



MEDIA RELEASE

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Network now safe from interference

The Fair Work Commission has ordered the leadership of the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union to stop industrial action and interference in TasNetworks' operations.

TasNetworks team members have been outstanding in their commitment and professionalism while responding to storm damage across Tasmania. However, TasNetworks sought intervention by Fair Work to prevent leaders of the CEPU interfering in transmission network restoration and potentially compromising industrial safety.

Fair Work has granted an Order under [Section 424](#) of the Fair Work Act, which deals with threats to life, personal safety, health or welfare. It orders the CEPU to fully suspend union-led industrial action while storm recovery efforts persist, as per its previous written agreement. The Commission has further ordered that industrial action be suspended for a full month, from midnight last night.

TasNetworks CEO, Seán Mc Goldrick, thanked the Commission for its prompt and decisive action.

"We took this action as a last resort to protect Tasmanian industry, ensure our transmission network's safe, and ensure our transmission work's free from interference and obstruction by CEPU leaders," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"While thousands of Tasmanians, including businesses and industries are suffering long periods without power, our people are working outstandingly hard to restore customers. The only instructions our transmission people should be receiving are those of their TasNetworks leaders and dispatchers.

"The order makes it clear that CEPU leadership must not seek to instruct team members on which transmission outages to restore and which to leave, must play no role in deciding or instructing TasNetworks' operational priorities, and must play no role in deciding which outages are prioritised as a safety risk, and which aren't. Those critical decisions are purely the responsibility of TasNetworks, as network operator. Our people have been outstanding. Our problem is only with CEPU leadership.

"We thank our people for their incredibly hard work. We fully respect our people's right to take lawful industrial action. However, the safety of Tasmanians must always be the priority.

"The electricity industry's a hazardous business that requires expert decision-making during crisis and emergency situations. There's no place for any outside interference, agendas or power plays while our people are working around the clock to help support Tasmanians in need," he said.

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