



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Extra northern help on the way**

Extra TasNetworks personnel are heading north to support storm recovery efforts.

About 10 southern-based field crews are travelling through the weekend and into next week to join northern and north-western colleagues in restoring remaining customers as quickly as possible.

TasNetworks field crews have worked tirelessly to restore power to more than 150,000 Tasmanians since storm damage began. At 11.30am today, about 4,000 customers remain without power (across about 115 separate outages), with all but about 50 of them in the north and north-west.

As TasNetworks crews gain access to previously dangerous or inaccessible territory, more damage is being uncovered. Drone vision's also revealing previously unknown damage presenting extra challenges and delays.

TasNetworks Acting Operations Executive, Tim Gowland, said the business is now in a position to devote southern resources to the difficult situation in northern and north-west Tasmania.

"We feel deeply for Tasmanians who've already gone several days and nights without power in their homes, businesses and farms," Mr Gowland said.

"Our TasNetworks team members have been working long hard hours, in extremely difficult conditions, to restore Tasmanians' power. They've been outstanding in their commitment and professionalism.

"With southern outages now mostly under control, and only a few crews required to hold that fort, we're sending a number of personnel north to help look after those long-suffering customers. In particular, we expect some of those fresher crews to play an important role over the weekend, when we need to rest and rotate northern crews who've been working so hard and doing it really tough.

"We still have a lot of hard work ahead. We'll succeed more quickly with extra field crews available. We appreciate our southern people leaving their homes and families for a few days to help support our people and customers up here," he said.

The impact of current storm damage is unprecedented in recent memory. While TasNetworks has confronted other storms affecting tens of thousands of customers in recent years, they've usually involved a few dozen separate outages, compared to more than 200 for much of the current event.

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