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Bright Future

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 3 June 2026

### **Major \$6.2 million investment strengthens reliability of North-West power network**

[\[IMAGE / VIDEO DOWNLOAD LINK\]](#)

TasNetworks is continuing to strengthen Tasmania’s electricity network, with more than \$6 million being invested to progressively upgrade ageing transmission infrastructure across the state’s North-West.

The multi-year program of works, underway since 2023, is replacing ageing transmission structures along the Burnie-Port Latta-Smithton transmission line. This corridor is a critical part of Tasmania’s electricity grid, supplying communities and major industry in the North-West, and connecting renewable generation to the rest of Tasmania.

Originally constructed in 1949, the 71-kilometre transmission corridor stretches from Burnie to Smithton and comprises 287 structures, many now reaching the end of their operational life after decades of exposure to coastal conditions.

TasNetworks Interim Chief Executive Officer Renée Anderson said ongoing investment in the network is essential to maintaining reliability and preparing for future system needs.

“More than ever, network operators must balance maintaining asset integrity with preparing for future system requirements,” Anderson said.

“The strength and condition of these assets is fundamental to maintaining reliable supply to critical industry, generators and regional communities.”

Rather than replacing structures like-for-like, TasNetworks is installing a new family of modern transmission structures designed to current engineering standards and built to provide more than 70 years of reliable service to Tasmania’s electricity network.

Because the corridor cannot be fully taken out of service without impacting industrial customers, connected generation and regional supply, crews complete works while one circuit remains live and operating.

TasNetworks Head of Asset Management Josh Cunningham said the work requires precision planning and coordination across multiple operational teams.

“You’re working in close proximity to live circuits that are maintaining supply,” Cunningham said.

“There is very little tolerance for error. Teams and crews across the organisation tackle short time windows to plan, coordinate and execute outages, with outstanding outcomes for Tasmania.”

TasNetworks Head of Operations Delivery Brad Walker said the program demonstrates the level of coordination required to maintain and strengthen Tasmania’s electricity network while building future capability.

“Field crews, control rooms, switching personnel, engineers and planners are all playing a role in ensuring the system remains stable,” Walker said. “These are the types of projects where our people develop critical skills.”

The project is also helping develop Tasmania’s future energy workforce, with apprentices working alongside experienced lineworkers during the upgrade program.

“In a growing energy industry, particularly in Tasmania, building that capability locally is essential. These projects give our people the opportunity to develop the skills needed to support the next generation of network infrastructure.”

Between March and May 2026, 17 towers were successfully replaced by TasNetworks’ crews. The Burnie-Port Latta-Smithton upgrade program will continue progressively over the coming years as TasNetworks strengthens key transmission infrastructure supporting Tasmania’s long-term energy security.

The \$6.2 million investment was included as part of TasNetworks’ 2024-2029 revenue reset. The revenue reset is a regulated process that sets funding for investment in Tasmania’s transmission and distribution network, as well as delivering ongoing services for customers over a five-year period.

TasNetworks is currently engaging on the next revenue reset process, which will determine investment and funding for the 2029-2034 period.

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