

NWTD SLG MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting
Meeting date:	27 September 2022
Meeting location:	Cradle Coast Authority, 1-3 Spring Street, Burnie
Chairperson	Rodney Greene
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chris Warr, Community, Communications & Environment Lead, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworksTim Walter, Procurement Manager, NWTD
Notetaker	Lucy Temple-Smith, RPS

Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Matthew Dance	MD	TasTAFE	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
Alex Poate	AP	TasNetworks	Observer
Emily Norris	EN	TasNetworks	Observer

Apologies

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Shane Batt	SB	Tasmanian Fire Service	Member
Ian Jones	IJ	Business NW	Member
Sarah Jones	SJ	UTAS	Member
Luke Sayer	LS	Department of State Growth	Member
William Manning	WM	TCCI	Member
Graham Marshall	GM	YFCC	Member
Brittany Rubie	BR	TFGA	Member

Item

Welcome and introductions

- Chair welcomed attendees and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.
- TasNetworks' new NWTD Community Engagement Ops Lead, Alexandra Poate, introduced and welcomed.
- Member and staff introductions.

Round robin

- One member noted potential apathy towards stakeholder engagement due to the high level of engagement opportunities and invitations being issued. Noted a need to consider coordinated approach and timing.
- WXNW Tourism confirmed its commitment to undertaking dedicated engagement on the NWTD imed with the most appropriate project stage.
- TasTAFE are working to increase flexibility and responsiveness within their programs and processes to better understand training and skills needs for the NWTD project and increase capability to meet demand when needed.
- RDA Tasmania reinforced the value of the NWTD Economic Development plan and expressed an ongoing interest in progressing the regional actions identified to ensure RDA Tasmania can increase engagement with the project.
- AW noted a delay in the Workforce Advisory Committee meeting and round two of the Tasmanian Training Fund closing in September. Following this, round three to be scoped.
- AW also noted the upcoming ReCFIT communication strategy and guidance is keenly anticipated with a strong Government-wide commitment to the 'one message' approach being taken.
- CW added the ReCFIT communications strategy will assist to build knowledge and ensure simplicity and consistency of messages.
- Burnie Works provided feedback that there is increasing awareness of the transmission developments at Shorewell Park among residents and community members, reinforcing continued community engagement in the area.
- Regional Jobs Hub continues to hold considerable interest in the delivery of the NWTD Economic Development plan and noted the presentation at the recent SEGRA Conference and subsequent community interest.

NWTD Project Update

- CW delivered the NWTD project and engagement activities update.
- Noted leading topics for the project remain overall construction funding and cost and the work to progress a contemporary landowner compensation framework.
- From a Remaining NWTD transmission developments perspective, noted that preparations are underway in developing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application (DA). TasNetworks are seeking to submit both in the first half 2023.
- TasNetworks finalising the EIS for the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route section, planning to submit in 2022. Ahead of this process, a formal planning process will take place with a notified corridor to be declared by the Minister for Planning.
- TasNetworks is continuing discussions with landowners about impacts, property access and land use as well as responding to requests for information on future compensation arrangements.
- Current landholder access agreements represent around 90 per cent of the land access required for the NWTD route sections . It was noted that this level of access is sufficient to progress the EIS and DA processes.
- NWTD Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan expected to be reviewed by TasNetworks Board in November 2022 with actions under the plan being progressed now.

Minutes

- TasNetworks to continue engagement with key stakeholders relevant to each action. A six monthly catch up / forum was proposed for those who have been involved in the development of the plan will be held to bring broader group of stakeholders together and continue momentum gained through the plan's development. CW to follow up on timing of next steps on action plan roll-out.
- The invaluable contribution of stakeholders and momentum built from the two previous economic development workshops held was acknowledged and TasNetworks' commitment to sustaining this reiterated.
- The changing job market in the North West region was raised by SLG members as a potential challenge for the NWT D prompting a broad-ranging discussion. Significant changes to the job market over the past 12-18 months have altered the composition of the 'job ready' workforce that might be eventually available for the NWT D project.
- While young job seeker numbers have dropped significantly, long-term unemployed remain. This cohort will require a greater focus on general employment skills over technical skill development.
- It was noted by another member that this reflects statewide difficulties in labor supply. Clarity on the workforce plan for the NWT D was noted as time critical to enable the development of bespoke workforce solutions for the project and induced investment.
- Challenges associated with assisting long-term unemployed to become 'job ready' was noted, in particular for projects such as the NWT D. Focusing on refreshing and upgrading skills of those who are already 'job ready' was suggested; creating space and opportunities for long-term unemployed to continue to progress into employment.
- Members agreed that a local workforce will bring most benefits to the NW region and if not be available a reliance would result on FIFO / DIDO workers, with the potential to a lessening in community support for the project.
- It was noted that this is not an issue unique to the NWT D project and that greater, immediate investment is required for all major infrastructure project and industries planning operations on the North West coast.
- The potential impact of renewables projects in the North West region on the tourism industry's workforce was noted by one member as already being identified as a threat within strategic industry plans.
- One member noted the focus on project management and leadership training, engineering and renewable energy pathways programs will shift into a focus for training to support civil construction, accessible to lower skill levels. The challenge for the next stage noted as identifying the specialised areas that need greater investment.
- TasNetworks noted the future challenge of how to share skills and training data and draw insights together to understand impacts. The opportunity for training in early stages of the project bolstering local workforce capability for subsequent phases and future projects was also noted.
- TasNetworks' recent attendance at the Circular Head career options festival demonstrated interest for careers on the North West coast, interest in ongoing engineering or civil careers locally.

Engagement activity update

- The NWT D project team are continuing to deliver awareness raising activities; most recently at AgFest and the Wilmot Market. Engagement activities and project information have generally been well received by a mixture of community members, impacted landowners and businesses.
- Upcoming NWT D engagement activities include the Burnie Show in late September (alongside Marinus Link), Rural Alive and Well partnership event in Sheffield in October and the Westbury Show in early November.
- Additional pre-EIS engagement is being planned for the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route section in November, including drop-in events, dedicated stakeholder meetings and a community webinar. Engagement will focus on the topics that are important to community members, as identified via previous engagement.
- TasNetworks will provide summaries of insights and mitigations on each topic area. This will provide community members with sufficient information to be informed of EIS contents and prepared if they wish to participate further during the formal EIS public exhibition period (likely in the early part of 2023).

Minutes

- Explainer videos for the project are being developed; one for general project awareness and one to assist in community understanding of the environmental assessment and approvals process.
 - TasNetworks continues to work with The Energy Charter on the Landholder and Community Social Licence Research project, both participating as a transmission provider and assisting to promote associated landholder survey.
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Community Benefits Sharing Program

- TasNetworks provided an update on the broader community engagement activities undertaken on the Draft Community Benefits Sharing Program (CBSP) Framework developed by the Youth Panel (see presentation).
 - The next steps in the CBSP development were communicated (see presentation).
 - A further update will be delivered at the November 2022 SLG meeting.
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Procurement Strategy

- TasNetworks delivered an overview presentation on its NWTD Procurement Strategy.
 - The SLG will be kept informed of the progress of the Procurement Strategy. A follow up presentation will be delivered in 2023 to provide more information about the progress of the strategy and an update on the implementation stage including engagement with the market.
 - SLG feedback was acknowledged as important input to the procurement process.
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Meeting close

- Due to technical issues, presentation from Amy Abraham, Director of Innovation for The Energy Charter was postponed to meeting eight.
- Next meeting Tuesday 22 November 2022.