

Proposed North West Transmission Developments

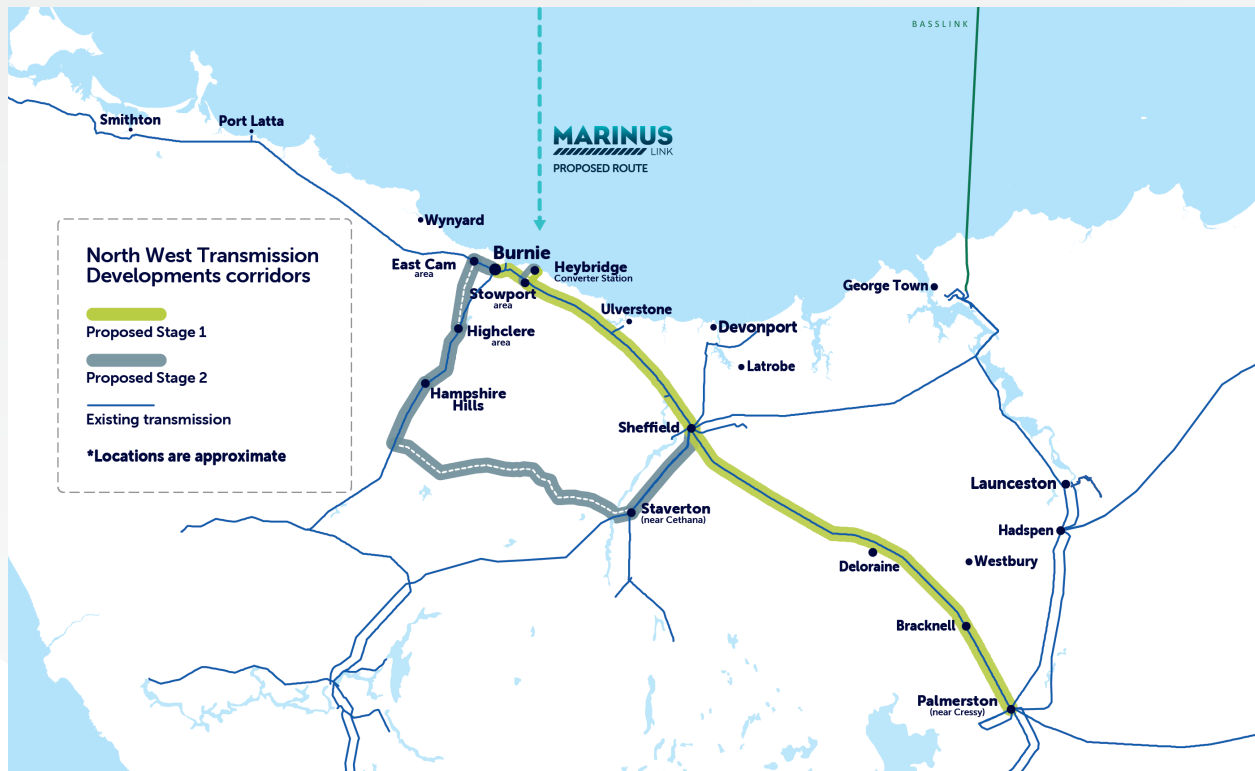
Engagement Update January to June 2024





Contents

About the project	5
Introduction	6
How we have engaged	8
Your feedback and our actions	10
Contacting the team	12



Project map

About the project

TasNetworks plans to strengthen the transmission network in North West Tasmania. The proposed North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) project will include 240 km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure. The developments will allow Tasmania's power system to remain strong and stable while providing the increased capacity needed to accommodate new and existing renewable energy developments in the region, including Maribus Link.

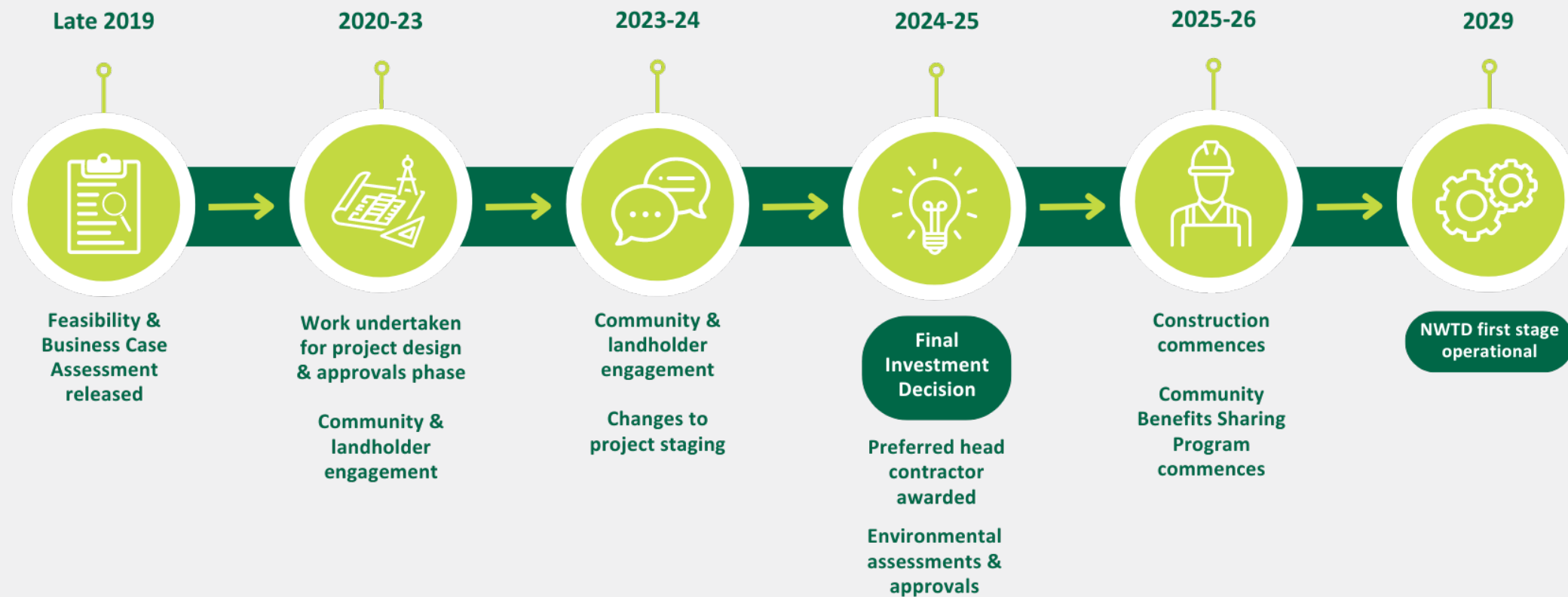
The NWTD project will be delivered across two stages. Construction for Stage 1 is planned to commence in 2025-26 to align with construction of the first Maribus Link cable. Stage 2, subject to a final decision on the second stage of Maribus Link, will deliver the balance of the NWTD project scope, which includes the section between Staverton to Burnie via Hampshire Hills. This approach will see approximately 60 per cent of the NWTD built in the first stage. All stages of the project are subject to Development and Environmental Approvals and Final Investment Decisions.

Introduction

This document provides an outline of the engagement activities that were carried out between January and June 2024. It builds on previous engagement reports, which you can find here. Our aim is to achieve the best outcomes for the community, the environment, and the project. Feedback continues to help shape the direction of the NWTD and we remain committed to working with landholders, community and stakeholders as the project progresses.

This report focuses on feedback gathered from stakeholders and the general community about the project and does not include detailed feedback from landholders. Engagement with landholders is ongoing and will continue throughout all phases of the project.

Project timeline





How we have engaged

Between January and June 2024, we engaged with a range of stakeholders and community members to raise awareness and collect feedback about the project. Feedback collected during this phase of the project has helped us understand concerns, the topics that are important to people and what they want to know more about.

The figure below provides a snapshot of the activities that were carried out between January to June 2024.



Three Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings – February, April, and June



The team spoke to approximately 310 attendees across 9 community information events



Five e-newsletters (February to June)

We promoted engagement activities using a range of communication channels, including:



- TasNetworks website
- Facebook
- E-newsletters
- Media
- Letters
- Informing our stakeholders

Community investment



Tools of the trade

Recognising the importance of maintaining a well-equipped workspace, the NWT project has been able to assist the Kentish Men's Shed in updating their tools and equipment.

Located amidst the serene surroundings of Sheffield, the Men's Shed serves as a gathering place for approximately 50 dedicated individuals. From metal fabrication, blacksmithing to ceramic artistry, the Shed embodies a diverse range of skills and expertise.

With our grant exceeding \$5,000, the Shed was able to acquire essential tools, ensuring safety and efficiency in their operations. Thank you, Kentish Community Men's Shed, for allowing us to play a role in the vital work you do with communities in the North West.



Dining in on 'fake-away'

The Burnie Community House is helping people to make healthier and cheaper versions of their favourite takeaway. Participants can take part in a workshop of their choice, prepare, cook and eat the meal on the day and take home a pack for four so they can get cooking with their newfound skills and knowledge. TasNetworks is proud to support this initiative, which teaches people and families how to maximise their weekly food budget while still enjoying takeaway-style food.

Your feedback and our actions

Community information sessions

We conducted five community information sessions at events and locations along the proposed transmission line route, and four dedicated landholder information sessions. The purpose of these sessions was to provide information about the NWT, project benefits and capture feedback on what is important to community members and what they are concerned about. We heard from a broad range of people from across North West Tasmania including directly impacted landholders, residents, businesses, and visitors to the area.

Date	Event	Number of attendees
10 March 2024	Taste of the North West, Sheffield	100
18-21 March 2024	Landholder drop-in events in Bracknell, Sheffield, Kindred, and Ridgley, in partnership with TasFarmers and Rural Alive and Well	50
24 March 2024	Rural Alive and Well Easter Egg Hunt, Bracknell	10
6 April 2024	North West Ecofest, Ulverstone	20
7 April 2024	Central Coast Business, Tourism & Travel Expo, Ulverstone	30
2-4 May 2024	AgFest, Carrick	100

Stakeholder Liaison Group

The NWT Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) is an independently chaired group made up of 15 members with representation across key industry groups, peak bodies, education, skills and training sectors and state government organisations. The SLG has been meeting bi-monthly in Burnie since 2021. The meetings provide an opportunity for TasNetworks to understand stakeholder perspectives and receive feedback on a range of matters related to the NWT.

Three SLG meetings were held between January and June 2024 at the Cradle Coast Authority in Burnie.

We discussed a range of topics including:

- Key project milestones
- Communications and engagement activities

Landholder drop-in sessions

A letter was sent to all NWT landholders seeking feedback on a proposed Strategic Benefit Payment (SBP) and included an invitation to landholder drop-in information sessions. Landholders were asked to provide feedback on the SBP options via written response to the letter, in person at a drop-in session or by contacting their dedicated land agent directly.

- Regional Economic Development Action Plan
- Community investment opportunities
- Landholder engagement and compensation
- Aboriginal community engagement
- Contingent Project Application Head contractor procurement
- Redeveloping TasNetworks' Stakeholder Groups
- Marinus Link
- Government renewable energy commitments
- Renewable Energy Zones.

SLG members were also asked to provide feedback on the common concerns and opportunities raised by the communities they represent, as well as engagement and communications activities.

More information about the SLG, including agendas, presentations and meeting minutes can be found here.

RAW event



Easter Egg Hunt – Rural Alive and Well

The Bracknell community came together for a day of fun with family and friends at the Rural Alive and Well (RAW) Easter Egg Hunt, held in March. The NWT project partnered with RAW for this wonderful inaugural event aimed at promoting social connection and building resilient communities. There were smiles all-round as eggs were collected, with some children using their TasNetworks toy helmet as a makeshift basket. The children also loved trying out the renewable electricity bike activity, pedaling as fast as they could to illuminate a map of Tasmania's transmission network. The event provided a unique engagement activity for the local community and generated an even greater online following. Thanks to RAW for putting on an eggcellent event!

184 community members attended

17,421 people reached via social media channels through advertising the event

What we heard



Community information sessions

The most common questions raised by attendees related to the following topics:

- NWTD project staging following the announcement that Marinus Link will initially proceed with one cable
- Undergrounding vs overhead transmission lines
- Timing of when construction will commence
- Impact of costs on power bill

Community feedback is helping us to communicate more effectively and to make it easier for people to find information about topics they care about. We've published a new NWTD Information Pack, which provides a high-level overview of the project. We have developed a range of resources to share information about topics of interest to stakeholders, landholders, and the community: www.tasnetworks.com.au/resources

**Can't find what you are looking for?
Please contact us at
nwtd@tasnetworks.com.au**

Landholder drop-ins

The most common questions raised by landholders related to the following topics:

- Compensation available to landholders
- Understanding Strategic Benefit Payments
- Undergrounding
- Tower positioning
- Farming impacts

Landholder feedback from these sessions will contribute to our overall understanding of landholder concerns, highlighting the topics that continue to be important to landholders and what they want to know more about. Specific feedback was sought from landholders about TasNetworks' SBP proposed options which are being considered in consultation with TasFarmers.

Stakeholder Liaison Group

SLG members were asked to complete an anonymous survey to check-in on the effectiveness of the group and future direction members would like to see. Results showed the members agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the role the SLG plays as part of the project and that their participation is a worthwhile use of time. Members identified the following aspects of the project they would like to be involved with in the future:

- Training and workforce needs
- Skilling, economic growth and ensuring equity and inclusion
- Procurement
- Economic development
- Supporting the implementation of community benefits sharing

Social licence

In May 2023, the Energy Charter released the Better Practice Social Licence Guideline, developed by six Transmission Network Service Providers and a Community Outcomes Group. A 12-month Independent Review has now been undertaken to assess progress in implementing the Priority Actions and Better Practice Opportunities and to provide constructive feedback. This has served as a great opportunity for TasNetworks to review and reflect on the good progress that has been made and consider opportunities for further improvement.

The annual independent review – June 2024 includes progress report and recommendations and is available here.

Community investment



TasNetworks the border collie at Agfest

Following recent interactions with our NWTD land agents, local North West Tasmanian farmer, Geoff, purchased a working dog that he uses in sheep dog trials. His name – 'TasNetworks'.

TasNetworks, an energetic border collie, competed in the sheepdog trials at Agfest in May and then sniffed his way along to visit us in the TasNetworks tent.

Geoff explained "Tas didn't go as well as he was hoping for, but he is still a young dog – I reckon he will go a lot better next year".

Good luck for next year TasNetworks – we will have special treats ready and waiting for your next visit.

Working with TasFarmers

TasNetworks was pleased to be one of the first partners to support the Farm Access Code of Conduct. The Code has been developed by TasFarmers and the Victorian Farmers Federation to help protect farmers' rights, build better co-operation, and help prevent long and stressful disputes that can delay crucial projects. The Code sets out mutually agreed timelines, processes and courtesies to be followed by proponents looking to consult with farmers about developing infrastructure on their land.



Contacting the team

We are committed to making improvements to our engagement approach. Let us know how we can better understand what is important to you and what we need to consider to achieve the best outcomes for the environment, landholders, and community.

Contact us



tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd



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