



Powering a
Bright Future

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bright Futures Fund set to launch as TasNetworks calls for local community panel representatives

TasNetworks' \$10 million community investment program for the North West Transmission Developments (NWTd) project is inviting expressions of interest to join the independent community assessment panel.

The Bright Futures Fund (BFF) has been designed to create meaningful, long-term community benefits, and will officially launch alongside NWTd Stage 1 construction activities, expected to begin in April 2026.

The NWTd project team has been working closely with community members, local organisations and stakeholders since 2022 to shape the program.

TasNetworks NWTd Project Director Richie Sheather said excitement was building ahead of the launch.

"The Bright Futures Fund represents an important step towards ensuring local communities share in the benefits of the NWTd project," Mr Sheather said.

"This fund is about creating a positive, lasting legacy for the region. By supporting community led ideas, we want to help local people thrive and guide outcomes that matter to them.

"The fund will invest in initiatives that deliver benefits across six key focus areas and is intended to leave a lasting positive impact well beyond the life of the project."

The key focus areas include health and wellbeing, environmental enhancement, community infrastructure and services, arts and events, skills and education, and fostering a sense of community.

Expressions of interest are open until 8 March for community members to join the independent community assessment panel.

To be eligible, applicants must live or work within one of the five local government areas located within the NWTd project area: Burnie City, Central Coast, Kentish, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands.

Burnie local Alexander McKenzie has been appointed Chair of the Panel following a competitive recruitment process, standing out for his leadership experience and strong connection to the north-west coast.

Mr McKenzie said the opportunity to lead the Panel will be deeply rewarding.

"As someone who was born, raised, and now lives and works on the north-west coast, I am energised by the thought of continuing to contribute to the strategic future of the north-west, and in that, the future of Tasmania," Mr McKenzie said.

Six panel members will now be recruited to join Mr McKenzie in assessing applications, providing local insights and perspectives, and helping to ensure prudent funding allocation and that the program remains community driven.

"We're encouraging people from a wide range of backgrounds to apply, including those without formal panel or assessment experience," he said.

Find out more and submit an EOI at: www.tasnetworks.com.au/brightfuturesfund

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