



MEDIA RELEASE

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**Protecting Bruny Island power supply**

TasNetworks is working to safeguard the electricity supply on Bruny Island over summer.

The island's back-up supply cable between Tinderbox and Dennes Point failed on Sunday (3 November), and hasn't responded to re-start attempts.

TasNetworks is investigating the cause, and may commission divers to inspect the cable. Depending on the extent of the problem, fixing the cable may take some time, and it may need to be replaced.

The island's main subsea connector from Kettering is not affected, and currently supplying all customer demand.

TasNetworks will seek to restore the back-up cable supply as soon as possible. However, back-up diesel generators at Alonnah can also be used to cover a shortfall, if required.

TasNetworks CEO, Lance Balcombe, said the business is dedicating significant resources.

"We're confident we can safeguard Bruny Island's power supply. There's no immediate cause for concern," Mr Balcombe said.

"But we recognise the need to have contingencies in place, in case the back-up cable is out-of-action for some time.

"Once we've identified the issue, we'll develop a plan to either fix or replace the back-up cable. We'll ensure there's sufficient back-up diesel capacity available to help avoid disruptions for Bruny customers," he said.

There are usually about 600 permanent electricity customers on Bruny Island, but that number swells significantly with summer occupancy and tourism - increasing electricity demand.

While the cause of the subsea cable problem isn't yet known, such faults can potentially be caused by vessels dragging their anchor on the seabed into the cable. TasNetworks is working with Marine and Safety Tasmania to help remind boaters of the need to be aware, and avoid anchoring in proximity to either of the Bruny Island cables.

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