



Fact sheet: Managing weeds in power line easements

This fact sheet provides an overview of TasNetworks' approach to the management of declared weeds near new and existing electricity infrastructure, before, during and after construction.

Under Tasmanian biosecurity legislation, private landholders are primarily responsible for eradicating or controlling declared weeds on their property. However, TasNetworks acknowledges that it has a responsibility to help the Tasmanian community manage declared weed species within or near power line easements.

Objectives

- 1 Keeping power line easements free of invasive weed species, with a focus on high value areas¹ (high value farmland and public and private reserves) where vegetation has been cleared or the ground disturbed.
- 2 Supporting, collaborative, cross tenure weed management efforts to help ensure high-value areas near existing power lines remain largely free of declared weeds.
- 3 Taking all reasonably practical action to eliminate, prevent or minimise, the spread of weeds, pests and disease during all operational, construction and maintenance work.

¹ Any area with significant environmental, community, heritage or economic value. This includes, but is not limited to, all reserves as defined under the Nature Conservation Act, farms and agricultural areas with an active biosecurity plan.



Before construction

- New electricity infrastructure is designed to avoid areas of weeds and disease, or potential carriers of weeds and disease where practical.
- Ecological surveys are completed including mapping of declared weeds near the area of disturbance for major projects. Locations of declared weeds are recorded on the Natural Values Atlas.
- Declared weeds in existing easements are treated prior to construction. Other weeds are considered for treatment on a case by case basis depending on existing community efforts and location and extent of outbreak.

During construction

- Areas with known weeds and disease, or potential carriers of weeds and disease, to be avoided during construction where practical.
- Contractors and applicable team members to be made aware of biosecurity risks including weed identification training and resources (see TasNetworks Weed Id Guide or WeedScan).
- Strict biosecurity hygiene measures must be adhered to throughout construction, particularly where significant biosecurity risks are identified (e.g. working in areas with weeds and disease or areas susceptible to harm if weeds, pests or disease are introduced).
- All vehicles, machinery and equipment must 'arrive clean and leave clean' where required.
- All quarry material used during construction must be certified as weed and disease free prior to use.

After construction

- Disturbed areas are rehabilitated/revegetated to minimise the colonisation of invasive weeds.
- Three years of weed monitoring and management occurs within new transmission easements.
- Monitoring and management of weeds within existing power line easements is managed via TasNetworks' Strategic Weed Management Program. The program is focused on eradicating declared weeds, keeping high value areas weed free (i.e. the Wilderness World Heritage Area) and supporting collaborative, cross tenure, weed management projects with community and natural resource management groups.
- All ongoing maintenance and operations staff and contractors working on transmission easements must comply with Tasmanian biosecurity legislation and regulations, the Charter for Working on Private Farmland and TasNetworks Biosecurity Standard.
- Ensure that, as far as reasonably practical, all TasNetworks staff and contractors, 'arrive clean and leave clean' during all operational and maintenance work.

Other opportunities

- TasNetworks welcomes opportunities to work with communities on collaborative weed management projects adjacent to transmission infrastructure to tackle more established weed outbreaks or support broader community led natural resource management projects.

References:

1. TasNetworks Biosecurity Standard
2. TasNetworks Biosecurity Hygiene Work Practice

More information

To find out more visit our website:



tasnetworks.com.au



environment@tasnetworks.com.au



1300 137 008

Alternatively contact us at:

TasNetworks

PO Box 606 Moonah TAS 7009