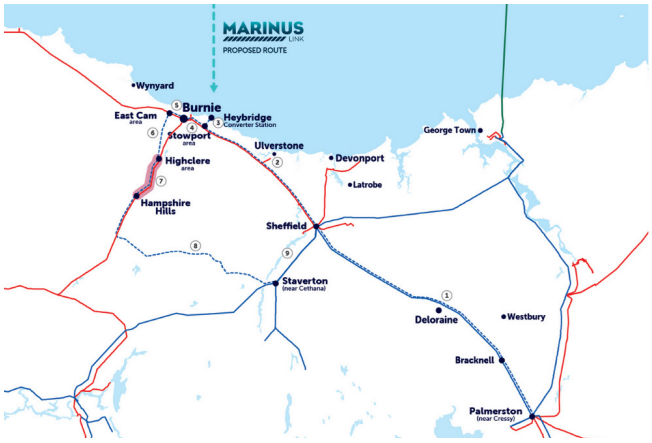


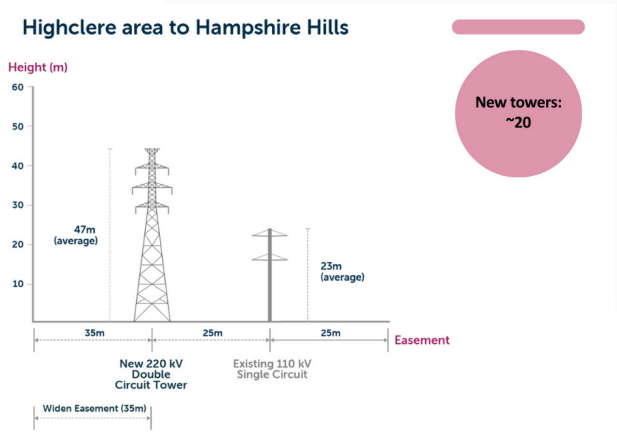
Highclere area to Hampshire Hills

Between Highclere and Hampshire Hills, a new double circuit 220 kV transmission line is proposed to be built next to the existing 110kV steel pole transmission line. The easement in this section will be widened by approximately 35 metres to the western side to accommodate the new transmission line.

The route was chosen because it reduces impacts on environmentally significant vegetation and reduces the route's exposure to historic landslides and landslip-prone land. Land use along this route predominately comprises of plantations, native vegetation forestry and some private land.

This line is approximately 9.3 kilometres in length and will involve around 20 towers.





Staverton to Hampshire Hills

Between Staverton and Hampshire Hills, a new double circuit 220 kV transmission line is proposed to be built within a predominantly new 60-metre-wide easement.

Near Staverton, the new transmission line is proposed to be constructed along existing easements, which require widening.

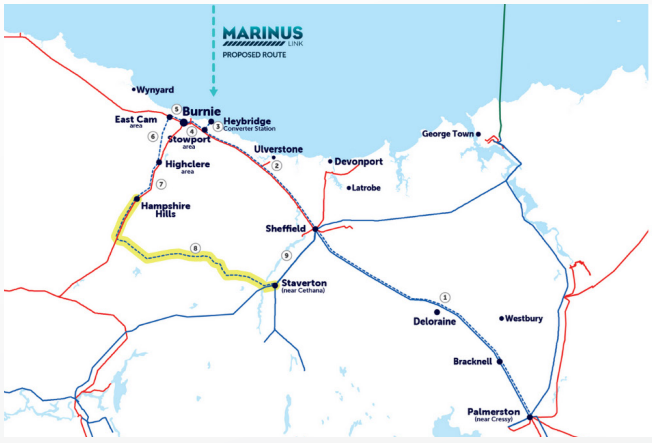
Near Hampshire Hills, the new transmission line is proposed along the existing easements, which require widening.

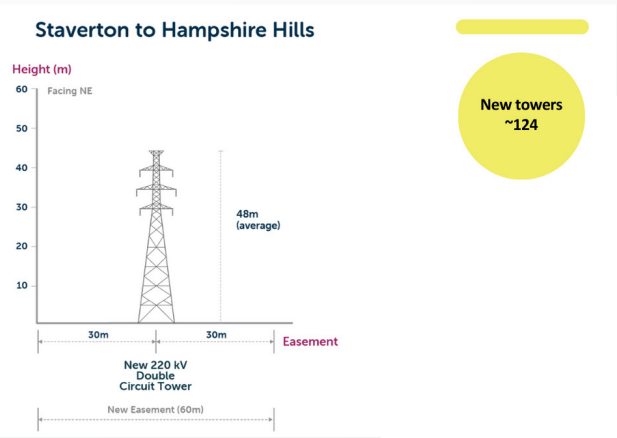
Several route options were considered for this new transmission line – north through Gunns Plains, through the River Leven valley and south through the Vale of Belvoir. The upper River Leven valley between Loongana Range, and the rugged Black Bluff Range and Fossey Mountains is the most favourable route.

West of Loongana, routes east and west of St Valentines Peak were investigated. Old Park Regional Reserve and extensive granite formations near Mt Housetop were reasons a western route through Rabbit Plain and Peak Plain was favoured over the eastern route.

The selected route crosses native forest, plantations and a small number of private landholdings.

This new line is approximately 60 kilometres in length and will involve around 124 towers.

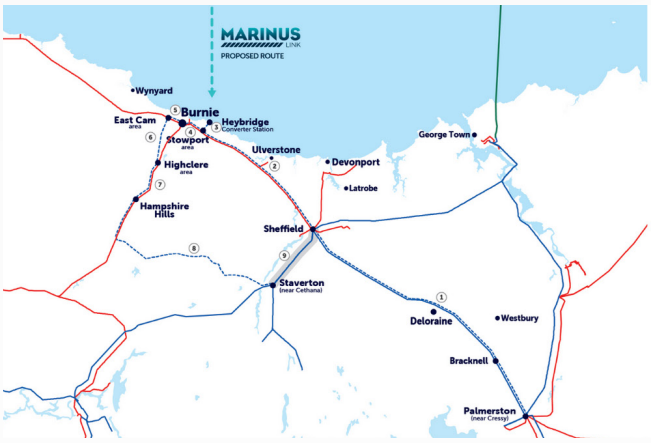


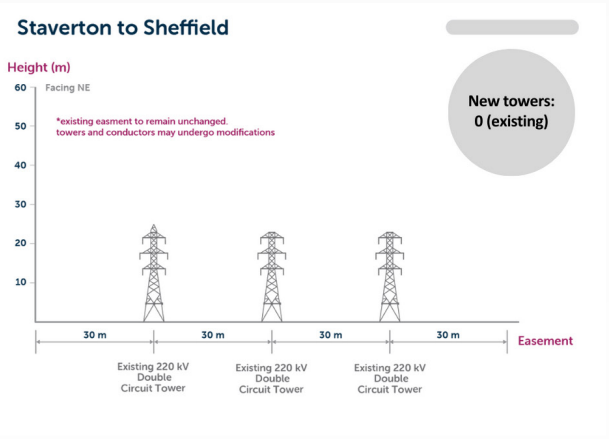


Staverton to Sheffield

This component of the North West Transmission Developments consists of upgrading 18.6 kilometres of existing transmission lines to carry more electricity. This might include re-stringing the transmission lines with new conductors, increasing tower heights, modifying insulator strings, civil works and upgrading equipment in the Sheffield Substation. A new switching station will be built at Staverton under the existing transmission lines.

It is anticipated that no new transmission lines will need to be constructed and easements will stay the same size.





Construction

The timeline for construction will depend on a range of factors including the amount of vegetation to be cleared, length of access tracks to be installed, geological conditions and the number of towers that may be constructed. All this is determined through the design and approvals phase of the project. Generally, each step of construction may take from one to four weeks per tower, however, this will be refined as part of the detailed planning closer to the construction period. There are 5 steps for construction, including:

Step 1: Clearing and access

The first step of construction involves marking out the location of the towers and any areas of vegetation to be cleared to allow the transmission line to operate safely.

Step 2: Foundations

Once the location of the towers has been set out foundations are then excavated using heavy machinery. 'Benching' may also be required in steep terrain to provide a flat platform for the structure.

Step 3: Tower assembly

Steel sections for each tower are fabricated, galvanised, sorted and bundled off site and then delivered to each location typically by semi-trailer. The tower is then assembled in stages and lifted into place by a large mobile crane.

Step 4: Conductor stringing

The process to connect the conductor (or wires) to the transmission line tower is known as conductor stringing. This requires the use of specialist equipment and a helicopter.

Step 5: Site rehabilitation

Following the completion of the stringing process, all temporary work sites, tower pads and tracks are remediated to allow vegetation to regrow and minimise erosion.

For further information please refer to the NWTD Construction, Operation and Maintenance fact sheet at www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources/

Operation and maintenance

Once construction has been completed, TasNetworks will operate and maintain the infrastructure. For the operation and maintenance phase, the amount of activity onsite decreases dramatically. Normal practice is for the maintenance team to carry out periodic inspections of the line, easement vegetation and access tracks in accordance with TasNetworks' standard schedules and procedures. This is typically done once or twice per year. Inspections are generally undertaken by vehicles, with helicopters sometimes used. Additional inspections may be required to perform emergency repairs.

Environmental management

TasNetworks recognises that it has an important role in avoiding or minimising any adverse environmental impacts through every stage of its operations and in contributing positively to the stewardship of the natural environment. TasNetworks manages 12,000 hectares of existing easements with a range of vegetation management practices and controls in place. There are processes in place to:

- prevent the spread of weeds and disease
- prevent water pollution caused by our activities and ensure watercourses are protected, and
- ensure effective vegetation management to manage the risk of fires damaging electricity assets.

Weeds and disease

Under Tasmanian biosecurity legislation, private landholders are primarily responsible for eradicating or controlling declared weeds on their property. However, TasNetworks acknowledges that it has a responsibility to help the Tasmanian community manage declared weed species within or near power line easements.

Strict biosecurity hygiene measures must be adhered to throughout construction, particularly where significant biosecurity risks are identified (e.g. working in areas with weeds and disease or areas susceptible to harm if weeds, pests or disease are introduced).

After construction, disturbed areas are rehabilitated/revegetated to minimise the colonisation of invasive weeds.

Monitoring and management of weeds within existing power line easements is managed via TasNetworks' Strategic Weed Management Program. The program is focused on eradicating declared weeds, keeping high value areas weed free (i.e. the Wilderness World Heritage Area) and supporting collaborative, cross tenure, weed management projects with community and natural resource management groups.

All ongoing maintenance and operations staff and contractors working on transmission easements must comply with Tasmanian biosecurity legislation and regulations, the Charter for Working on Private Farmland and TasNetworks Biosecurity Standard.

TasNetworks also ensures that, as far as reasonably practical, all staff and contractors 'arrive clean and leave clean' during all operational and maintenance work.

For further information please refer to the Managing weeds in power line easements fact sheet at **www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources/**

Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs)

Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs) are present wherever there is electricity, including in the home, office, work sites and around transmission lines, and people are exposed to them every day.

TasNetworks recognises that there is community interest regarding the potential health effects from exposure to EMFs and has adopted the Prudent Avoidance Approach outlined in the Energy Network Association's EMF Management Handbook.

Through this approach, the Tasmanian transmission network is operated within the EMF levels recommended by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and the EMF general public exposure guideline limits recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. The proposed North West Transmission Developments will operate within these guideline limits.

For further information please refer to the Electric and Magnetic Fields fact sheet at **www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources/**

Support for local communities

Community benefits sharing program

Like any major infrastructure project, the North West Transmission Developments has the potential to impact on communities during construction and operation. Developing a community benefits sharing program (benefits program) is part of TasNetworks' commitment to ensuring an ongoing and sustainable positive legacy for communities in North West Tasmania.

To help deliver on this commitment, TasNetworks has undertaken a co-design process with the local community and stakeholders to develop, refine and finalise a proposed benefits program for the NWTD. This included engagement to collect feedback on program eligibility, funding, governance, and administration.

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 often completely 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.

Following this process, TasNetworks adopted the benefits program and agreed, subject to project approval, a maximum $10M allocation to fund the program throughout the project's construction period. Further stakeholder engagement is continuing with the refinement of the governance and administrative arrangements for the program.

Community investment

Whilst the Community Benefits Sharing Program is scheduled to commence alongside with the construction phase of the project, the NWTD continues to support a range of community organisations in the footprint of the proposed project throughout the Design and Approvals phase. Some community investment initiatives have included:

- Mole Creek Community – supporting the reopening of the local swimming pool by funding Royal Lifesaving Tasmania to deliver training to 14 lifeguards
- Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden – funding new internet connection to livestream platypus at the Gardens
- Rural Health Tasmania – supporting disengaged young people to make a positive difference across Smithton and Wynyard
- Kentish Community Men's Shed – replacing a range of important tools to enable the continuation of community projects
- Burnie Community House – 'Fakeaway', helping create takeaway meals at home, reducing costs and making healthier choices
- City of Burnie Lions Club – purchase of a sewing machine and overlocker for clothing alteration lessons
- Whitemore Tennis Club – safety and access upgrade for community members
- Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club – upgrading the Montgomery Loop mountain bike trail.

RAW Conversations change lives

1800 729 827

RAW RURAL Alive & Well

Rural Alive & Well (RAW) is passionate about building healthy and resilient rural communities.

RAW specialises in delivering proactive outreach and one-on-one psychosocial support that addresses situational stressors and increases protective factors, to minimise the risk of suicide.

RAW is 'non-clinical', genuine and non-intrusive. The service is confidential with no fees for participants.

RAW's staff have first-hand experience with the complexities of living and/or working in rural, remote and primary industry sectors. Staff each have backgrounds in Tasmanian Dairy, Livestock, Cropping, Mining, Wool Production, Forestry, Transport and Seafood.

If you feel that you're gauge has been running in the red for too long, it's time to reach out to RAW.

Rural Alive and Well

TasNetworks understands that transmission infrastructure projects can impact on the wellbeing, mental health and relationships of landholders and community members. Tasmanian rural communities and landholders may already be hosting infrastructure such as transmission towers, irrigation or gas pipeline prior to being notified of a new development – like the NWTD project. It is recognised that these cumulative impacts can have negative mental health outcomes.

TasNetworks has many touchpoints with rural and remote communities throughout Tasmania and sees it as its duty to prioritise investment in the wellbeing of rural Tasmanians. In 2022, TasNetworks established a community partnership with Rural Alive and Well (RAW), a Tasmanian not-for-profit organisation, providing free counselling and support services to individuals and communities for regions across the state.

Energy Charter initiatives

The Energy Charter is a unique coalition of like-minded energy organisations with a shared purpose to deliver better energy outcomes for customers and communities. TasNetworks is proud to be an Energy Charter Signatory.

As part of the Energy Charter, TasNetworks has been involved in a range of initiatives, including:

- Contributing to the development of the Energy Charter's 2023 Better Practice Social Licence Guideline. The Guideline is critical to developing a deeper understanding of the impacts of transmission infrastructure and identifying opportunities to improve outcomes for agricultural landholders.
- Development and delivery of a Land Agent Professional Development Course with the support of the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission. This course has been adopted and now delivered by the Energy Charter.

TasNetworks' CEO has been appointed Chair of the Energy Charter CEO Council for 2024. This one-year appointment places Tasmania at the forefront of national energy discussions and also embodies a commitment to collaborative, nationwide efforts in the energy sector, focusing on inclusivity and sustainable practices.

How can I find out more about the NWTD?

TasNetworks is committed to engaging with community members and communicating about the proposed North West Transmission Developments project in a transparent, respectful, consistent and timely manner.

You can contact us anytime to ask questions, provide feedback or discuss the project. We also encourage you to visit our website and connect with us via our e-newsletter and on social media to stay up to date with the project.

tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd
facebook.com/tasnetworks

nwtd@tasnetworks.com.au

1300 127 777

If you are a concerned community resident living in proximity to the project and you feel that TasNetworks has not been able to respond to your concerns in line with your expectations, you can refer your complaint to:

- The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. To learn more visit **www.aeic.gov.au/making-a-complaint**
- The Energy Ombudsman Tasmania. To learn more visit **www.energyombudsman.tas.gov.au/enquiries-and-complaints**

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