

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### North West Transmission Developments energised by appointment of head contractor

TasNetworks' once in a generation North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) project has reached a key milestone with the appointment of head contractor, GenusPlus Group Ltd (Genus).

Genus will be instrumental in designing and delivering Stage 1 of the development over a period of five years, with construction projected to begin in 2026, subject to conditions including a final investment decision, planning and environmental approvals, and the Australian Energy Regulator's contingent project approval.

TasNetworks CEO Seàn Mc Goldrick welcomed the national power and communications infrastructure provider to the NWTD project, gathering at TasNetworks' head office to mark the occasion.

"TasNetworks congratulates Genus on becoming the successful head contractor for Stage 1 of the NWTD project. This appointment followed an extensive procurement process undertaken by TasNetworks to ensure the highest standard of probity, fairness and equal opportunity," Mr Mc Goldrick said.

"TasNetworks has worked hard to ensure that the contract will deliver the right balance of value for money for our customers while adhering to the highest safety and quality requirements.

"The NWTD project will create many positive benefits and opportunities for Tasmanians, local communities and businesses of North West Tasmania. Genus, which already has established operations in Bridgewater and Spreyton, is committed to employing Tasmanians and engaging the services of Tasmanian businesses throughout the delivery of the project.

"In delivering this project, we are dedicated to respecting landholders, communities and the environment, as TasNetworks and Genus work towards powering a bright future for generations of Tasmanians to come."

Genus Managing Director, David Riches, said Genus was very pleased to be expanding its presence on the East Coast of Australia and working with TasNetworks on the delivery of this important project in Tasmania.

"Genus is very pleased to have secured this project in Tasmania and to be working with TasNetworks on a project that will assist with supporting increased supply of low-cost, reliable renewable energy in Tasmania and to the National Energy Market, bringing significant benefits to Tasmanians, Mr Riches said.

"Genus is looking forward to developing a strong and longstanding relationship with TasNetworks as a key delivery partner."

The awarded contract will commence with the early contractor involvement (ECI) phase of the project advancing the engineering, design and surveying of Stage 1 to enable the design to be finalised in preparation for construction commencement. During the ECI phase, a guaranteed maximum price will be submitted by the contractor to further inform final construction costs.

The proposed two-stage NWTD project includes 240km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure that will increase the capacity of Tasmania's electricity network.

In September 2023, following negotiations between the Commonwealth, Victorian and Tasmanian governments, the Tasmanian Government announced the decision to proceed with one Marinus Link cable with the second to be considered later. This resulted in revised staging of the NWTD scope, known as NWTD Stage 1 (Palmerston to Sheffield and Sheffield to Heybridge to Burnie) and NWTD Stage 2 (Hampshire Hills to Burnie and Staverton to Hampshire Hills, plus upgrading of lines from Sheffield to Staverton). The project is presently in the design and approvals phase.

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