

## MINUTES

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting
<b>Meeting date:</b>	8 February 2022
<b>Meeting location:</b>	Cradle Coast Energy Hub, Burnie
<b>Chairperson</b>	Rodney Greene (RG)
<b>Presenters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damian Vermeij (DV), North West Transmission Developments Project Director, TasNetworks</li> <li>• Chris Warr, (CW) Community, Communications &amp; Environment Lead, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks</li> <li>• Benjamin White, Executive Manager Stakeholder Relations, Land &amp; Environment Marinus Link Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Gina Goodman, Operations Lead – Environment, Planning and Heritage Approvals, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks</li> </ul>
<b>Notetaker</b>	Lucy Temple-Smith, RPS (LTS)

## Attendees

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Jacob Batt	JB	AMWU	Member
Shane Batt	SB	Tasmanian Fire Service	Member
Andrew Catchpole	AC	TCCI	Member
Ian Jones	IJ	Business NW	Member
Sarah Jones	SJ	UTAS	Member
Graham Marshall	GM	YFCC	Member
Craig Perkins	CP	RDA Tasmania	Member
Brittany Rubie	BR	TFGA	Member
Luke Sayer	LS	Department of State Growth	Member
Veronica Terry	VT	RDA Tasmania	Attendee
Helen Truscott	HT	Cradle Coast NRM	Member
Sheree Vertigan	SV	Cradle Coast Authority	Member
Alexis Wadsley	AW	Skills Tasmania	Member
Amy Abraham	AA	TasNetworks	Attendee
Vicki Ketchell	VK	TasNetworks	Attendee

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## Apologies

Name	Initials	Organisation	Role
Matthew Dance	MD	TasTAFE	Member
Tom Wootton	TW	West by North West Tourism	Member

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### 1. Welcome and introductions

- RG welcomed all attendees, delivered Acknowledgement of Country.
- Introductions of new member Luke Sayer, RDA guest Veronica Terry and new TasNetworks staff Amy Abraham and Vicki Ketchell.

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### 2. NWTD Update

- TasNetworks provided a recap on the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route section change; technical studies completed, ecology and geo-technical surveys identified a short middle section (10kms) of the route would need to be realigned to avoid sensitive rainforest areas and land slip risk.
- TasNetworks has made, and continues to establish, contact with impacted landowners across the Staverton to Hampshire Hills route; continuing to work through landowner and community concerns.
- Where required, further technical studies will be undertaken to ensure the realigned route is the right one and can be demonstrated through the planning process as the most suitable.
- TasNetworks will continue to work with landowners alongside undertaking the new technical surveys; not all studies will need to be undertaken on each property.
- Interests and concerns of the local community will once again be reflected in process of working through results and mitigating impacts wherever possible.
- Route section changes due to results of technical reports is not unusual, demonstrates the process is working.
- Around 93 per cent of the route section remains through commercial forestry.
- The process also demonstrates the diversity of the community and landowners the project impacts and ensures community concerns remain front of mind.
- Construction of the section planned for 2025 to connect the UPC wind farm project, remaining North West Transmission Developments to follow.
- Process from here is to complete remaining field work and technical studies for submission to the planning and environment, heritage approvals process.
- The areas of interest for the community will feed into engagement on the environmental approvals process to help inform how community members can participate in the formal process.
- Expectation is that sessions will be held mid-late 2022 to communicate how people can get the information they need to satisfy any outstanding questions and to further contribute through the formal approval process.
- Community are being kept up to date through regular eNews updates.
- Member suggested it will be important to communicate the route change is a direct consequence of the process; that the technical studies demonstrated the need to change the route; was not a 'change of mind' situation but process to ensure the project has the least impact possible.
- Important to communicate that the surveys can lead to positive changes for landowners, the community.
- Regarding the remaining North West Transmission Developments, around 75 per cent of land access has been secured.
- TasNetworks continue to work with landowners for access for remaining land parcels, including Palmerston to Sheffield and Sheffield to Burnie.
- Liaising with Palmerston to Sheffield landowners on removal of existing 220kV line following construction of new line, following landowner feedback around the impact of the line on property.
- Different landowner groups with concerns about the project, including request for undergrounding which is not feasible. Focus is on working with these landowners during small access windows to minimise impacts on them and their operations, ensuring engineers are on hand.

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- Focus of this process is to understand and capture all critical locations, work with each landowner.
- Geo-technical field survey planning and mobilisation underway for remaining route sections, to understand what is there and feed the information into the impact assessments.
- All approvals will be sought by the end of 2023 with an aim to start construction in 2024-25. Marinus Link construction aim is 2027-28.
- Member query regarding if a one-to-one meeting with landowner not accepted/possible, will land be compulsorily acquired.
- TasNetworks informed it does have statutory powers around land acquisition, but this is an absolute last resort, many processes to happen prior to any consideration of that; the focus is on demonstrating to landowners that there is benefit in working together and options to mitigate most impacts.
- Engagement activities update; NWTYD Youth Panel has been launched, the first milestone in developing a community benefits program; the Panel will work together to produce a draft framework for consultation.
- TasNetworks thanked all SLG Members and organisations for their support so far in sharing and communicating the opportunity to their networks, encouraged this to continue.
- Youth Panel members will be connected with the SLG during or at completion of the Panel process.
- Focus groups were held late 2021; low levels of knowledge about the project once again reported.
- Refer to presentation for further insights.
- Attendee queried whether land value increases in region will complicate negotiation processes.
- TasNetworks informed they will be reflective; land value will be considered, as well as land use. Question taken on notice; TasNetworks will report back with more information on this part of the process, the timing and how value is realised.
- Comment by member regarding landowners being nervous to commence any compensation conversation; suggested TasNetworks forecast and communicate their land use and compensation process/model.
- TasNetworks acknowledged benefit of further clarity.
- Member questioned why the reported benefits and concerns [from survey presented December 2021], are not being reflected in focus group results, for example, the views on lack of jobs in the project.
- TasNetworks clarified the focus group results are additional project views, not related to survey.
- Economic development work continues and focuses on several themes including workplace skills and training, jobs and procurement as part of a large civil construction project.
- Workshops covering these topics will begin as part of the economic development work in March 2022; SLG will be kept informed of progress, with many members' organisations will be involved.
- Engagement Report for activities undertaken and results of engagement from June-December 2021 will soon be published online at Talk with TasNetworks, SLG to receive a copy.

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### 3. Environmental planning and approvals overview

- Overview of NWTYD planning and approvals process provided by Gina Goodman, TasNetworks' Operations Lead – Environment, Planning and Heritage Approvals, North West Transmission Developments.
- Refer to presentation.
- Member questions related to issues that are dominant in the process, such as weed management during construction, noting processes in place.
- Further issues such as visual impact, environmental impacts; covered by the required Land and Visual Impact Assessment, Ecology and Weed surveys, biosecurity processes also in place.
- TasNetworks' existing corridor use, for the majority of the NWTYD project, means the organisation is already aware of and monitoring existing sensitive ecological areas and species such as eagle nests, as well as undertaking weed management.
- A lot of information relating to these aspects in the impacted areas is already held within a database due to management of existing infrastructure assets.

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### 4. Marinus Link overview

- Project overview, update, and links to NWTYD presented by Benjamin White, Executive Manager Stakeholder Relations, Land & Environment, Marinus Link Pty Ltd.
  - Refer to presentation.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion around timings of project, if there is an option to increase the two 750MW links on the Marinus Link and the role batteries may play in the future energy mix.</li><li>• Members sought key information on key costs and benefits and assumptions such as role and impacts of hydrogen and batteries on Marinus Link.</li><li>• All elements and forecasts for battery storage growth, cost reduction was factored into the case for the project, remains strong.</li></ul>
5.	<p><b>Round robin discussion</b></p> <p>Key points raised by SLG Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low amount of knowledge within the members' communities/networks resonates, has been raised in discussions.</li><li>• Projects being very long term is an impediment to informing and engaging the wider community; suggested opportunity in re-telling or focusing on the whole story [renewable energy] and then highlighting where the NWT D fits in, where the project is up to as relevant to locals.</li><li>• Robbins Island project continues to highlight the level of misinformation within the community about developments, renewable energy, and transmission.</li><li>• Getting facts out in a short, sharp way at a time most relevant to the community is key.</li><li>• Converter station at Heybridge, what will it look like? Consider signage at site as an opportunity to inform the public, assist them to visualise/build up imagery about what is planned, what it means.</li><li>• Consider other opportunities for visual communication e.g., ships doing surveys, towers.</li><li>• Consider the best methods when dealing with long range infrastructure communications; seek out other, like and best practice examples.</li><li>• Ensure milestones are communicated in the most effective way.</li><li>• Young people on Youth Panel will be critical; SLG have a role in communicating the project however young people have potential to be advocates for the developments and what they mean for the wider community, ongoing. Must be balanced and not presented as 'token spokespeople'.</li><li>• Perceived fire risk, within the Loongana Valley, needs specific communication about the facts of low risks around transmission lines and fires.</li><li>• Opportunity in communicating what the project is and what it means for the education and training sector; engage with learners in tertiary education sector, students and parents – requires simplification of messages.</li><li>• Cradle Coast NRM group and economic development steering group suggested as forums for TasNetworks to attend, contribute project education.</li><li>• Energising Tasmania project for skills and training to make the most of these developments raised; working to create a renewable energy job and careers hub – an area where TasNetworks can work together with Department of State Growth to ensure NWT D opportunity integrated.</li><li>• Concern raised that NWT D information being provided is too focused on potential benefits of project; request to consider and discuss the bigger picture, who is paying for the project, where is the power going and for what end, why not being used in Tasmania to bolster industry and manufacturing in the State and how to ensure it is not built by a FIFO workforce.</li><li>• Physical elements of communication, where towers and lines go, important but also requires focus on the big Tasmania benefit story; go broader, beyond the project and demonstrate the value in a wider context.</li><li>• Communications strategy and outputs must consider literacy levels of the region, the audiences. Member cited Lisa Denny's work [Tasmanian demographer].</li><li>• Communications cannot be long or have a complicated structure with complicated language.</li><li>• Suggestion of using a map, visual demonstration of percentage of workers needed across what sector, when and at what project locations.</li><li>• TasNetworks stated focus on continuing the jobs pipeline for those who already live here, plus building new skills in the community.</li></ul>
6.	<p><b>Next steps and meeting close</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next meeting confirmed.</li><li>• All members asked to send LTS any suggestions for presentations, content via email.</li></ul>

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### Ref no. Item

- Survey will be sent with meeting minutes for SLG to provide feedback on the process and content of meetings to date.

## Actions

Ref no.	Description	Owner	Date
1.	Copies of external presentations to be circulated to SLG members	LTS	22 Feb 2022
2.	NWTD Engagement Report June – December 2021 to be circulated to SLG when complete	LTS	1 Mar 2022
3.	Request the counterbalance of views on jobs from survey and focus group results.	CW / LTS	1 Mar 2022
4.	Members to send any agenda item request or suggestions to LTS for consideration.	LTS	25 Mar 2022
5.	TasNetworks to report back with information on land valuation process, the timing and how value is realised.	CW	12 Apr 2022
6.	TasNetworks to review and consider feedback for NWTD collateral	CW	Ongoing

## Next meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 12 April 2022

**Time:** 12:00pm – 2:30pm (Lunch provided)

**Location:** TBC

**Minutes prepared by:** Lucy Temple-Smith

**Minutes approved by:** Rodney Greene