

MEDIA RELEASE

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Four TasNetworks vehicles donated to a good cause

TasNetworks has proudly handed over four vehicles to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) for a new project on Flinders Island.

ALCT Manager Rebecca Digney said the vehicles would be used to support the local community and in a rejuvenation project at the Wybalenna site.

"Wybalenna facilitated the offshore detention of more than 200 Tasmanian Aboriginal men, women and the youngest of children," she said.

"Operating between 1833 and 1847, Wybalenna is the largest known mass burial place for Tasmania's Aboriginal people. It is both a place of great sadness, and truth telling."

Ms Digney said the vehicles would play a critical role for the organisation, which often relies on the goodwill of others.

"This donation comes at an important time for us and will help us develop a project to fully realise Wybalenna's significance for Aboriginal people.

"Wybalenna is a place of international significance. Its memory is sacred," she said.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal community have been considering Wybalenna's future for some time and Ms Digney said the dialogue has so far surfaced two primary realities: Wybalenna is a sacred place for the Aboriginal community, and it is a place for truth telling.

"These two realities will help to focus community-expressed spatial aims for Wybalenna," she said.

"Since its return to the community, the primary aim has been that the significance of Wybalenna as a burial ground is respected, and that the land is rehabilitated, and the Aboriginal Story of the place is shared.

"It is up to us to uphold what happens here moving forward as responsible landowners, and we are really grateful for the donation."

TasNetworks Executive Digital, Strategy and Customer Andrew Davis said he was sure the ALCT would put the four vehicles to good use.

"The donation of these vehicles will make an enormous difference to the people of the Furneaux group who will now be able to transport themselves more easily for the basics such as medical/paediatrician appointments and help with the rejuvenation of Wybelenna," he said.

"This continues to demonstrate our commitment to the cause of reconciliation and building relationships, respect, and trust between the wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"It is increasingly important that we work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to protect and nurture the country and its story."

The four vehicles being handed over to the ALCT are a Nissan X-Trail, a Commodore utility, a Colorado 4WD, and a Ford Territory.

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Media contact (not for publication):

TasNetworks – Corey Speers – 0409 824 649 / media@tasnetworks.com.au