



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **EA in the hands of our people**

TasNetworks' Enterprise Agreement offer will go to a vote of employees in a fortnight.

All team members covered by the EA will have the chance to vote between 25 September and 2 October, following a two-week access and consideration period.

TasNetworks CEO, Seán Mc Goldrick, said the business is offering a 14 per cent pay rise (back-dated to 1 July), and a tripled one-off lump-sum payment of \$6,000, among other benefits.

"This is an exceptional offer that supports and rewards our people better than ever before, while protecting Tasmanians' power prices," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"Back-dating this year's pay rise to 1 July ensures our people aren't disadvantaged by recent months spent bargaining. And the tripled lump sum of \$6,000 brings immediate cost-of-living relief.

"TasNetworks average salaries already compare very well to other Tasmanian wages. We also pay better than a several interstate equivalents, with another 14 per cent on offer over three years.

"TasNetworks management doesn't decide our EA. Our people ultimately make that decision, and it's time for them to have a say," he said.

TasNetworks crews and contractors have restored power to almost 200,000 customers since storm damage started. In the wake of extensive storm recovery efforts, TasNetworks has called a Safety Stand Down for field team members tomorrow and Friday. Contractors and fault crews will continue to work on the current outages over those days.

"Our TasNetworks team members have been working long hard hours for two weeks, in extremely difficult conditions, to restore Tasmanians' power. Their professionalism and commitment to our community has been outstanding. Our highest priority is safety. They now need a short time to address fatigue, rest and recover, as well as taking some time to consider our EA offer in detail before voting," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"The vast majority of storm outages are now resolved, and the remaining restorations involve some complex ongoing solutions. We're in a position to rest our own people and swap-in contractors for 48 hours without having a meaningful effect on restoration timeframes," he said.

TasNetworks Enterprise Agreement negotiations have been progressing for several months, involving no fewer than 12 bargaining meetings. TasNetworks has negotiated in good faith and improved its offer despite relevant unions never once adjusting their demands in response.

Dr Mc Goldrick made clear that TasNetworks has no remaining flexibility to further increase the overall value of its current Enterprise Agreement offer.

“We’re at our maximum allowable offer. Any further increases would have an unacceptable impact on Tasmanians’ power prices and TasNetworks’ sustainability. While aspects of the offer can conceivably be traded in and out on like-for-like value, TasNetworks has no discretion to increase the offer’s overall monetary value,” Dr Mc Goldrick said.

“This is not a case of *‘TasNetworks can offer more, but just doesn’t want to’*. We’ve tried to be abundantly clear about that with our people, in good-faith, he said.

TasNetworks’ Enterprise Agreement offer going to a vote includes:

- A Year 1 wage increase of seven per cent (now back-dated to 1 July 2024, instead of only commencing on the date the offer’s accepted by successful ballot), followed by increases of three per cent in Years 2 and 3 (or rate of CPI, if higher), and a yearly performance bonus of 0.5 per cent;
- A one-off payment of \$6,000, increased from \$2,000 in the previous offer;
- Paid parental leave of 15 weeks for both parents;
- Days off (no longer charged as annual leave) during Christmas to New Years Day shutdown;
- Many other improved provisions.

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