

MEDIA RELEASE

Release date: 18 September 2025

TasNetworks' grants program making a big splash

A north west community can enjoy the beach with an added layer of comfort this summer.

The Burnie Surf Life Saving Club (Burnie SLSC) was successful in obtaining funding through TasNetworks' Community Grants Program to purchase essential new equipment.

Thanks to TasNetworks, volunteer rescue teams have been fitted out with dry suits and safety gear to improve inclusion and year-round operational safety.

Burnie SLSC president Jacqueline de Jonge said the wave of support would be a game changer in the often cold and unpredictable waters of Bass Strait.

"The volunteer inflatable rescue boat teams play an important role in ensuring public safety along the coastline. They are frequently exposed to harsh conditions," Ms de Jonge said.

"Dry suits are crucial pieces of equipment as they are completely sealed, keeping the wearer warm and dry during long hours at sea for patrols, emergency call-outs or training sessions.

"The eight purpose-designed portable flotation devices will support a group of newly trained female members. Having the appropriate gear encourages the inclusion of women in these important volunteer roles."

Chris Warr, Leader Major Projects Engagement, said TasNetworks' Community Grants Program was making a real difference in communities across Tasmania.

"TasNetworks' support will provide practical and long-lasting benefits, including for volunteers in the region, enabling them to participate fully and confidently in lifesaving operations, and keep Burnie's beaches and water safe," Mr Warr said.

"Through this assistance, we aim to help build resilience, encourage strong social connections and prioritise the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians."

Burnie SLSC, established in 1921, is Tasmania's oldest surf life saving club.

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