



MEDIA RELEASE

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Taking safety, speed and savings underground

New rules will save Tasmanians time and money on underground electrical connections.

TasNetworks, with strong support from NECA and the wider electrical industry, has led the way in resolving recent confusion and delays around private underground consumer mains connected to TasNetworks poles.

To remove uncertainty and improve safety, TasNetworks will now take responsibility for recording all new private underground mains from the TasNetworks pole to the customers boundary in the Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) system, just as it already does for its own public works. This step will give electrical contractors and customers a simpler, safer connection process.

TasNetworks CEO, Seàn Mc Goldrick, said Tasmanians need electricity that's safe, clean, reliable and affordable.

"This practical solution will save time and money for customers," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"TasNetworks is taking on some additional responsibility to make this work. But with our expertise and record-keeping systems, it makes sense for us to carry that burden rather than customers or others in the process.

"These have been complex and technical issues. Our people, working alongside Councils, NECA and industry, have worked incredibly hard over many months to reach a solution that puts customers first. I want to credit everyone involved for their collaboration and persistence in getting us here," he said.

There are still the legacy connections to address, which will take some time to enter into BYDA. So, customers should ensure they follow all safety recommendations before breaking ground.

Under the new agreed Service and Installation rules:

- Customers remain responsible for maintaining and repairing their private underground cables, including those on public land (TasNetworks will continue to make fault sites safe, as usual).
- Electrical contractors must continue to obtain council approval before starting work.

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