

NWTD SLG MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting
Meeting date:	2 August 2022
Meeting location:	Function Room, Cradle Coast Authority
Chairperson	Rodney Greene
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damian Vermey, Project Director, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks• Chris Warr, Community, Communications & Environment Lead, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks• Gina Goodman, Environment & Planning Ops Lead• Nicola Wass, Director, RPS
Notetaker	Lucy Temple-Smith, RPS

Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Ian Jones	IJ	Business NW	Member
Sarah Jones	SJ	UTAS	Member
Graham Marshall	GM	YFCC	Member
Brittany Rubie	BR	TFGA	Member
Luke Sayer	LS	Department of State Growth	Member
Veronica Terry	VT	RDA Tasmania	Member
Sheree Vertigan	SV	Cradle Coast Authority	Member
Alexis Wadsley	AW	Skills Tasmania	Member
Tom Wootton	TW	West by North West Tourism	Member

Apologies

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Shane Batt	SB	Tasmanian Fire Service	Member
Matthew Dance	MD	TasTAFE	Member
William Manning	WM	TCCI	Member

Item

Welcome

- RG welcomed all attendees and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.
 - New member updates:
 - TasNetworks updated members that Unions Tasmania, represented by Jacob Batt of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU), has decided to leave the group as it does not support Project Marinus.
 - TasNetworks expressed its disappointment regarding the decision and noted the valuable contribution made by Jacob during his time on the SLG.
 - Unions Tasmania advised that it is open to continuing to engage with TasNetworks about economic development, skills and training.
 - TasNetworks updated that the SLG has a new representative from the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), William Manning, Policy and Executive Advisor. TasNetworks thanked outgoing TCCI representative Andrew Catchpole for this valuable contribution and commitment to the SLG.
 - New member suggestions welcomed. SJ suggested a representative from the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC).
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SLG Members - Round robin

- West by North West Tourism has been in regular contact with stakeholders, some requesting more detail on towers (those close to the corridor, who may experience visual amenity impacts). TW confirmed tourism industry interest in a forum when more project detail confirmed. Continued awareness raising engagement activities suggested as useful and required to ensure tourism operators are across the detail and the value of the project is communicated.
 - SJ shared continued questioning of value proposition by community/stakeholders. Suggested that succinct statements to provide clarity around the project will assist. Encouraged TasNetworks to continue to answer community questions. Mining industry example provided, information on project work communicated within communities, schools. Ongoing challenge that the project is not yet 'real' noted.
 - RG shared continued interest and concerns within the community regarding project value and benefits for the cost. Shorewell community highlighted regarding increased tower height, noting there is acceptance of impacts if local jobs are created.
 - TasNetworks requested any community feedback being heard and collated by members be directed to the project team.
 - SV shared there is a lack of understanding that the NWTD and Marinus Link [Project Marinus] represents a number of projects and opportunities that it will all come together. Suggest these messages need to be 'on repeat' within the community. Provided example of a renewable energy zone (REZ), considering what a REZ and its impacts mean for a community member.
 - TasNetworks agreed there is a lot of complex information to communicate across Project Marinus, including the opportunities for the region and continued communications will be a focus. Upcoming campaigns, community awareness about renewables and REZs from Tasmanian Government will also assist community understanding. TasNetworks acknowledged it can continue to do more.
 - VT shared recent feedback from local registered training organisations (RTOs) that they would like to be more involved in the workforce development planning area of the project.
 - AW asked that RTO contacts are directed to him to make the connection, would be very happy to facilitate and increase north west RTO involvement. AW updated that 1300 out of 2500 funded places have been filled. In addition, work on the energy careers portal is progressing well and was recently presented at the Tasmanian Energy Conference.
 - BR updated that the TFGA are meeting frequently with farmers impacted by the NWTD. TFGA has a new CEO and Chair of the Board, BR working to provide them with the background. Feedback from landowners they have engaged with demonstrates low support for the project, with BR noting the TFGA's role as an advocacy body.
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NWTD Project update

- TasNetworks provided information on a new tower design and testing. The overall NWTD project will require up to 15,000 tonnes of steel for transmission towers, which may be challenging to procure from domestic suppliers.
- Members highlighted the risk of global supply chain disruption, and geo-political tensions impacting access to some foreign markets.
- Members query regarding reporting on carbon footprint of project material and if this has been considered. Suggested TasNetworks consider impacts and potential mitigations.
- TasNetworks updated that an easement width review is underway in response to feedback from landowners.
- Palmerston to Sheffield and Sheffield to Burnie route sections update:
 - Work continues to determine final tower placement, in consultation with directly impacted landowners.
 - Feedback is being taken on board with changes made where possible to minimise impacts to landowners.
 - TasNetworks has gained landowner permission to access nearly 90 per cent of land parcels for field surveys, enabling the project to make good progress through the design and approvals phase,
 - Field surveys are key to finalising the technical design and inform the Environmental Impacts Statement and Development Application as part of the Environmental, Cultural Heritage and Planning approvals process.
- TasNetworks noted the recent media coverage regarding compulsory acquisition. The project team reiterated that TasNetworks sees compulsory acquisition as an absolute last resort and it is not our preferred approach.

NWTD engagement activities update

- Broader community engagement around the Draft Community Benefits Sharing Program (CBSP) Framework has begun. Has so far included:
 - Two Focus Groups held on the 26th and 28th of July, two groups of community members from across the region.
 - Two community BBQs held in Burnie and Sheffield on 30th and 31st of July. Rotary Clubs (City of Burnie and Latrobe) were engaged to provide a sausage sizzle, noted as excellent to have involved and thanked by TasNetworks.
 - Community benefits sharing conversations at the BBQ events demonstrated a lot of support for a program and the work of the Youth Panel. Landowner conversations at the events raised concerns, ongoing engagement will continue.
 - Stakeholder Workshop held in Ulverstone on 1st August. Shared findings of the Youth Panel and held a facilitated workshop conversation about governance to continue the co-design process.
 - Online survey launched, open until 31st of August.
 - Engagement and communication around the CBSP will continue. TasNetworks will reconvene the Youth Panel and continue the co-design process in October.
 - TasNetworks provided an update on work with the Energy Charter. TasNetworks are working with Transmission Network Service Providers across Australia to fund research around the intersection of social licence and landowner impacts.
 - NWTD awareness raising activities will continue in the coming months with AgFest 24-27th August and further Community drop-in sessions planned.
 - For the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route section, TasNetworks updated that the Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scheduled to be submitted in November with public exhibition likely to be held in February 2023. The topics that will be engaged on are topics that the community have indicated are most important to them as part of Social Impact Assessment workshops held in Wilmot and Preston.
 - Member noted the DA for the Robbins Island wind farm project reported on impacts not collective impacts. Suggested considering collective impacts are considered and reported. TasNetworks confirmed this is noted, cumulative impacts and mitigations will be considered.
 - TasNetworks noted the work being done with the tourism industry will be reflected in the EIS, including 1:1 meetings with operators in the area.
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- Member suggestion that transparency during this process will be rewarded by the community in terms of impacts, negative or not.
 - Expression of interest for early involvement in procurement process for the North West Transmission Developments has commenced and will enable industry and businesses to begin to quantify the opportunities. This process excludes the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route which is following separate procurement timeline to align with principal customer connection requirements.
 - Member suggested ensuring project timeframes are communicated to the community to ensure timely and relevant information about training and careers is available. Noted as particularly important for school age community members to enable them to understand and plan for future opportunities.
 - Member suggested that alongside communication about jobs and spending from community benefits sharing programs there is transparency around the longevity of the opportunities and what happens at the conclusion of construction period. TasNetworks accepted this as valid noting there are peaks within the project lifecycle.
 - TasNetworks thanked the members for their suggestions and feedback.
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NWTD Awareness survey

- Results of the recent NWTD awareness survey were presented.
 - Purpose of the survey was to measure the awareness issues, positive and negative sentiment, and communication preferences. The survey will form the benchmark for future surveys and reports, to be undertaken every six months.
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Draft Community Benefits Sharing Program (CBSP) - Governance discussion

- The SLG were asked to consider the Draft CBSP Framework developed by the Youth Panel, and presented at the previous SLG meeting, and share their high-level thoughts about how the governance process will work.
 - The SLG were asked to provide feedback on what should be considered when designing the CBSP's governance arrangements and how it will be administered. Comments, questions, and suggestions were as follows:
 - A TasNetworks CBSP creates an opportunity to set a precedent for more CBSPs ongoing for developments within the sector/region
 - Suggestion that TasNetworks' resources could be applied, utilising existing skills for program establishment and administration
 - Queries around structure of program; is it local delivering micro-benefits or regional wide addressing systemic social issues, level of funding and timeframe for delivery of funding
 - TasNetworks confirmed funding will be proportionate to the project cost, final amount to be confirmed by the TasNetworks Board by end of 2022. Timing will consider how the CBSP could address impacts during the project construction phase and beyond. Timing and process for funding delivery not confirmed.
 - Suggestion that TasNetworks could partner with an existing organisation to use their governance structure to deliver the funding
 - Noted it would be important to have a local regional governance committee, administration could be outsourced
 - Members agreed the project should avoid creating an administrative burden
 - External governance noted as important to build trust and credibility in the process
 - Suggestion that a CBSP advisory group could exist outside TasNetworks, noting it is important to minimise governance costs to maximise the capital provided to the community
 - Suggested trust could be placed in TasNetworks to deliver, resulting in fewer steps and organisation involved
 - Suggested that it is important for TasNetworks to realise benefits of the work being done to create a CBSP and their commitment to positive social impact, community benefits for the region; consider ensuring there remains a visible connection to TasNetworks
 - The TasNetworks Board should have ownership of how the program is run, advice on how the funds are spent should come from the community
 - Suggested that any external, visible link to TasNetworks can be delivered via communications about the CBSP directly to the community, noting it does not need to involve increased governance cost
 - Any person or organisation / committee administering the program should be based in the region
 - The SLG were then asked to provide feedback on the tiered funding arrangement recommended by the Youth Panel. Comments, questions, and suggestions were as follows:
 - The Building Better Regions fund was provided as an example of a tiered funding arrangement, under \$40K and above. This program offered different application processes for lower and higher amounts.
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Minutes

- From an applicant point of view, lower amount should mean less administration in application process, noted that this is reasonable
- Funding for larger amounts should include requirement of balance sheets, more detailed information of initiative
- First tier examples of \$20K or under provided, suggested by members as appropriate
- Query around an upper limit of funding. TasNetworks responded that a clear sense of total expenditure is needed to confirm.
- Discussion around potential for larger amounts to be a co-funded model.
- Consider if funding is to be used for tangible assets or a non-tangible benefit, ensuring there is a place for both. TasNetworks confirmed currently communicating this as 'initiatives'.
- Suggestion that often rules apply eg funding cannot be used for normal operational costs.
- The SLG were then asking to provide thoughts on the application process. Comments, questions, and suggestions were as follows:
 - Discussion around applicants demonstrating financial loss and funding proportionate to direct loss or greater impact from the project
 - TasNetworks confirmed the CBSP is not a compensation program, rather recognition that not all of the benefits that will accrue from the project will be spread across the communities and regions where project impacts may arise
 - All suggestions and ideas were noted, and members thanked by TasNetworks.

Environmental planning and heritage approvals

- TasNetworks provided an update on the environmental planning and heritage approvals for the NWTB (see presentation).
- Noting across the NWTB there are two applications, one for the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route section (including the Staverton switching station) and the other for the remaining NWTB (including the Hampshire Hills switching station).

Meeting close

- Due to technical issues, the planned presentation on the NWTB Procurement strategy and further information on this process will be added to the September SLG meeting agenda.
 - Meeting closed, next meeting 27 September.
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