

# Responsible Procurement Standard

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TasNetworks acknowledges the palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal community) as the original owners and custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania). TasNetworks, acknowledges the palawa have maintained their spiritual and cultural connection to the land and water. We pay respect to Elders past and present and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Standard Overview

TasNetworks' commits to always do the right thing for our customers, our people and our communities. We are committed towards having a positive social impact and strive for sustainability across all business functions.

We acknowledge our potential to positively influence our employees, customers, and the broader Tasmanian community. We are committed to fostering positive, collaborative relationships with our suppliers to generate shared value, recognising that these partnerships not only enhance operational efficiency and product quality but also facilitate mutual growth, innovation, and sustainability initiatives across our supply chain.

This Standard supports TasNetworks' Responsible Procurement Policy.

## Who Does This Standard Apply To?

This Standard extends to TasNetworks' leaders, team members and contractors authorised to act for TasNetworks across its Supply Chain and wider businesses. It also extends to other organisations doing business with TasNetworks, including suppliers of goods and services to TasNetworks.

It aims to encourage, support and where appropriate mandate requirements that will assist TasNetworks and our suppliers to work towards a sustainable and equitable future.

## Purpose and Scope

TasNetworks acknowledges our responsibility to ensure that standards relating to people, the environment and the communities in which we operate are maintained and continuously improved throughout our conduct of procurement activities.

This Standard outlines TasNetworks' principles, commitments and approach to responsibly source products and services and to ensure that TasNetworks and its suppliers:

- Provide our employees with a safe work environment, and the appropriate equipment, training and support.
- Provide products and services that represent good quality and value, are fit for purpose, and comply with all legal requirements and standards.
- Manage our employees and upstream service providers ethically by upholding human rights, fair labour management practices and diversity and inclusion principles.
- Address modern slavery within the supply chain, in line with TasNetworks' commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Adopt strategies to avoid unnecessary consumption and manage demand.
- Consider the impacts of our operations on the social and environmental sustainability of the communities in which we operate.
- Operate according to sound environmental management principles including reducing carbon emissions, sourcing goods and services locally where feasible.
- Select products and services which have lower environmental impacts across their life cycle and create demand for recycled (or biodegradable) products.
- Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. This includes the removal of barriers that prevent any person from accessing decent work, by enabling equity in participation, choice and opportunity.

- Focus in areas of employment and economic participation opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the communities we operate in.

TasNetworks encourages all organisations within our supply chain to meet these principles.

## Commitments by TasNetworks

### Supply Chain Commitments

- Conduct all supply chain activities in accordance with applicable competition laws and regulations.
- Establish appropriate measures to optimise the impact of TasNetworks purchasing and contracting decisions in the Tasmanian communities where it operates.
- Conduct risk-based due diligence before entering into a relationship with a contract counterparty, and on an ongoing basis.
- Ensure compliance during the procurement process with applicable legal requirements relating to human, employment and environmental protection and conservation.
- Avoid dealing with contractors, suppliers and other business partners known or reasonably suspected to be engaging in misconduct.
- Ensure that the supplier selection meets the existing internal requirements at all times and in particular, the requirements of TasNetworks' Supply Chain Policies and Guidelines.
- Raise awareness in social responsibility of staff and other stakeholders involved in the procurement process.
- Ensure continuous improvement of the procurement process based on the principles listed above.

### Human Rights and Modern Slavery Commitments

Modern slavery is a crime and violation of human rights and is defined under The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) as situations where offenders use coercion, threats or deception to exploit victims and undermine their freedom. It can include human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage and the worst forms of child labour. At TasNetworks we have made a commitment to:

- Actively identify, address, and mitigate human rights risks within our operations and supply chains, with particular focus on modern slavery.
- Work with suppliers to identify and understand the risks of modern slavery within their own supply chains.
- Collaborate with suppliers that share a commitment to ensuring fair, equal, and safe working practices and conditions.
- Maintain continuous improvement plans which ensure ethical responsibility, legal compliance, reputation management, risk mitigation, and positive social impact in our efforts to address modern slavery within our operations and supply chains. These plans drive ongoing efforts to uphold human rights, foster trust with stakeholders, and contribute to the global eradication of modern slavery.
- Pursuant to the Act, TasNetworks commits to publishing an annual public statement, setting out the steps it has taken during that particular financial year to reduce risk of modern slavery occurring in any of TasNetworks' supply chains or within its own operations.

## Commitment to Environment and Community

TasNetworks has committed to:

- Give preference to products that are reusable, recyclable and/or contain recycled content where such products fit the purpose, provide environmental benefits and are of comparable cost and quality to alternative products.
- Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other controlled or hazardous waste harmful to the environment and community.
- Stimulate demand for socially responsible, sustainable products, services and/or projects consistent with circular economy principles<sup>1</sup>.
- Partner with local governments and communities to improve the education, cultural, economic and social well-being of communities in which we operate.
- Source goods and services locally where feasible. TasNetworks encourages suppliers to contribute tangible social and economic benefits to Tasmanian Communities, fostering support through various means like formal support, sponsorship and volunteering.

## Commitment to Social and Indigenous Inclusion

This Standard aims to foster opportunities for businesses owned by minority groups and promote increased inclusion of diverse communities in TasNetworks' supply chain employment. Key objectives are to:

- Implement inclusive procurement practices that consider the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of suppliers and employees.
- Support employment opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, within minority-owned businesses.
- Facilitate the sustainable growth of minority-owned businesses by stimulating demand through TasNetworks' procurement of goods and services.
- Promote employment opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, within non-minority-owned businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. It is based on three principles:

- Design out waste and pollution.
- Keep products and materials in use.
- Regenerate natural system.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **Supply Chain Team:** Standard owner, responsible for maintaining, reviewing, and updating the standard, making the standard available, and ensuring compliance.
- **Leaders:** Responsible for awareness of this Standard, implementation, risk identification, and managing breaches within their area of control.
- **Employees, Contractors & Vendors:** Required to be aware of and comply with the Standard and relevant supporting policies and procedures.

## Compliance

An unethical supply chain exposes TasNetworks to regulatory, reputation, security and financial risk and legal penalties. Every team member is accountable for adhering to this Standard and violations may lead to disciplinary measures.

Instances of non-compliance with this policy can be reported to a leader or through the Whistleblower process.

## References – Available on The Zone

Code of Conduct

Whistleblower Policy

Fraud & Corruption Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy

Purchasing Card Policy

Responsible Procurement Policy and Standard

Probity Policy and Probity Guideline

Delegations Framework

Supply Chain Guidelines

## Administration of this Standard

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Ownership and Accountability	
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Document Control				
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1.0	Original approved standard	Ulash Pratap	Ross Burrige (GM Strategy, Finance and Business Services)	01/04/2021
2.0	Major revision	Kelsey Deutscher   (Laura Spikula)	Michael Westenberg (Executive Finance and Regulation)  As part of Board approval for Responsible Procurement Policy	02/05/2024

"Administration of this Standard" section was re-formatted post approval by the Executive /Board to comply with new Policy template.







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