



MEDIA RELEASE

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Storm recovery interference unacceptable

TasNetworks team members have been outstanding in their commitment and professionalism while responding to storm damage across Tasmania.

However, TasNetworks is seeking intervention by the Fair Work Commission to prevent the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union interfering in storm recovery efforts and compromising public safety.

The business is seeking an Order under [Section 424](#) of the Fair Work Act, which deals with threats to life, personal safety, health or welfare. It's seeking a proper and formally-ordered suspension of union-led industrial action while storm recovery efforts persist.

TasNetworks CEO, Seán Mc Goldrick, said trying to impede recovery efforts during an ongoing emergency is unacceptable.

"We're focused on storm recovery and supporting Tasmanians. CEPU leadership must not compromise safety or prolong customer suffering by interfering in that recovery," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"As of this morning, there were still about 20,000 Tasmanian customers without power. Our people are working hard to restore those customers, and making progress. But CEPU leadership's been seeking to slow and impede our efforts behind the scenes.

"Our own people have been committed and exceptional since industrial action was suspended and the storm response started. We thank them sincerely.

"But there's extensive evidence that CEPU leadership's been trying to interfere in operational matters relating to the transmission network, instruct members to delay some power restorations, and convince some members to withhold normal co-operation. That's despite CEPU leaders committing in writing to suspend industrial action for the period of storm recovery.

"Apart from its usual and valid day-to-day involvement around safety and advocacy, we need CEPU leadership to completely step away from operational matters during storm recovery, and let our people get on with restoring power for Tasmanians. We're asking Fair Work to hold the CEPU to its stated safety and event commitments, and hold it accountable for any breaches so far," he said.

Given this matter's now before the Fair Work Commission for determination, TasNetworks won't be discussing specific details outlined in its application to the Commission.

TasNetworks respects employees' right to take lawful protected industrial action, which can resume if necessary once storm-caused outages are resolved and the current event declaration is rescinded.

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