



MEDIA RELEASE

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Protecting Bruny power supply

TasNetworks will safeguard Bruny Island's electricity supply while it replaces the island's back-up supply cable.

The back-up cable between Tinderbox and Dennes Point failed on Sunday 3 November. The damaged section has been found by divers - with a boat anchor hooked onto it.

The damage is considered irreparable, and TasNetworks will replace the cable instead. That will take at least 12 to 18 months, at a cost of at least \$2.5 million.

The island's main subsea connector from Simmonds Point (near Oyster Cove) is not affected, and currently supplying all customer demand.

TasNetworks has installed two extra diesel generators at Alonnah (taking the total number to three), and will add a fourth one before the summer visitation peak.

TasNetworks' Leader of Engineering, Eddie Jager, said the extra generators will provide enough back-up to power all Bruny Island customers, in case of any problem with the main supply cable.

"We're confident we can safeguard Bruny Island's power supply. There's no cause for concern," Mr Jager said.

"We're pro-actively managing the situation. We'll replace the cable, and put enough back-up generation on the island to cover total demand while that happens.

"We're confident the cable damage was caused by the anchor hooked onto it. It's a timely reminder for mariners to avoid anchoring near the two Bruny subsea cables," he said.

As an extra precaution, TasNetworks has commissioned divers to inspect the island's primary supply cable, to check its ongoing condition and reliability.

There are usually about 600 permanent electricity customers on Bruny Island, but that number swells significantly with summer occupancy and tourism - increasing electricity demand.

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