



MEDIA RELEASE

8 December, 2020

New partnership to protect threatened birds

TasNetworks is expanding successful efforts to protect Tasmania's iconic birds of prey.

The business is joining forces with Greening Australia and the University of Tasmania to install new safety perches for wedge-tailed eagles.

TasNetworks CEO, Lance Balcombe, said the three-year project will provide more safe places for birds to perch in the vicinity of TasNetworks' power infrastructure.

"Our people are very passionate about protecting Tasmania's iconic birds. We've doubled our threatened bird protection investment in recent years," Mr Balcombe said.

"We're making progress. The number of known incidents has halved in recent years. But there's still plenty of work to do. These state-of-the-art new perches are another step forward," he said.

The perches will be designed and made by UTAS Architecture and Design students, in consultation with TasNetworks engineers and Tasmanian Raptor experts Nick Mooney and James Pay. They'll be installed near Ross, as part of a partnership with local landowners - the von Bibra family.

Overall, TasNetworks is investing about \$5 million over five years to install more than 260 kilometres of mitigation devices on its infrastructure in high risk areas, to help prevent injuries and electrocutions.

Key facts:

- In 2019-20, there were 18 known incidents involving TasNetworks infrastructure. That's 25 per cent fewer than 2018-19 (24), and almost half the number in 2017-18 (33);
- In the past five years, more than 95 per cent of all reported incidents were on TasNetworks' distribution network (as opposed to the transmission network);
- Eagle strike mitigation devices include bird 'flappers' (making lines more visible to birds), perches and conductor covers;
- TasNetworks responds to specific incidents by installing devices at the incident site, usually within seven days;
- TasNetworks encourages members of the public to report any incidents at www.tasnetworks.com.au.

More information: Rowan Dix - 0436 919980 / media@tasnetworks.com.au

