

NWTD SLG MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting
Meeting date:	4 April 2023
Meeting location:	Cradle Coast Authority, 1-3 Spring St, Burnie
Chairperson	Rodney Greene
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damian Vermey (DV), Project Director, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks• Chris Warr (CW), Community, Communications & Environment Lead, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks• Stewart Sharples, Director Major Renewable Energy Projects, ReCFIT
Notetaker	Emily Norris, TasNetworks

Invitees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Chris Bennett	CB	Skills Tasmania	Member
Sonya Booth	SB	TasNetworks	Observer
Ian Jones	IJ	Business NW	Member
Danielle Kidd	DK	West North West Working	Member
Luke Sayer	LS	Department of State Growth	Member
Vanessa Skipworth	VS	TMEC	Member
Veronica Terry	VT	RDA Tasmania	Member
Sheree Vertigan	SV	Cradle Coast Authority	Member

Apologies

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Sarah Jones	SJ	UTAS	Member
Kim Bomford	KB	Housing Choices	Member
Matthew Dance	MD	TasTAFE	Member
Laura Johnson	LJ	Youth Panel	Member
Graham Marshall	GM	YFCC	Member

Agenda

Item

Welcome and introductions

- New member Chris Bennett, Industry Liaison Officer, Energy, Skills Tasmania, Department of State Growth,
 - Sonya Booth, recent addition to the North West Transmission Developments team to the role of Regional Engagement Coordinator, based in Burnie.
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Round robin

- Members discussed current activity in the West and NW regions and the impact on job vacancies and housing. Members expressed concern that if this is the current state, it will only be amplified with the proposed major infrastructure projects. For example, in mining there's vacancies that aren't being filled, both skilled and unskilled.
 - Members discussed FIFO workers. There is a skilled Tasmanian workforce who are doing FIFO work interstate. Members discussed ABS Journey to Work data to be released in August which will provide more information.
 - GM sent a note to the Chair to raise one of the issues for the YFCC is being able to understand what the skill set will be for entry level roles for the young people they work in order to train them.
 - One member raised the recent Devonport Marinus Link breakfast event and that CEO Caroline Wykamp messaging was impactful, and another member raised a similar sentiment from the Future Tasmania event held in Hobart. Members noted that the Government's proposed renewable energy dividend concept for Tasmanians is also resonating.
 - SV raised the issue of maintaining Tasmania's competitive advantage. With more renewable activity in Australia, we may lose our competitive advantage which impacts our capacity to have a skilled workforce and our capacity to pay the same salary as some other companies/States.
 - West North West Working Board Committee meeting discussed topic of workforce and training for renewable energy. There was interest in doing a "spaghetti map" of the skills and timeframes. Recognised there was a gap with no single coordinator taking the lead.
 - Business NW is investigating applying for funding to assess benefits of virtual reality training for the renewable energy industry. Also noted that through TCCI, there was work underway to set up a Clean Energy Tasmania Group, comprising largely project proponents as a central group for coordination.
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NWTD update - TasNetworks

Procurement

- EOI for suppliers for construction has closed. Next steps are to go through to Request for Proposals (RFP) which will include detailed financial information and feed into the financial investment decision. As part of the RFP we've prepared technical specifications for the transmission and sub-stations and working on final locations of towers.

Technical design

- Further studies completed on landslip assessment which has resulted in moving small number of tower locations, predominately the East Cam-Hampshire Hills area.
 - It was noted that the NWTD Environmental Impact Statement and Development Application will likely be submitted around September.
 - It was noted that as a result of discussions with landowners, TasNetworks has moved over 40 towers, accommodating every request in relation to pivot irrigators, including current irrigators and future plans. Members suggested TasNetworks be more proactive in sharing these examples of listening, receiving feedback and responding.
 - The group heard that there are some landowners who do not wish to engage with TasNetworks until further details around the strategic benefit payments for landowners which is currently being co-designed with the
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TFGA. This payment will be in addition to the State-based legislated compensation process and recognises the role landowners play in hosting assets to help transform the National Energy Market. The strategic benefit payment framework follows similar payment frameworks announced by NSW and VIC.

Engagement:

- Members noted recent engagements:
 - Taste of North West, Sheffield
 - EcoFest, Ulverstone
 - Central Coast Business, Tourism and Travel Expo, Ulverstone
 - Meetings with Councils – Meander Valley and Central Coast
- Upcoming engagements – Agfest in May and in discussions with Housing Choices about avenues and channels for engagement with community members in the Shorewell Park area to lift awareness about NWTG and potential future uses of the easement.
- One member asked about sponsorship of local events and organisations. TasNetworks mentioned recent support of Taste of NW, Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club and Rotary Ulverstone with community investment opportunities available from now until the construction phase when community benefits sharing funding is expected to commence.
- Further on-the-ground resources will be based in the NW with the recent appointment of Sonya Booth, Regional Engagement Coordinator for NWTG, as well as Marinus Link, ReCFIT and the Future Energy Hub recruiting for engagement positions.

Community Benefits Sharing Program

- The framework which was co-designed with our Youth Panel and subject to stakeholder and community engagement was recently endorsed by the TasNetworks Board. Work will coincide with the start of construction.

Declaring a notified corridor

- Members noted update on the NWTG approvals process.
- NWTG is being assessed in accordance with the *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999*. A key step in this process requires the Minister for Planning to declare a 'notified corridor'. The notified corridor is to be in place before an application can be submitted for assessment.
- TasNetworks noted it would be contacting landowners prior to provide information on the notified corridor prior to the declaration.

Economic Development

- Chair Rodney Greene provided a recap on workshop findings from last meeting and led the group discussion on action items 1.1, 1.2 and 4.1.

1.1.1

An organisation responsible for workforce development and coordination.

- Discussion around Cradle Coast Authority's (CCA) role in coordinating, positioned to bring together community, Councils and other organisations. CCA's Regional Economic Development committee has a number of established partnerships which would help progress the coordination.
- Members agreed on further discussions out of session to explore possibility of CCA's role in leading the coordination of workforce development and deployment for Project Marinus and other major projects in Tasmania.

1.2.2

Promote the long-term career opportunities.

- Members discussed the need for data on what jobs, the skills needed and the staging. TasNetworks noted that further detailed information will be available as the procurement process progresses.
- TasNetworks agreed to report back on the plan for the "jobs pipeline" communications. The Group agreed that the work NWTG is doing needs to be replicated by other projects.
- CB note Skills Tasmania leading Industry Skills Compacts for government and industry to work collaboratively to address Tasmania's workforce needs. Group agreed for CB to provide an update at the next meeting.

4.1.3

Understand the current housing supply profile for the region and define the impact NWTD and the induced investments may have.

- Members noted the importance of having the workforce data to understand the housing issue. TasNetworks noted the mix of local workers and any non-local will become clearer towards the end of the year.
- The Group discussed the demand across all projects in the region. The Group discussed the idea of Tasmania's livability as our competitive advantage.
- TasNetworks noted a recent meeting with Brad Kelly who is leading the development of a 20-year Housing Strategy for Tasmania through Homes Tasmania. The Group agreed to ask Brad to give an update at the next meeting.

Renewable Energy Zones (REZ)

Stewart Sharples, Director Major Renewable Energy Projects, ReCFIT provided an update on REZ.

- In December 2022, the Minister announced the north west of Tasmania as the first region to be explored in detail for its potential to host the State's first REZ.

Next steps:

- Establish two Stakeholder Reference Groups to cover NW and W coast.
- First items to be considered by Groups include mapping, visual amenity, and important areas to communities.
- Recruiting a local REZ Liaison Officer, to be an on ground point of contact.
- Future Directions Paper.
- REZ technical and market design.
- Detailed REZ (geographic) expected in December.

Meeting close

Next meeting Tuesday 30 May
