



# Proposed North West Transmission Developments

November 2020





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# Proposed North West Transmission Developments

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**Changes to North West Tasmania's electricity network are proposed to unlock the state's renewable energy and storage resources and provide further connection with mainland Australia.**

The proposed developments will deliver low-cost, reliable and clean energy for Tasmania and the broader National Electricity Market.

They are part of supporting the significant jobs and investment opportunity in Tasmania

from Marinus Link, the Battery of the Nation and the state's world class wind resources.

This brochure provides information on proposed developments to the North West Tasmanian transmission network. This includes information on:

- **Why the developments are proposed for the region**
- **How TasNetworks is planning for these developments**
- **What the proposed developments are and where they will take place**
- **When these developments could take place**
- **What the process will be from here**
- **How the community is being engaged**
- **How you can find out more**



# Why are these developments proposed for the region?

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The developments proposed for North West Tasmania form part of a larger plan for Australia's evolving energy system. They will help unlock the region's renewable energy resources.

The electricity network in North West Tasmania is expected to undergo significant changes over the coming years to support the region's role in Australia's transition to a low emissions future.

As part of this transition, the Australian Energy Market Operator has developed a blueprint to

manage the evolution of Australia's power system. This blueprint is called the Integrated System Plan.

North West Tasmania is identified as a high priority renewable energy zone in the Integrated System Plan. This is because the region has excellent potential for developing renewable energy generation and storage projects, including:

- **new large-scale wind generation in the order of 2,000 megawatts (MW); and**
- **new pumped hydro energy storage developments of at least 750 MW.**

The region also hosts the expected connection point for Marinus Link, a proposed 1500 MW capacity undersea and underground electricity corridor that will link North West Tasmania to Victoria.

The extra capacity provided by Marinus Link is critical to unlocking the large-scale wind and pumped hydro energy storage resources planned for development in North West Tasmania.

North West Tasmania can play a key role in delivering

low-cost, reliable and clean energy to Tasmania and the National Electricity Market. Electricity generation, storage and transmission developments will also benefit the region through construction and operating activities, stimulating significant job growth and broader economic growth.

## How is TasNetworks planning for these developments?

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**TasNetworks has developed a strategic plan for the North West Tasmanian transmission network, which considers planned developments required to support the energy market in the long term.**

TasNetworks is the electricity network planner for Tasmania. At TasNetworks, we work with parties interested in the future development of the transmission network. We develop plans to outline how the transmission network will be developed to connect new generation, storage and customer load and to meet customers' energy needs. This includes planning the network to efficiently unlock Tasmania's renewable energy zones identified in the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan.

The existing transmission system in North West Tasmania does not have sufficient capacity to support the proposed generation, storage and interconnector developments. As a result, changes to the existing transmission network and potential new transmission routes will be required in the region to increase network capacity and ensure the power system can accommodate the future renewable energy developments proposed for the region, including Marinus Link.



Credit: JJ Harrison  
[jjharrison.com.au](http://jjharrison.com.au)

# TasNetworks' strategic planning

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**TasNetworks has developed a strategic plan for the North West Tasmanian transmission network, which considers planned developments required to support the energy market in the long term.**

As part of progressing with this plan, we are now assessing the detailed transmission developments and proposed new transmission routes that may be required. This includes the developments covered in this brochure.

The strategic plan aims to minimise adverse impacts on landowners, community, environment and areas of cultural significance by using existing transmission routes where viable and cost-efficient. However, our assessment is that in order to support efficient

development of renewable energy zones in Tasmania, some new transmission routes will be needed.

TasNetworks has also undertaken a business case assessment and feasibility study for Marinus Link and the North West Transmission Developments. Our analysis shows that the project is commercially viable and technically feasible, will provide substantially greater benefits than costs for customers, and should proceed to being 'shovel ready'. Subsequent to TasNetworks' analysis, the Australian Energy Market Operator has confirmed that Marinus Link, together with the required supporting developments to the transmission network in North West Tasmania, are part of the optimal transmission development path for the future National Energy Market.

TasNetworks will continue to refine plans for the North West Transmission Developments as Marinus Link and new renewable generation and pumped hydro energy storage developments progress. We will continue to consult with the community, businesses and landowners throughout this process.

# What are the proposed developments and where will they take place?

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**Proposed transmission developments for North West Tasmania include upgrades to existing transmission lines and development of new transmission routes.**

Transmission upgrades are being planned between Burnie, Sheffield and Palmerston, near Cressy.

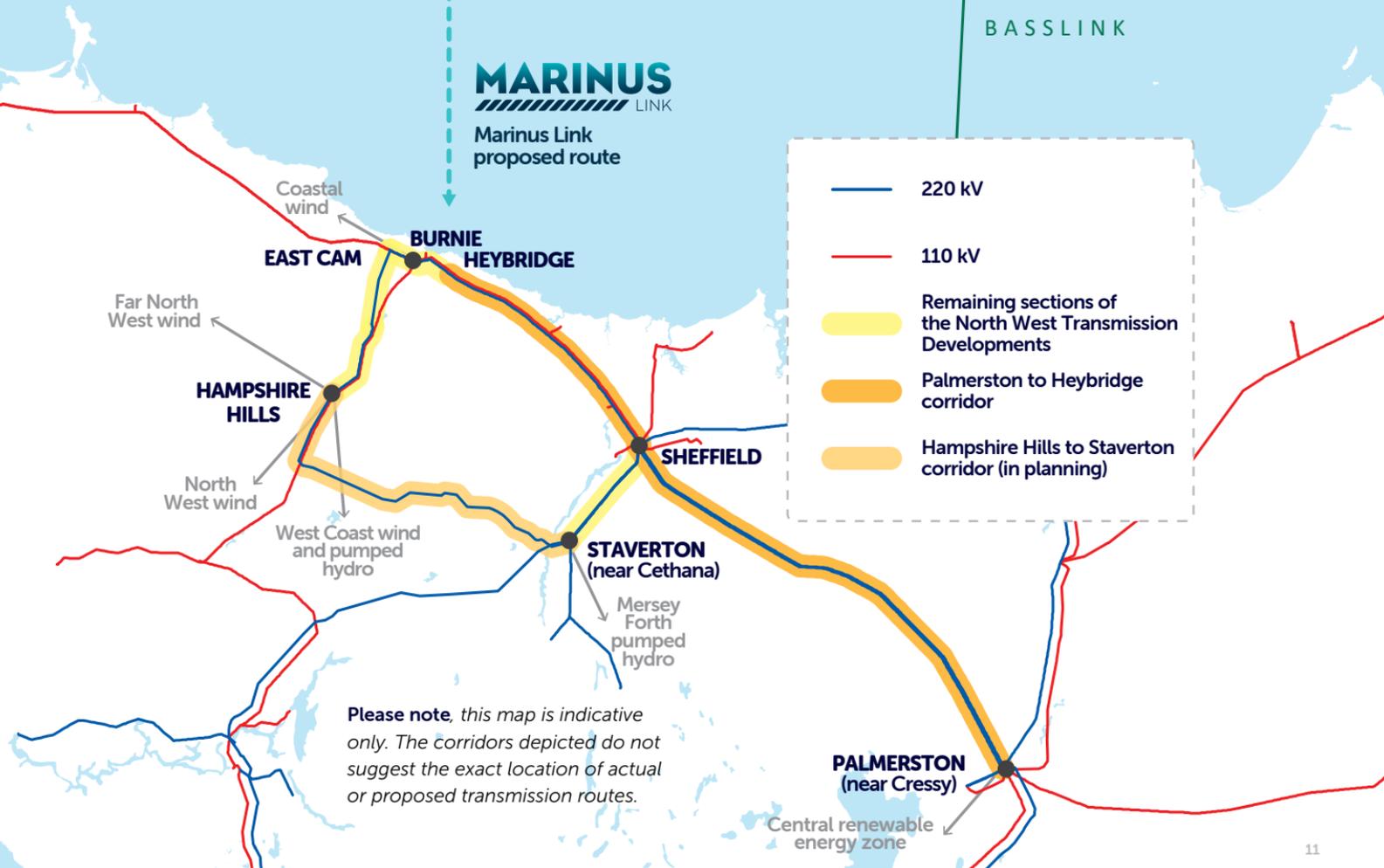
Potential new transmission routes are being planned between Staverton, Hampshire and Burnie. New and upgraded transmission substations and switching stations at Palmerston, Sheffield, Staverton, Hampshire Hills and in the Burnie area, are also part of the planned developments. New infrastructure will also include Marinus Link.

This map provides an overview of the existing transmission network. It also indicates the proposed transmission developments and proposed new transmission routes that we are presently investigating. The majority of the proposed new and upgraded transmission lines follow existing transmission line corridors.

The map also indicates our present assessment of where energy from proposed renewable energy developments may connect to this upgraded network.

# MARINUS LINK

Marinus Link  
proposed route



Please note, this map is indicative only. The corridors depicted do not suggest the exact location of actual or proposed transmission routes.

# When could these developments take place?

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**The timing and staging of the proposed North West Transmission Developments is influenced by the progress of new renewable energy generation and storage projects, and of Marinus Link.**

TasNetworks' analysis indicates the transmission developments in North West Tasmania required to support Marinus Link could be in service from the late 2020s with construction commencing approximately two years earlier. The Staverton

to Hampshire Hills transmission development is being planned for earlier than this in order to connect proposed renewable energy projects.

The proposed North West Transmission Developments and Marinus Link will only progress to construction once necessary approvals are in place, together with appropriate funding, ownership and pricing arrangements. These developments will follow land-use planning and environment approvals processes at local, state and federal levels and is subject to a rigorous and regulated economic cost-benefit analysis.

# What's the process from here?

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**The land use planning and environmental and social impact assessment and approvals process for Marinus Link and the North West Transmission Developments is commencing in late 2020, and will involve extensive community consultation.**

The first transmission line TasNetworks is progressing for approvals and construction lies between the Staverton and Hampshire areas and is a new transmission corridor.

Assessments, surveys and investigations are also being undertaken to help determine the design of the remaining sections of the proposed developments. Over the coming months you may see TasNetworks crews inspecting existing and proposed easements and undertaking further surveys.



# How are you engaging with landowners and the community?

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Landowner and community feedback is critical and will help to further refine or confirm sections of the proposed new and upgraded transmission corridors.

## **We're here and ready to engage**

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has meant a change in when and how we engage on our proposals.

We are continuing to review our engagement processes in accordance with health advice. Our preference is and will be to engage face-to-face where health and safety allows.

### **Our engagement methods include:**

- **online briefings and meetings,**
- **local community meetings,**
- **webinars, and**
- **pre-arranged face-to-face sessions in the region.**

We will advertise upcoming engagements in local papers, on the radio, on our website and our Facebook page. We will continue to work closely with community, businesses and landowners as planning continues for Marinus Link and the proposed North West Transmission Developments.

# How can I find out more?

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We are committed to communicating in a transparent, respectful, and timely manner. We also plan to talk with the community about benefits sharing and a process to work together towards such outcomes.

You can contact us with any questions about the proposed developments to the North West Tasmanian transmission network via our project email and phone line:

visit: [tasnetworks.com.au](https://tasnetworks.com.au)

email: [projectmarinus@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:projectmarinus@tasnetworks.com.au)

call: 1300 127 777



You can also access our information on the **Future Energy Hub**:

- [www.facebook.com/FutureEnergyHub](https://www.facebook.com/FutureEnergyHub)
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