



MEDIA RELEASE

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Reliability upgrades build stronger network and workforce

TasNetworks has completed an extensive upgrade program to strengthen the electricity network supplying customers across Tasmania's North and North West.

Over four months, TasNetworks crews upgraded 156 spans of essential powerlines supplying Railton, Sheffield, Mole Creek and Deloraine, with the work focused on improving the reliability and resilience of the network.

Railton feeders have experienced a higher frequency of unplanned power outages in recent years, making investment to strengthen the network particularly important for customers.

The upgrades included new automated switching equipment, upgraded fuse sites and modern pole configurations, helping TasNetworks better manage faults and reduce the impact of outages when they occur.

Reliability is influenced by the physical condition of network assets, how the network is configured, and how quickly faults can be detected and repaired, as well as vegetation and weather.

The planned outages were carefully coordinated and delivered in stages over several months to minimise disruption for customers, while allowing more than 40 field crew from North West depots to progressively work along the network.

TasNetworks Leader North West Distribution, Jessica Tandy, said the project demonstrated the significant planning and coordination that goes into maintaining and improving the electricity network.

"While customers may not always see the work happening behind the scenes, projects like this are critical to maintaining a safe and reliable electricity network for Tasmanians," said Jessica.

"This project brought together crews from across the North West, all working towards the same goal of delivering safe, reliable power for Tasmanians. It's a great example of the expertise and commitment our people bring to work every day."

The project also provided an opportunity for apprentices to work alongside experienced crews, gaining practical experience delivering complex network upgrades safely in the field.

"These projects also help build the capability and experience of the lineworkers who will maintain Tasmania's electricity network for decades to come," said Jessica.

Third-year Apprentice Lineworker, Josh Grant, said being involved in a project of this scale had been an invaluable learning experience.

"I enjoy the apprenticeship, it's been brilliant really. They give you a good run down, it's broad work that we do. Whether it's small stuff around in town, through to big feeder upgrades."

"Some of the best parts are jobs on the coast when you're up in the bucket, you get to see some amazing spots. On the other side of it, you get these sort of jobs where you're bringing a bit of reliability to the businesses and houses in the area."

The project also delivered an environmental benefit, with modern pole configurations, known as 'delta configuration', reducing the likelihood of threatened birds strikes.

As TasNetworks upgrades the network to improve reliability for customers, opportunities to reduce the risk of bird strikes are also identified in high-risk locations.

The project reflects the extensive planning and coordination required to maintain and improve Tasmania's electricity network, while investing in the people and skills needed to support its future.

TasNetworks is currently recruiting apprentices for 2027 across electrician, distribution lineworker and transmission lineworker streams. TasNetworks apprentices earn while they learn, gaining hands-on experience across Tasmania and training at the purpose-built Training Centre in Mornington.

Recruitment is open until Monday 31 August:

www.tasnetworks.com.au/apprenticeships

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