



**BRIGHT
FUTURES
FUND**

NORTH WEST TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENTS

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 24 September 2026

Turning investment into lasting benefits to communities

From improving community facilities and creating greater opportunities for young people, to strengthening environmental outcomes and supporting local wildlife, a diverse range of TasNetworks' Bright Futures Fund initiatives will deliver practical, lasting benefits for communities across regional Tasmania.

The \$10 million community investment program is part of the North West Transmission Developments (NWTd) and is designed to ensure local communities directly benefit from the project.

TasNetworks' NWTd Project Director Richie Sheather said TasNetworks had received 92 applications for the first round.

"The independent panel carefully assessed a large number of strong applications," Mr Sheather said.

"It's rewarding to see such a wide range of valuable initiatives in regional communities now being able to get underway."

Mr Sheather said the Bright Futures Fund was all about acknowledging the critical role regional communities play in projects like the NWTd, and it was important to give back in a meaningful way.

"Not only will there be a positive economic return from the works we are doing as part of the NWTd, the Bright Futures Fund creates benefits for local communities who will be benefitting from this infrastructure, focussing on health and wellbeing, environmental enhancement, community infrastructure and services, arts and events, skills and education, and fostering a sense of community," he said.

"I congratulate those who were successful this round and thank all the applicants for their time in putting together their applications."

The second round of funding for 2026 opens for applications from 8am on Wednesday, 30 September until 25 October. To be eligible, projects must benefit communities within the Burnie, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands local government areas.

For more information and to apply please visit
www.tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund

Round one successful applicants

Organisation	Project	Detail
Penguin District School Association	Sensory Regulation Playground	Sensory swings, shade-giving teepee and sand-play to provide sensory regulation to disabled and neurodivergent students through primary and high school.
Teen Challenge Tasmania	#NotEvenOnce™ Vaping and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Education	Evidence-based vaping, alcohol and other drug education for students, school staff and parents across northern and north-west Tasmanian communities.
Giant Steps Tasmania	Giant Steps Sensory Garden	A sensory garden where students can learn, explore and regulate their emotions in a safe and supportive environment.
Tasmanian Art Teachers Association	Faces From Our Town	A series of photography portraiture workshops delivered to Tasmanian schools in the Burnie, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands regions.
Young Leaders of Tasmania Ltd	Work Buddies	A program for young people living with disability or disadvantage in Burnie. Providing peer mentor buddies and real-world work experience opportunities in sponsored workplaces.
Rural Youth	Rural Youth Tasmanian Leaders Academy	A program designed to build the confidence, capability and community connections of emerging leaders across North West and Northern Tasmania.

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Slipstream Circus Inc	Circus workshops as a tool for working with disengaged students at school	Workshops offered to local school students who are considered disengaged from school, specifically targeted at re-connecting them with their learning
Lower Barrington Community Hall Inc.	Welcoming everyone: Community Hall Accessibility Project	A project to improve safe access by upgrading the entrance, pathways, and parking areas of the community hall.
Rotary Club of Deloraine	Tool Skool	A program for primary school students to learn woodworking skills.
Tasmanian Garlic and Tomato Festival	Educational Workshops	Educational workshops held during the day of the Tasmanian Heirloom Festival.
Deloraine Dramatic Society Inc.	Improved storage for dramatic society costumes and props	Safe and accessible storage of an extensive collection of theatre costumes and props dating back more than 70 years.
Penguin Rehab and Release	Strengthening wildlife rescue response through reliable communication and digital record keeping	Replace critical rescue communications equipment and introduce digital rehabilitation records, improving volunteer coordination, response reliability and wildlife care for injured seabirds across north-west Tasmania.

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