

North West Transmission Developments Stakeholder Liaison Group

6 December 2021

1. Welcome and introductions
2. NWTD project update
3. Social research overview
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6. Collateral review and discussion
6. Next steps

NWTD project update

Chris Warr, Community, Communications & Environment Lead, NWTD, TasNetworks

Damian Vermey, Project Director, NWTD, TasNetworks

Recent engagement activities

Community information pop-ups:

- Westbury Show, Saturday 6 November
- Upper Burnie Woolworths, Sunday 7 November
- Engagement with 161 adults and 66 kids

NWTD Focus groups:

- Four x 2-hour sessions online
- 24 participants


Other

- Updated website, graphics and NWTD engagement platform
- November e-update to community and stakeholders
- Continued landowner meetings and stakeholder engagement




Staverton to Hampshire Hills

The proposed Staverton to Hampshire Hills transmission line is an important link in TasNetworks' North West Transmission Developments that will enable Tasmania to double its clean energy capability and power up investment in Tasmania's North West.



Proposed transmission route
View the proposed transmission route situated through Staverton to Hampshire Hills.
[VIEW MAP >](#)



What will the visual impact be?
View before and after photo montages of the proposed route.
[VIEW MONTAGES >](#)

- In October, TasNetworks consulted a range of stakeholders including YNOT and LiVe Tasmania to seek guidance to inform the development of the Youth Panel process and to understand how to encourage nominations and individual applications to join the panel.
- Following discussions, the Youth panel timeline, recruitment strategy and promotional process were refined and finalised in November.

Launch of Youth panel

- Nominations and applications will open 24 January 2022
- Social media, advertising and key stakeholder co-promotion
- Applications close 20 February 2022

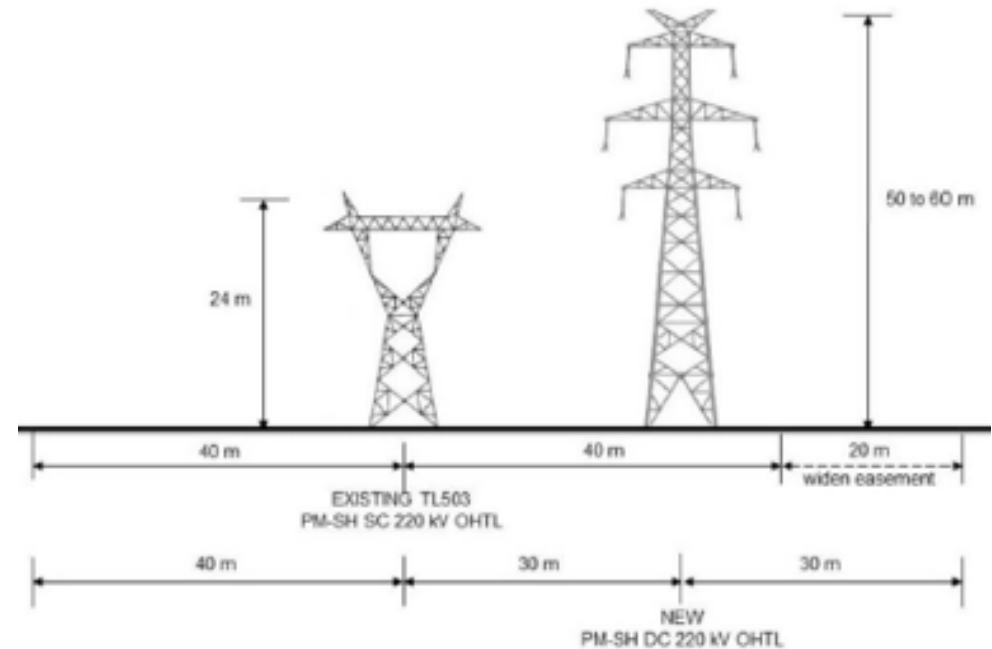
Meeting schedule

- Five meetings from 26 March – 28 May 2022
- Three in-person meetings, including a half-day site visit, two online



NWTD scope updates – Palmerston to Sheffield

- Following extensive landowner consultation, TasNetworks has proposed a revised approach to this route section. This will require the following:
 - Construction of the new 220 kV double circuit transmission line on the 30m centreline as originally proposed, with a 20m easement extension on the eastern side
 - Removing the existing 220 kV single circuit transmission line
 - Returning a 40m easement on the western side to the landowners after construction*
- The revised approach results in overall easement reduction from 80m to 60m and reduces tower numbers in the corridor from 261 currently to 190.

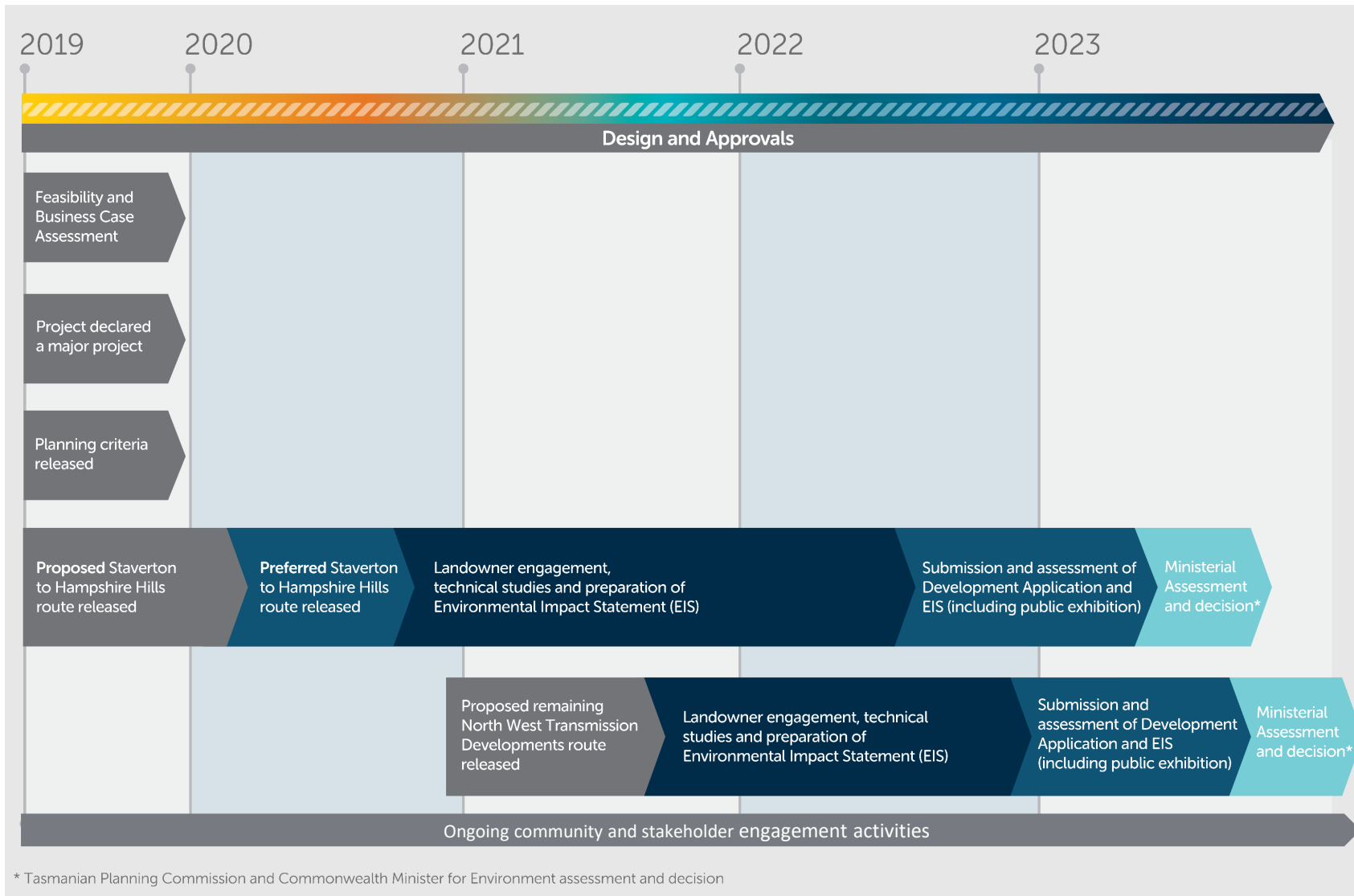


*Representative of the results for the majority of landowners. Some small sections of existing easement widths differ. TasNetworks will work with landowners to discuss individual impacts.

Staverton to Hampshire Hills route update

- As part of the environmental, planning and heritage assessment process, TasNetworks undertook technical studies along the preferred route to understand any potential impacts.
- Some significant geological and ecological features were identified.
- As a result, a 10 km section of the preferred route will be realigned further to the south to avoid impacts on the karst and cave system and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Realigning this section of the transmission line will bring the line closer to some residential properties. We are working closely with them to understand concerns and minimise impacts, where possible.
- Further field studies along the revised route will be required to inform and finalise the environmental, planning and heritage assessment process. These studies will take an additional six months to complete.

NWTD timeline



Social Research

Nicola Wass, Director, RPS

Social research objectives

To collect:

- Quantitative data from broadly representative community members
- Qualitative data to inform understanding of the quantitative data.

To understand:

- Community perceptions of their local area
- Social challenges they are concerned about and the impact on their quality of life
- Awareness levels of Project Marinus and SV-HH transmission line development
- Community perceptions of them (benefits, disadvantages, risks)



Telephone survey

- Randomly-selected 12-minute CATI telephone survey within six affected LGAs (plus supplementary online survey)
- 1,000 completed surveys
- Broadly representative of communities in six affected LGAs (age, gender, location)
- Statistically significant quantitative data.



Focus groups

- Four x 1.5hr facilitated online focus groups
- 42 participants, recruited via the survey
- Understand the factors that influenced the outcomes of the survey, particularly:
 1. Why the matters the community value most about the area are important
 2. Challenges facing the community the survey identified (including their extent and contributing factors)
 3. Perceived benefits of the project and how they can be best delivered for the local community
 4. Perceived disadvantage of the project and how they can be best addressed.

Most valued

- “Sense of community” (34%)
- “Close to the natural environment” (22%)
- “Relaxed/ quiet/ rural” (20%)

Quality of life

- “Natural environment” most likely to attract the top scores of ‘8’, ‘9’ or ‘10’
- “Community safety including road safety and bushfire risk” also frequently attracted ‘8’ or ‘9’

Lowest quality of life average scores

- “Local employment and business opportunities”
- “Housing affordability”

Connectedness to land, nature and environment

- Supports good physical and mental health
- Proximity to outdoor activities like hiking, swimming at the beach, or mountain biking
- Being amongst nature teaches the community how to protect it
- Tourism drawcard for Tasmania

Sense of community and its support systems

- Feeling of belonging
- Neighbourhood support, and reciprocity amongst the community
- Sense of trust and safety
- Connection between community and environment

Relaxed, slower paced lifestyle

- Being part of the natural environment, leading a more 'natural' life
- Choice in pace of life
- Good for raising families
- Friendliness of local people

Outcomes – Community concerns

Survey

Unemployment
(31%)

Housing affordability
housing choice
(17%)

Insufficient
community services
(12%)

Transport
infrastructure -
roads/ footpaths/
public transport
(11%)

Focus Groups

Unemployment

Job opportunities are limited, not enough variety
Education and employment opportunities are clustered in
the large centres

Limited transport is a barrier to employment

Mismatch between skills in the community and available
jobs

Housing affordability and choice

More housing demand than supply

This is driving housing prices upward for renters and buyers
Increase in privately sold houses; quality of rental properties
dropping

Long waiting lists for government housing

Difficult to get tradesmen, houses are not being built

Outcomes – Project awareness



Very low level of unprompted awareness of Project Marinus – only 3% of participants raised it when asked to identify a significant infrastructure project in their area



When prompted with the name, 23% identified as being aware of it – 73% were unaware, even when prompted



Even when read a description of the project, 35% remained unaware or unsure they knew of the project

Survey

Respondents were asked to identify any benefits of Marinus Link/NWTD:

- Employment (30%)
- Economic growth local/ state/ national (14%)
- 28% did not perceive any benefits

Focus Groups

Respondents were asked to identify perceived advantages of Marinus Link/NWTD:

- Cheaper, or free, power
- Short and long-term employment
- Income stream for Tasmania
- A chance for Tasmania to become a world leader in delivering clean energy in the least impactful, most beneficial way.

Realising the benefits

When asked how potential benefits could be realised, focus group participants commonly stated:

- **Local employment** was the most effective way to realise the positive benefits of Marinus Link:
 - Multiple participants urged the project to put in place traineeships, university degrees and other educational and training opportunities now - to have a local skilled workforce available when construction begins
 - Employment was only a benefit if jobs are filled by local community members
- **Economic growth and development** were also identified.

Survey

For their community:

- None/see no disadvantages/ negatives (33%)
- Increase in power costs (15%)
- General environmental impacts (14%)
- 21% said the project would pose potential risks to the community. Most frequently mentioned:
 - Environmental degradation/spoiling the environment (39%)
 - High cost/low benefit (35%)

Focus Groups

- Impacts on the natural environment, including both the terrestrial and the marine environment
- Impacts on land and marine wildlife
- Employment disappearing when the project finishes

Survey outcomes:

Participants were asked to rank a list of five potential project impacts (most to least important):

1. “Protection of the natural environment” (42% rated as number one)
2. “Creation of employment and business opportunities”
3. “Maintaining community safety”
4. “Protection of the area’s visual landscape”
5. “Protection of the tourism industry” (33% rate it as number five)

Social research – Mitigating the negative impacts

Focus group outcomes



Working closely with and listen deeply to local communities, including local Aboriginal people.



Being sensitive to the environment, local wildlife and endangered species.



Developing relationships with the education sector now to start building the right local capacities and skill-sets.



Repairing trust in the project and encouraging community ownership.



Committing to removing infrastructure if the project does not go ahead or at the end of project life.



Seeking to provide long term employment where possible, not just for the life of construction.

Social research – What does this mean?

This project has the potential to:

1. Impact on elements of people's lives that they feel strongly about:

- The natural environment
- Close-knit community
- Relaxed, rural lifestyle

2. Either help address, or exacerbate, existing systemic issues affecting the community:

- Low levels of local employment opportunities, particularly for younger people
- Lack of available and affordable housing

3. Project jobs are only going to be perceived as a benefit if they are jobs for the local community, seen to be.

- Actively working to upskill the community and make it 'job ready' will help to overcome cynicism

Similarly, how the project is delivered, in terms of its environmental impact, will be critical to how the community perceive the project and its benefits for Tasmania

Economic development plan overview

Ellen Witt, Project Director, SGS

NWTD Collateral - Discussion

Damian Vermey, Project Director, NWTD, TasNetworks

Chris Warr, Community, Communications & Environment Lead, NWTD, TasNetworks

Topics:

- NWTD project and engagement activities update
- Collateral and community information discussion, continued

What else would you like to see included in future meetings?

For more information, please direct people to:

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Thank you