



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Bridging the Digital Divide**

TasNetworks has donated 70 laptop computers to help empower the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The retired laptops have been cleared and repurposed by the social enterprise, WorkVentures, and delivered to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania for distribution.

They come with essential software, and several have video conferencing cameras to help connect remote community areas. TasNetworks volunteers will help train recipients who aren't familiar with their new devices.

TasNetworks CEO, Seán Mc Goldrick, said the computers will help support education, online literacy, community connection and careers.

"Tasmanians need electricity that's safe, clean, reliable and affordable," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"They also need and expect the businesses they own to make a difference, and play a positive role in their lives.

"We're building a strong ongoing relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and we're delighted to be providing a much-needed resource.

"These days, access to a computer can make the difference between getting an empowering education, or missing out; between seizing life and career opportunities, or never knowing they existed; between staying connected with distant loved ones, or drifting apart.

"This is one of many contributions we'll be making to help support and empower Tasmanian Aboriginal community in coming years," he said.

TasNetworks also donated 90 laptops to Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania (via WorkVentures) in November last year.

While improving, the 2021 Australian Digital Inclusion Index suggests many Tasmanians still can't afford, access or effectively use computers, which makes it harder to access learning and employment opportunities.

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