

# Proposed North West Transmission Developments Engagement update

June to December 2021



**MARINUS** LINK  
PROPOSED ROUTE

BASSLINK

**Burnie**  
East Cam area

**Heybridge**  
Converter Station

**Stowport**  
area

**Highclere**  
area

**Hampshire Hills**

**Sheffield**

**Staverton**  
(near Cethana)

**Palmerston**  
(near Cressy)

**North West Transmission Developments - Proposed Routes**

- ① Palmerston to Sheffield  
Length: ~80km - New towers: ~190
- ② Sheffield to Heybridge area  
Length: ~42km - New towers: ~77
- ③ Stowport area to Heybridge Converter Station  
Length: ~3.2km - New towers: ~18
- ④ Stowport area to Burnie  
Length: ~5km - New towers: ~14
- ⑤ Burnie to East Cam area  
Length: ~4.6km - New towers: ~13
- ⑥ East Cam area to Highclere area  
Length: ~15.2km - New towers: ~28
- ⑦ Highclere area to Hampshire Hills  
Length: ~9.3km - New towers: ~20
- ⑧ Staverton to Hampshire Hills  
Length: ~60km - New towers: ~124
- ⑨ Staverton to Sheffield  
Length: ~18.6km - New towers: 0 (existing)

220 kV existing transmission    110 kV existing transmission    New 220 kV transmission in new or widened easement

North West Transmission Developments Map

# About the project

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**The North West Transmission Developments include 240km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure that will power up investment in Tasmania's north-west.**

The project will link Palmerston, Sheffield, Burnie, East Cam, Hampshire, and Staverton to help further unlock Tasmania's clean renewable energy resources and support the development of Marinus Link. The network of towers and wires that carries electricity from hydro and wind projects in the north-west needs to be developed to support new developments and to accommodate increased power flows to and from Marinus Link.

The developments, together with Marinus Link, will enable Tasmania to double its clean energy capability and play a major role in providing a clean and affordable energy future for all Australians.

The project is currently in the design and approvals phase.

## Introduction

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**This document provides an outline of the engagement activities that were carried out between June and December 2021 for the North West Transmission Developments.**

We are committed to working closely with stakeholders, community, and landowners as part of the planning for the project. Your feedback is helping us to understand what is important to you and what needs to be considered to achieve the best outcomes for the environment, landowners, and community as planning for the project continues.

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

Engagement activities for the Staverton to Hampshire Hills section of the route are not included in this report as we are currently running a separate community engagement process for this project. You can find out more information about Staverton to Hampshire Hills [here](#).

# How we engaged

We have been engaging with the community about the North West Transmission Developments since 2019.

In June 2021, we released the proposed routes for the North West Transmission Developments. We then carried out a range of engagement activities between June and December 2021 to gather feedback on the proposed routes, understand what is important to you and what you want to know more about.

The figure below provides a snapshot of the activities that were carried out between June and December 2021.

## North West Transmission Developments Engagement between June 2021 and December 2021

Landowner meetings



online surveys



23 attended an online webinar



11 community information events held



267 attended community information events

858 visits to engagement webpage\*



24 attended focus groups

\*as of 20 December 2021

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



**TasNetworks website**



**TasNetworks online engagement portal**



**Facebook**



**E-newsletter**



**Letters and postcards to nearby residents**



**Radio advertising**



**Public notices and advertisements in newspapers**



**Posters placed in the local community**



# What we asked

The focus of this phase of engagement was to understand your initial thoughts on the project and proposed routes, what you saw as potential advantages of the project, and what you saw as potential disadvantages of the project.

We also asked you for feedback on your preferred communications and engagement methods, and what topics you wanted to know more about.

# Who we heard from

When planning our engagement activities, we wanted to ensure we heard from a broad cross section of the community who are both impacted and interested in the project.









Drop-in session in Upper Burnie.



Drop-in session in Stowport.

## We held nine community drop-in sessions at locations along the alignment

Thursday 24 June 2021	<b>Burnie</b>	<b>7</b>	
Wednesday 9 June 2021	<b>Heybridge</b>	<b>17</b>	
Thursday 10 June 2021	<b>Ridgley</b>	<b>24</b>	
Saturday 12 June 2021	<b>Ridgley</b>	<b>24</b>	
Thursday 22 July 2021	<b>Sheffield</b>	<b>5</b>	
Friday 23 July 2021	<b>Sheffield</b>	<b>5</b>	
Saturday 26 June 2021	<b>Shorewell Park</b>	<b>10</b>	
Sunday 13 June 2021	<b>Stowport</b>	<b>13</b>	
Sunday 27 June 2021	<b>Upper Burnie</b>	<b>15</b>	

We also held two community pop-up sessions



**67**  
attendees  
at the Westbury Show  
on 6 November 2021

**80**  
attendees  
at the Upper Burnie  
Woolworths on  
7 November 2021

## Focus groups

In November and December 2021, we held four online focus groups to gain a deeper understanding of community perceptions and hear more about what is important to the north west community.

Focus group participants included community members from both rural and urban communities in the project area, including Acton, Bracknell, Burnie, Cuprona, Deloraine, Devonport, Gawler, Nook, Penguin, Sheffield, Somerset, Ulverstone and West Ulverstone.

Monday 22 November 2021 **Urban** **7** 

Monday 29 November 2021 **Rural** **6** 

Thursday 25 November 2021 **Urban** **6** 

Thursday 2 December 2021 **Rural** **5** 



# What we heard

General feedback received about the project told us that there is still a low level of awareness and understanding of the project among community members.

Once you found out more about the project, you were interested in finding out more about the benefits for the North West region, and how these benefits would be realised.

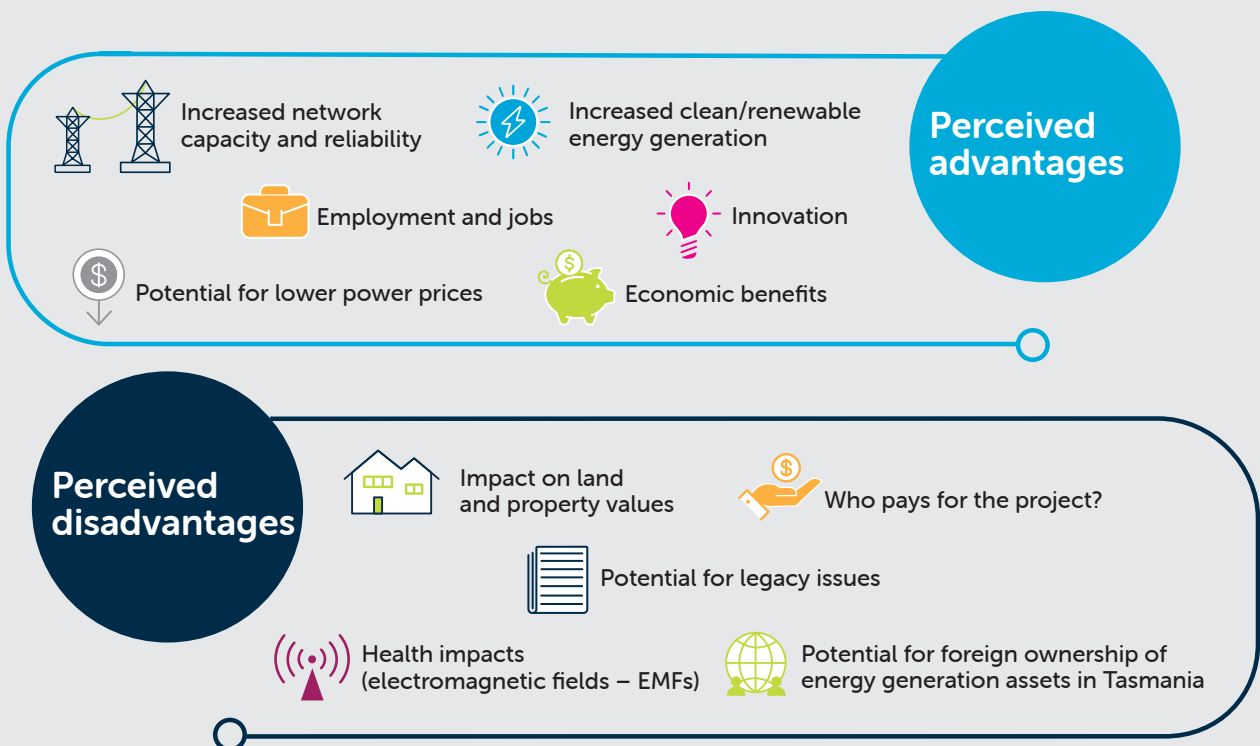
We also heard about potential issues and concerns that should be taken into consideration as planning for the project continues.

We received similar comments and feedback across both rural and urban communities. As to be expected, there was a higher level of concern regarding impacts on land use in rural areas, including (but not limited to) loss of prime agricultural land, compensation negotiations, and impacts during construction.

A snapshot of what we heard through our engagement activities is outlined below.

## Drop in sessions, pop-up sessions and online survey

Below is a snapshot of what we heard at the drop-in sessions, pop-up sessions and through the online survey.

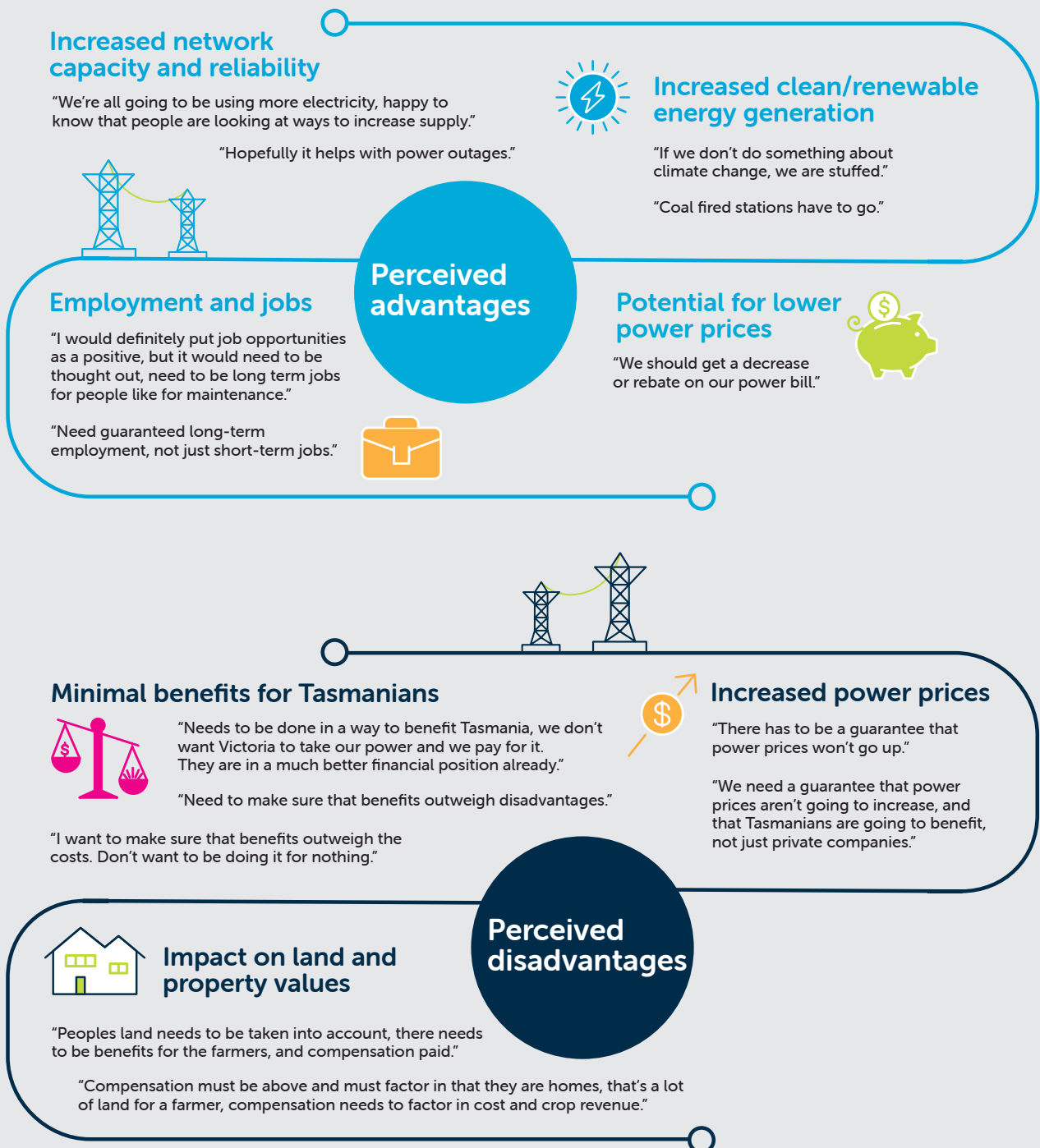




# Focus groups

The focus groups gave us a great insight into community perceptions, and some valuable understandings on how people prefer to receive information.

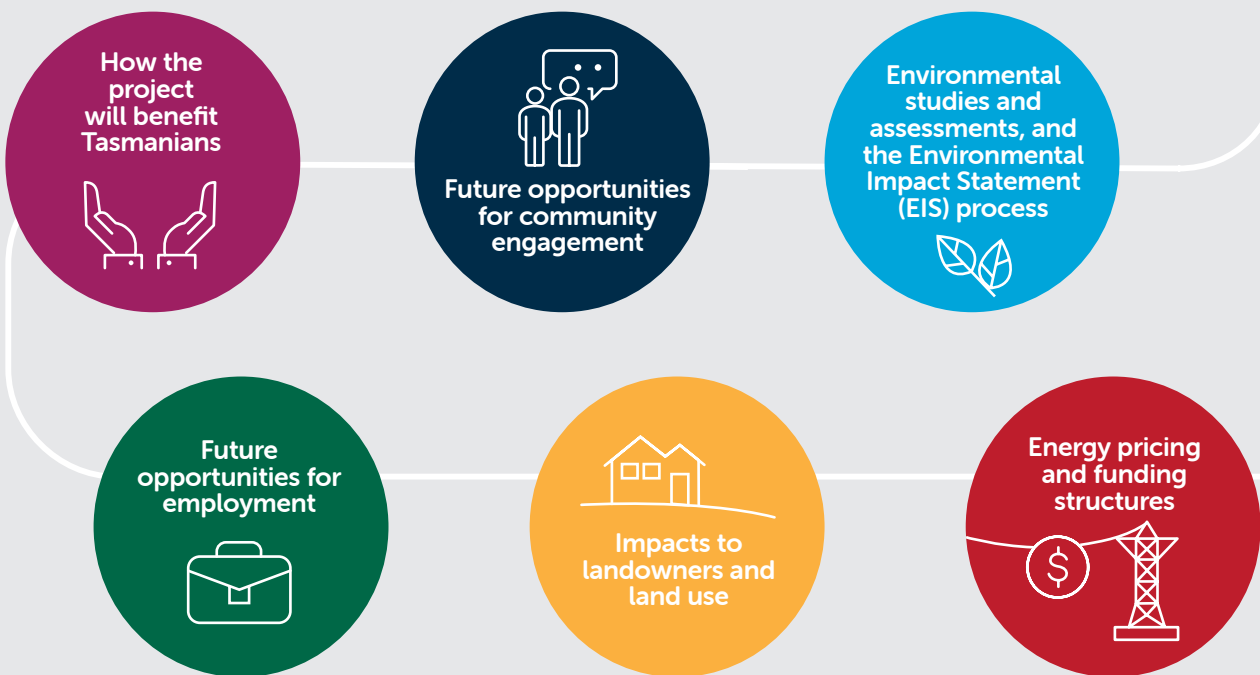
Below is a snapshot of what we heard at the focus groups:



## Key topics of **interest**

During this phase of engagement, we asked you to let us know what topics you wanted to know more about.

You told us that you want more information about:



We were also asked by many of you to provide more information on why we are using overhead power lines instead of putting the power lines underground.

## How you want us to communicate and **engage with you**

We also asked you to tell us your preferred way of receiving information and engaging with us about the project. We heard that many of you find out information from local news outlets and social media. Some of you told us that you still like to receive information in the mail.

We also heard that you want us to continue engaging with you face to face and have up to date information available through a project website.

# How your feedback **will be used**

## Helping us achieve **better outcomes**

The feedback received from the community to date is helping to inform the ongoing development of the North West Transmissions Developments project as it moves through the design and approvals phase.

Following the completion of each engagement activity carried out between June and December 2021, the project team were briefed on issues that were raised by the community, as well as the community's views and feedback on the proposed routes. This feedback is being used by our engineers to refine and inform the design and route of the proposed transmission lines.

Key members of the project team – including designers and technical experts – were in attendance at all of the community drop-in and pop-up sessions. This allowed those directly involved in the project's development to discuss the project with residents and stakeholders and gain further understanding of the issues that are important to them.

## Helping us **communicate better**

We are also using your feedback to refine our future communication and engagement approach and are planning a variety of engagement events in 2022. We will continue to engage with you both in person and online.

We will distribute information about the project and promote future opportunities for engagement using multiple methods, including the project webpage, e-newsletters, advertisements in local newspapers and mail-outs, and we will continue to post updates about the project on TasNetworks' Facebook page.

To be the first to know about upcoming engagement opportunities, you can register for our e-newsletter by visiting [talkwith.tasnetworks.com.au](http://talkwith.tasnetworks.com.au), emailing us on [NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au) or calling us on **1300 127 777**.

## Contacting the **team**



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We are committed to working closely with landowners and the community as the project develops to understand what is important to you and what we need to consider to achieve the best outcomes for the environment, landowners, and community. You can contact us with any questions about the project on the details provided here.

-  **visit** [talkwith.tasnetworks.com.au](http://talkwith.tasnetworks.com.au)
-  **email** [NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:NWTD@tasnetworks.com.au)
-  **call** 1300 127 777
-  **social** [facebook.com/tasnetworks](https://facebook.com/tasnetworks)



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