



MEDIA RELEASE

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Artworks help bring network to life

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The streets of Sorell will be all the much brighter thanks to a community partnership that will help bring TasNetworks assets to life.

Sixteen low voltage (LV) cabinets in the town centre have been decorated with artwork created by young people from local schools and the child and family centre.

TasNetworks CEO Seán Mc Goldrick said the project was thanks to a partnership with the Sorell Council, local artists ACTION CREW David Adams and Evi van der Niet, Crime Stoppers and the wider community.

"Unfortunately, assets like these are often tagged with graffiti, which is costly to remove," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"While we normally only take steps to remove offensive graffiti, projects like this show that we are working to find ways to work with local Councils and other organisations to find cooperative solutions to the problem."

Featuring everything from depictions of beach life, wildlife and everything in between, Sorell Mayor Janet Gatehouse said the project was a great step in brightening and adding vibrancy to the main street.

"The children have designed the artwork, and I am so proud of them for embracing and demonstrating their community pride and what they love about living in the municipality," Mayor Gatehouse said.

"There has been a demonstrated economic benefit to this type of street art, by attracting greater numbers of foot traffic on the streets, therefore supporting local businesses.

"I'm pleased to see my dream of engaging with the younger members of our community to contribute to shaping the future of Sorell come to life. This project has been a true collaborative effort."

The project is part of a partnership between TasNetworks and Crime Stoppers Tasmania to deter graffiti and to help ensure safe communities.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair David Daniels OAM said graffiti is not only ugly - it is illegal. Information sent to Crime Stoppers about who is committing graffiti is valuable to help prevent vandalism, but deterrents also play an important role.

"We encourage people to speak up to help stop or prevent graffiti from scarring their community. Anonymous tips can be done online, and photos can also be uploaded," Mr Daniels said.

"However, projects like this can really help build a strong sense of community pride, which goes a long way to stopping graffiti being done in the first place."

Young people from the Sorell School, Indie School, the Nest Child and Family Learning Centre and local families were involved in creating the artwork, which will help brighten up the streetscape.

"It's thanks to them and our partnership with the Council and Crime Stoppers that this has all come together," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"The success of this pilot program will help us explore similar opportunities across the state, so I really want to thank everyone who has been involved."

For media inquiries, please contact

Corey Speers - 0409 824 649 / media@tasnetworks.com.au