

Proposed North West Transmission Developments

Engagement Update July to December 2023





Contents

About the project	5
NWTD staging change	5
Introduction	6
How we have engaged	6
What we asked and who we heard from	7
What we heard	10
How feedback will be used	11
Contacting the team	12



Figure 1: The NWT D project will be delivered in two stages

About the project

The North West Transmission Developments project, being progressed by TasNetworks, is a once in a generation upgrade to the electricity transmission network.

The project is needed to support Tasmania's ambition to become a world-leading renewable energy provider and double clean energy production by 2040.

The NWT D include new and upgraded overhead transmission lines that will link Cressy, Burnie, Sheffield, Staverton, Hampshire, and East Cam. The developments will increase the capacity and reliability of Tasmania's electricity network and support Australia's transition to a clean energy future.

The project is currently in the design and approvals phase. You can find out more about the approvals process by watching this video.

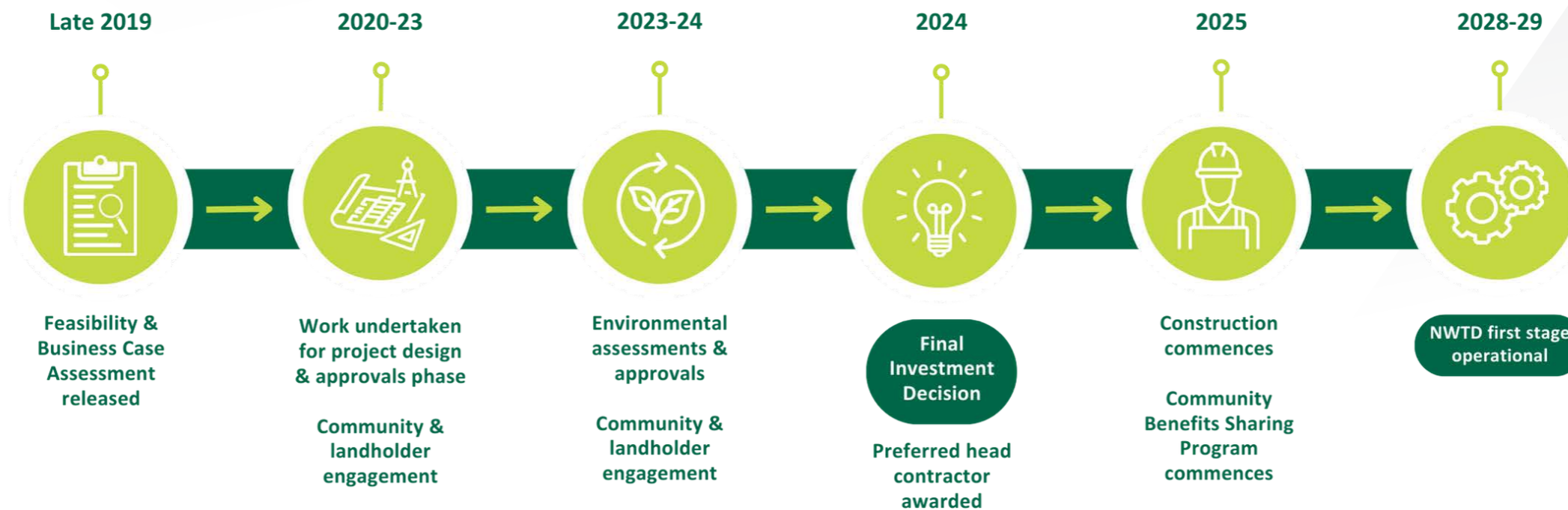
NWTD staging change

In September 2023, the Australian Government announced that Marinus Link, the proposed electricity and telecommunications interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria, will in the first instance proceed with one cable.

Following the announcement, TasNetworks reviewed the NWTD project scope to ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of the transmission network required for the first Marinus Link cable, while maintaining flexibility to deliver the network needed for a second Marinus Link cable.

As a result, the NWTD scope was revised to deliver the project across two stages, focusing on the delivery of Stage 1 until a final decision is taken on the second Marinus Link cable (refer to figure 1).

Project timeline



The first stage will involve constructing the section of the project between Palmerston (Cressy), Sheffield and Burnie via Heybridge to align with the construction of the first Marinus Link cable. Approximately 60 per cent of the proposed NWT D will be built in the first stage, with construction planned to start in 2025.

Stage two will deliver the remainder of the NWT D project, which includes the section between Staverton to Burnie via Hampshire Hills, to align with the construction of the second Marinus Link cable.

TasNetworks will continue to progress planning and approvals for both stages of the project in 2024.

Introduction

This document provides an outline of the engagement activities that were carried out between July and December 2023. 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 NWT D 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 respective landholders is ongoing and will continue throughout all phases of the project.

How we have engaged

Between July and December 2023 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 people want to know more about.

The figure below provides a snapshot of the activities that were carried out between July to December 2023.

-  **Three NWT D Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings held**
-  **190 attendees to three community information events**
-  **2,014 k visits to the online engagement portal**
-  **5 e-newsletters to over 800 subscribers**

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

- TasNetworks website
- TasNetworks online engagement portal
- Facebook
- E-newsletters
- Media

Shorewell Park Twilight Market



The inaugural Shorewell Park Twilight Market was held in September. Organised by Housing Choices Tasmania and supported by TasNetworks, this event provided an opportunity for the local community to get together, support local producers and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

TasNetworks supported the planning of the event and funded the Burnie Community House to prepare and provide food for market attendees. Our team appreciated the strong sense of community as they chatted with residents about the NWT D project.

What we asked and who we heard from

Information sessions

We conducted three community information sessions at events and locations along the proposed transmission line route. We spoke to many people at each event, captured below. The purpose of these sessions was to provide information about the NWT D, 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.

26 July	Heybridge Community Drop-in session	40
21 September	Shorewell Park Community Twilight Market	50
6-7 October	Burnie Show	100

Stakeholder Liaison Group

The NWTD Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) was established in October 2021 and includes 14 representatives from key industry groups, peak bodies, education, skills, youth, housing and training sectors and state government organisations.

A representative from the NWTD Youth Panel, engaged for the development of the NWTD Community Benefits Sharing Program, is also a member of the SLG.

The SLG held three meetings between July and December 2023 at the Cradle Coast Energy Hub in Burnie. The group discussed a range of topics including:

- Communications and engagement activities
- Key project milestones
- Economic Development Action Plan
- Environmental, planning and heritage approvals
- Marinus Link and Hydro Tasmania projects

- NWTD Community Benefits Sharing Program governance and administration arrangements
- Contingent Project Application
- Revised NWTD delivery stages
- Project cost estimates
- Electricity network pricing outcomes.

The SLG were 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.

Community Benefits Sharing Program

During 2022, TasNetworks undertook a co-design process with the local community and stakeholders to develop, refine and finalise a proposed community benefits sharing program (benefits program) for the North West Transmission Developments. This included engagement to collect feedback on the eligibility, funding, governance and administration aspects of the program.

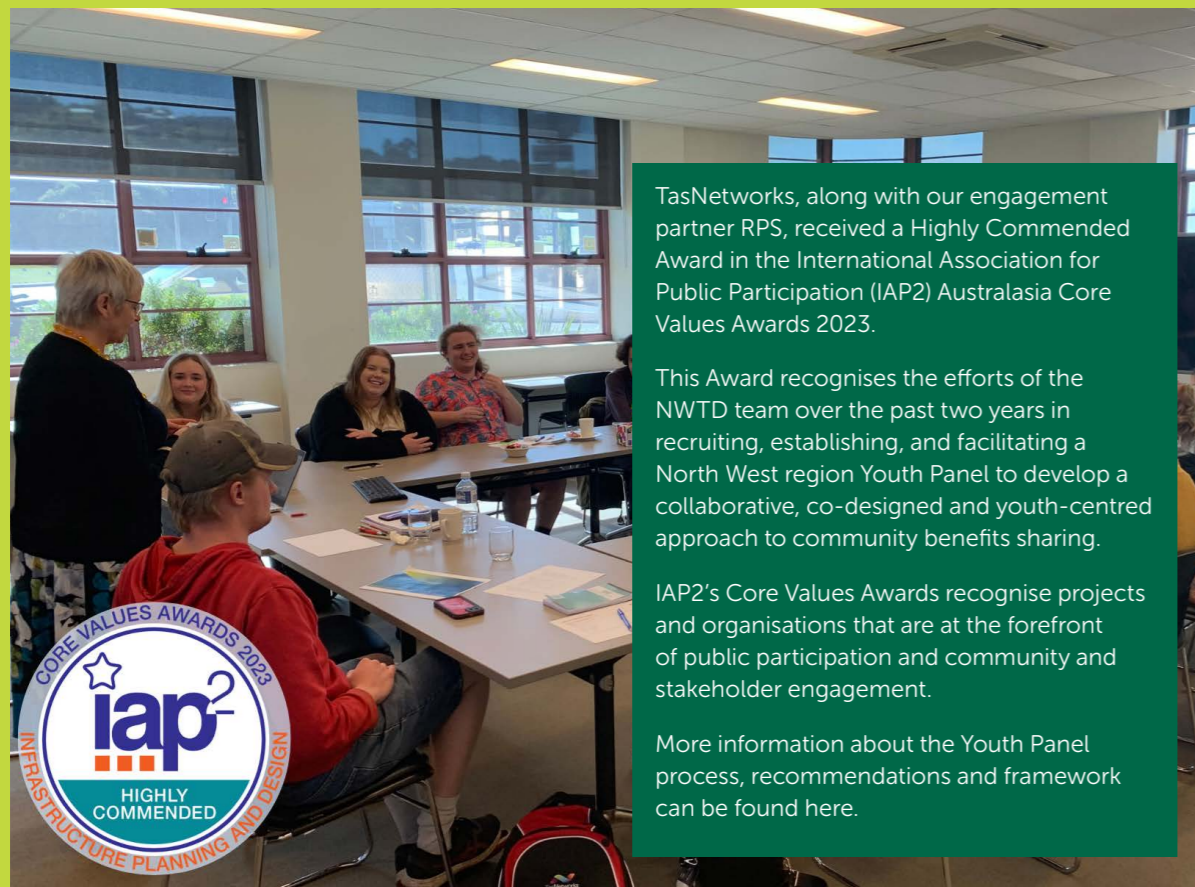
A key aspect of the process was the creation of a Youth Panel. Young people are the community members who will be living with the project for the longest, but they are also often absent from community engagement processes. Incorporating a Youth Panel within the process guaranteed the involvement of young people in the co-design of a benefits program.

In March 2023, the TasNetworks Board endorsed the benefits program and approved, subject to project approval, a \$10M (maximum) allocation to fund the program throughout the project's construction period.

You can view the final Community Benefits Sharing Program framework here.

The next step will involve finalising the governance and administrative arrangements for the program. We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

NWTD team receives IAP2 Highly Commended Award



TasNetworks, along with our engagement partner RPS, received a Highly Commended Award in the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia Core Values Awards 2023.

This Award recognises the efforts of the NWTD team over the past two years in recruiting, establishing, and facilitating a North West region Youth Panel to develop a collaborative, co-designed and youth-centred approach to community benefits sharing.

IAP2's Core Values Awards recognise projects and organisations that are at the forefront of public participation and community and stakeholder engagement.

More information about the Youth Panel process, recommendations and framework can be found here.

Community investment



Whilst the Community Benefits Sharing Program is expected to kick-off in 2025, NWTD currently supports a range of community organisations in the footprint of the proposed project. In the past six months, NWTD has provided community investment funding to the following:

- Cuprona Bulldogs Clubhouse – supporting the development of their new clubhouse
- Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden – funding new internet connection to livestream platypus at the Gardens
- Rural Health Tasmania – supporting disengaged young people to make a positive difference across Smithton and Wynyard
- Kentish Community Men's Shed – replacing a range of important tools to enable them to continue to deliver community projects
- Burnie Community House – 'Fakeaway', helping create takeaway meals at home, reducing costs and making healthier choices
- City of Burnie Lions Club – purchase of a sewing machine and overlocker for clothing alternation lessons
- Whitmore Tennis Club – safety and access upgrade for community members.

What we heard



Information sessions

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

- Scope and location of the project
- Noise during construction, in relation to the Heybridge area
- Overhead versus underground transmission lines
- Cost of the project and who will pay
- Impact on power prices, reliability, and energy security
- Renewable energy developments

The most commonly raised perceived advantages of the project included:

- Employment and jobs
- Economic benefits
- Renewable energy developments
- Lower power prices
- Improved energy security for Tasmania
- Facilitating Tasmania's role in the clean energy transition.

The most commonly raised perceived disadvantages of the project included:

- Impacts on landholders and farmers
- Visual impacts
- Loss of property value
- Cost of project
- Power price increases
- Impacts on the environment.

Stakeholder Liaison Group

The SLG members shared valuable insights into community perceptions of the NWTB project, economic development, and topics of interest to their stakeholders. The SLG also provided feedback on the wider program deliverables and our engagement activities.

Over two SLG meetings members were asked to provide feedback and insights on proposed governance and administrative arrangements for the Community Benefits Sharing Program. Feedback received, drawn from members' experience and local knowledge, has helped us shape the following:

- independent community assessment panel
- application and assessment process
- monitoring and reporting
- capacity building.

Further engagement with stakeholders will continue in early 2024 as we progress the development of the Community Benefits Sharing program.

The SLG also advised on the expected cumulative impacts and opportunities of major projects in the region, including workforce skills and training, worker accommodation and the coordination of engagement activities. Members also advised on the perceived community and stakeholder sentiment regarding the revised delivery stages and project cost estimates.

How feedback is used

Community feedback is helping us to communicate more effectively and to make it easier for people to find information about topics they care about. Recently, we published a number of new resources to share information about topics of interest, including:

- A dedicated landholder webpage
- Fact sheets:
 - Notified Corridor Q&A fact sheet
 - Irrigators and Transmission Lines fact sheet
 - Fencing near Transmission Lines fact sheet
 - Easement and Compensation fact sheet for landholders
 - TasNetworks' Land Access, Land and Easement Acquisition and Compensation Process.

Our engagement program for July to December 2023 was also informed by community preferences and feedback. Our program included dedicated sessions and communications to provide general information about the project, procurement, planning and approvals process, and environmental impacts.

To be the first to know about upcoming engagement opportunities, join our e-newsletter mailing list by visiting tasnetworks.com.au/nwtd, email us at NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au or call us on 1300 127 777.



New landholder web page

There are more than 350 landholders across the proposed North West Transmission Developments, with a diverse range of land uses including rural residential, farming, and commercial forestry.

In October 2023, we launched a new webpage on the TasNetworks website to provide landholders with a range of information and resources including:

- Accessing private land
- Easements
- Land and easement acquisition
- Our commitment to engaging with landholders.

The website and resources can be found here.



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



NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au



1300 127 777



facebook.com/tasnetworks