

NWTD SLG MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting
Meeting date:	7 February 2023
Meeting location:	UTAS West Park Campus, Room 156 in the Domestic Arts Block
Chairperson	Rodney Greene
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damian Vermeij (DV), Project Director, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks• Chris Warr (CW), Community, Communications & Environment Lead, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks
Notetaker	Emily Norris, TasNetworks

Invitees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Kim Bomford	KB	Housing Choices	Member
Gabriella Conti	GC	West by North West	Member
Matthew Dance	MD	TasTAFE	Member
Tanya Denison	TD	Cradle Coast Future Energy Hub	Proxy
Ian Jones	IJ	Business NW	Member
Laura Johnson	LJ	NWTD Youth Panel	Member
Danielle Kidd	DK	West North West Working	Member
Graham Marshall	GM	YFCC	Member
Brittany Rubie	BR	TFGA	Member
Luke Sayer	LS	Department of State Growth	Member
Vanessa Skipworth	VS	TMEC	Member
Veronica Terry	VT	RDA Tasmania	Member
Alexis Wadsley	AW	Skills Tasmania	Member
Lucy-Temple-Smith	LTS	RPS	Observer

Apologies

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Sarah Jones	SJ	UTAS	Member
Will Manning	WM	TCCI	Member
Sheree Vertigan	SV	Cradle Coast Authority	Member

Agenda

Item

Welcome and introductions

- The Chair welcomed attendees, shared member apologies, and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.
 - All members introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members. New member introductions included Danielle Kidd, Program Manager, West North West Working, Kim Bomford, General Manager, Housing Choices (TAS), Vanessa Skipworth, General Manager Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) and Laura Johnson, member of NWTYD Youth Panel.
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Round robin

- AW mentioned the Energising Tasmania Training Fund closes 30 March 2023.
 - IJ mentioned Business North West will host a Breakfast on 15 February with guest speakers from Ark Energy.
 - One member noted the recent media about Robbins Island wind farm. TasNetworks and the Group discussed the potential impact.
 - One member noted the resignation of Bess Clark, CEO Marinus Link. TasNetworks noted Interim CEO Caroline Wykamp has commenced and moving to a stage of the project from strategy focus to delivery focus.
 - One member raised the successful TasNetworks 'Meet the Projects' event at TMEC in December. VS mentioned a high agenda for TMEC was to ensure uptake of locals for upcoming projects.
 - One member raised the importance of the Industry Capability Network (ICN). TasNetworks acknowledged that it will continue to promote the ICN. TasNetworks undertook to provide the Group with details of the uplift in ICN registrations since the Meet the Projects event.
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NWTD Update

- DV gave a general overview of the project, particularly for the new members. This included project context, walk-through of map of developments, proposed infrastructure and timeline.
 - DV gave a procurement update, noting that all eight contractors invited to participate in the Expression of Interest (EOI) accepted the invitation. The eight were short listed following the publicly advertised Registration of Interest Process. Seven out of the eight contractors participated in the four day site visits between 29 January and 1 February 2023, which included both green and brown substation and transmission project scopes. This is the second stage of the multi-stage tender process which closes in mid-March 2023, from which 3-4 proponents will be shortlisted for the final procurement stage - Request for Proposals. DV was pleased to see so many interested, given the amount of transmission projects proposed to be built in Australia. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will open from mid-May and close by mid-October.
 - One member asked if mainland companies applied for the EOI and DV explained that it was a mixture of local and interstate parties. Members asked questions about whether EOI proposals had to stipulate local content. DV noted that TasNetworks would follow State requirements of 25% local content.
 - Members asked questions on how the potential contractor would house employees and what sort of workforce would be expected to require housing. DV noted 1,400 jobs overall and explained the transmission line construction starts with crews for clearing, tracks, excavation, civil construction workers.
 - KM noted significant thought needs to be given to the accommodation of workers of the project and others being forced out of an already really tight rental.
 - TasNetworks noted that the issue of housing will be addressed through Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and housing strategies presented potential contractors which will provide more data to assess and address those potential impacts.
 - A member asked what the SIA involved. TasNetworks noted that a Development Application (DA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared as part of the planning and approvals process. In many cases, TasNetworks is seeking to completely avoid impacts. Where this is not possible, TasNetworks will take action to mitigate, rehabilitate or offset these impacts. The DA and EIS are independently assessed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC). The MIDAA assessment process has been accredited by the
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Commonwealth for assessment of matters of national environmental significance. The SIA (social and economic factors) is one of 12 reports that make up the EIS documentation.

- TasNetworks noted the timing and work involved in the EIS planning and approvals process. It was further noted that TasNetworks will do pre-EIS community engagement mid-2023 as a way of highlighting key areas the community are interested in. This will include easy to understand information to communicate the process, the studies, and the mitigation activities with the community.
- One member asked about Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage surveys. TasNetworks talked through the process of collecting the survey data which is then shared with Aboriginal organisations representing the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.
- TasNetworks noted the status of Community Benefits Sharing Program following the completion of the Youth Panel process, with the recommendations on a framework for the program to be presented to the TasNetworks Board.
- TasNetworks flagged upcoming community engagement opportunities that they are planning to participate in:
 - Taste of NW on 12 March
 - Marinus Link Breakfast, Devonport on 17 March
 - Marinus Link Drop-in sessions, Burnie on 17 and 18 March
 - NW Eco Fest, Ulverstone on 1 April
 - Briefing to relevant Councils with newly elected members
- TasNetworks noted that they have completed land purchases at the Heybridge and Hampshire sites for proposed switching stations and substations. This is in addition to land previously purchased at Staverton for the Staverton Switching Station.

Economic Development workshop

Background and overview

Members were asked to prepare by pre-reading the Regional Action Plan as part of the [Capturing the Economic Development Opportunities from Renewable Energy Investments in North West Tasmania Discussion Paper](#) developed by TasNetworks.

- RG gave an overview and background to introduce the Economic Development workshop and the objective to prioritise and deliver on agreed actions in the Regional Action Plan. It was noted that substantial work was undertaken over the past two years to detail the regional profile, benefits, opportunities and actions. This included two co-design workshops that took place, which a number of SLG Members participated in.

Group discussions

Attendees were divided into groups to discuss each of the below questions, and then asked to report back to the wider Group.

Priority setting and actions

1. How would you prioritise the timing and importance of each theme 1-5 in the Regional Action Plan?
 - Following the group discussions, Theme 4 and Theme 1 were both rated as top priorities.
2. Based on your prioritisation of each theme, what do you see as the top actions in the Regional Action Plan?
 - Following the group discussions, 17 actions across three priority themes were identified.

Discussion summary

Priority 1 and 2: Theme 4: Local Community and Regional Benefits

- Members agreed that housing was a key issue to address in this theme and was a high priority for each of the groups. Discussions included the issue of housing to be considered in terms of infrastructure that can produce sustainable community benefits.
 - Addressing a question about worker camps, there was a discussion about drawing the workforce from the region and spread across the six LGAs, as opposed to drawing from one concentrated spot. ElectraNet's Eyre Peninsula transmission works was discussed. One member raised possible international (Scandinavian) examples that could be followed.
 - One member raised the issue of housing included in the benefits theme noting a need to elevate its importance as it's critical to a range of issues such as training / skills development.
 - Members discussed understanding the profile across all projects – what does that mean in terms of housing demand and demographics?
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- KB suggested action 4.2.2 (Explore adaptable housing options for project workforce), the word adaptable should be changed to sustainable.

Priority 1 and 2: Theme 1: Workforce Development and Skills and Training

- Members discussed a governance structure with accountability (1.1.1) and key energy industry peaks were discussed.
- Members discussed the concept of a regional training centre (1.3.6) and highlighted the importance of this being a training model for all of the NW.
- Members raised that in addition to curriculum aligned material (1.2.4), developing position descriptions would also be helpful to provide, and an apprenticeship pipeline.
- One member raised general feedback about the presentation of job opportunities noting the inclusion of job years is confusing.

Priority 3: Theme 2: Procurement and Opportunities for Local Businesses

- Members discussed local procurement may be constrained by local workforce issues.
- 2.1.2 is more than an ICN action.

Meeting close

Group discussion on future agenda topics:

- Environmental, Planning and Heritage approvals – EIS and DA submission
- Community Benefits Sharing Program
- Procurement
- Marinus Link update
- Update on the March engagement events (next meeting)

Next meeting Tuesday 4 April
