

Supplier Up-date No.2: Covid19

Disclaimer: This TasNetworks' supplier update is provided for information purposes only and not to be relied upon. It remains your responsibility to ensure compliance with the law and to be aware of legal developments.

Objective

Keeping our Supplier communication lines open during this unprecedented challenge.

Overview

This is the second in a series of supplier up-dates from the TasNetworks' Market Planning and Performance Team. The COVID-19 response in Australia including Tasmania continues to progress and we all need to be flexible and prepared for further developments.

Due to the rolling developments of the Covid-19 Pandemic rules, regulations and recommendations, we are doing our best to provide clarity through the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ below) however, there is some inherent ambiguity. The FAQs have been asked by our suppliers regarding what is meant by "Essential Service" and the responses are based upon the best visibility that we presently have; we are providing this information in the interests of transparency however things will continue to change.

North-West Restrictions

Please visit [here](#) for important up-dates from the state government.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak centred on the North West Coast; TasNetworks is focussing on Fault and Emergency services works only in that area. We request that all contractors plan activities to minimise any movement of people, equipment and vehicles within the region and especially to and from the region. While we don't make and can't change the rules, we are happy to assist in navigating the complexities of our new situation where we can and when it is warranted.

FAQ Regarding "Essential Service" status.

Question 1: Is my business an "Essential Service"?

All levels of Government are categorical in saying that electricity supply continuity is an essential service. Where there is ambiguity flows from the obvious follow-up question: "Does this make our suppliers and contracted service providers also "Essential Services"?"

This is an area which gets very complex, very quickly. TasNetworks has compiled a series of lists of suppliers for government consideration. This involves on-going dialogue and may vary for specific projects or deliveries depending upon the case-by-case requirements. If you encounter obstructions to delivering essential goods or services to TasNetworks, please let your Category Manager or myself know immediately.

Question 2: Are my Suppliers also Essential?

Generally, no. The bigger picture is the fewer movements in our community then the faster we can "flatten the curve" and the earlier we emerge through this tough time. However, if you cannot make your product or deliver your service without a component or delivery of a sub-contracted service; then that may make this element of your supply chain be determined as being essential.

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Many of our suppliers' downstream suppliers have the electricity market as a small segment of their overall business. For example, Paint Suppliers: the paint company cannot claim that it is an essential supplier because it supplies so many industries. However a paint delivery required for equipment, such as transformers may become essential. Let's work with the supply chain to prioritise the components that are essential.

Question 3: How can I prioritise a Delivery?

Many freight companies are experiencing the need to prioritise deliveries; especially across Bass Strait. We are working with TasNetworks Purchasing to include a statement to this effect on our Purchase Orders. TasNetworks has also developed a person/vehicle/delivery specific form that states that this delivery is to support our essential service. If you have a delivery that is urgent and needs to be prioritised please request this document from your Category Manager via email as early in the delivery process as possible.

Question 4: What if I need to enter a TasNetworks' Facilities?

If, for any reason, you are considering visiting a TasNetworks' facility please visit [here](#).

Keep Looking towards Recovery

TasNetworks wants to help ensure that your business is well positioned to be part of the significant recovery effort that will be required once this pandemic situation is resolved.

Remember, you are encouraged to contact your Category Manager if you need to:

- discuss your businesses situation;
- change work practices or project delivery requirements; and or
- request a letter of support (such as confirmation of being a provider to an essential service).

To stay updated with our response re Covid-19 to the Tasmanian public, please click [here](#) to visit our covid-19 webpage.

Thank you for your on-going effort. We value you as a partner and are here to help.

Stay safe and healthy,

Ian Williamson

Team Leader – Market Planning and Performance