

# North West Transmission Developments

Draft Community Benefits Sharing  
Program Framework July 2022



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# Introduction



## Youth Panel draft recommendations report

The proposed North West Transmission Developments (NWTd) include 240km of new and upgraded transmission lines and other energy infrastructure, that will increase the capacity of Tasmania's electricity network.

The developments will link the transmission network from the Cressy area to Sheffield, Burnie, Hampshire and Staverton, providing enough capacity for Marinus Link and other renewable energy developments to connect into the electricity grid. The developments will support Australia's energy transition alongside Tasmania's ambition to be a world leading renewable energy provider.

Like any major infrastructure project, the NWTd will impact communities during construction and operation. Developing a community benefits sharing program (CBSP) is part of TasNetworks' commitment to ensuring that we leave an ongoing and sustainable positive legacy for the community in North West Tasmania.

In early 2022, TasNetworks formed a Youth Panel made up of young people from the six local government areas impacted by the NWTd. The panel worked together to co-design a draft CBSP framework for the NWTd.

Engaging youth was an important first step in developing a CBSP framework for North West Tasmania. It is vital young people are included in decisions that affect their community, and for the NWTd, as they are the community members who will live with the developments for the longest.

The next step in the development of a CBSP is to consult with the wider community of North West Tasmania to gather your feedback on the Youth Panel's draft recommendations.

I encourage you to get involved, provide feedback and have a say in shaping the future of your community.

**Damian Vermey**

**Project Director, North West Transmission Developments, TasNetworks**



## About the Youth Panel

The Youth Panel was made up of 18–25-year-olds from across North West Tasmania. The panel met five times from March to May 2022 and were tasked with co-designing a draft CBSP framework.

The professionally facilitated process included online and in-person meetings, guest speakers and a site visit to locations that will be impacted by the NWTd. The Youth Panel process provided participants with the opportunity to build career and life skills, create networks with other young people and be a part of a professional, community focused process.

By its final meeting, the Youth Panel had developed and agreed on a draft CBSP framework. This framework provides several recommendations to be considered by TasNetworks for the development of a NWTd CBSP.

The draft recommendations developed by the Youth Panel address three main areas of the CBSP:

- What projects and/or activities should be awarded funding under the program
- Who should be awarded funding under the program
- How the community benefits program should be delivered.

# Draft community benefits sharing program framework

The Youth Panel identified seven potential 'focus areas'. Any initiatives funded under the CBSP would need to demonstrate that they will deliver benefits in one or more of these focus areas.

The draft focus areas were selected because they represented the local issues the Youth Panel were most concerned about. These were:

1. Health and well-being including mental and physical health
2. Community infrastructure
3. Environment/sustainability, possibly including agribusiness
4. Accessibility and availability to reliable services eg transport, medical services
5. Community arts initiatives, including events
6. Education eg literacy and numeracy, employment skills and training
7. Encouraging a sense of community.



## Who can apply?

**The Youth Panel recommends that anyone can apply for the CBSP funding, with the below conditions:**

- The initiative needs to benefit an identified community
- Excludes applications for religious, political purposes or individual gain
- Applications from individuals or commercial entities must demonstrate community support eg can include start-ups
- The initiative must be Australian owned or registered
- Priority to be given to Tasmanian owned initiatives, or individuals and business owners within the six LGAs impacted by the NWTD.



## Eligibility requirements

**The Youth Panel drafted several rules that potential initiatives would need to meet to be funded under the CBSP. They also suggested that certain things should be prioritised over others when initiatives are being assessed for funding. The Youth Panel recommended that to be eligible for the CBSP, an initiative needs to:**

1. Align with one or more CBSP focus areas (provided above)
2. Benefit a defined community within the six Local Government Areas impacted by the project
  - For example, geographic location, demographic group, minority, or marginalised groups
3. Primarily benefits communities within the six LGAs impacted by the North West Transmission Developments
  - Priority given to directly and indirectly affected communities eg line of sight project infrastructure, during construction or greenfield developments.
4. Demonstrate values\* of inclusion, accessibility, long-term impact, and sustainability
5. Have a positive impact and demonstrated benefit
  - Priority given to initiatives that address a deficit in the community eg underfunded areas or disenfranchised communities
  - Priority given to initiatives with demonstrated community support.



## Funding framework

**The Youth Panel recommends that three tiers of funding should be available, and the following should apply:**

- More burden of proof required as funding tiers increase
- Scale of funding must be proportionate to level of benefit provided
- Support to be provided for smaller organisations to increase application accessibility.

\*For higher funding amounts, initiatives must demonstrate all values

# Get involved and have your say!

We are now seeking your feedback on the draft Youth Panel recommendations. You can have your say by:

**Attending one of our community barbeques to speak with a member of our team. Food and refreshments will be provided.**

- Saturday 30 July, 2022 11am-2pm, Burnie Community House
- Sunday 31 July, 2022 11am-2pm, Sheffield Town Square (located next to the post office)



**Completing our online survey between 25 July and 31 August 2022.**

Visit [www.tasnetworks.com.au/youthpanel2022](http://www.tasnetworks.com.au/youthpanel2022)

## Next steps

Your feedback will be used by the Youth Panel to finalise the draft NWTDCBSP framework when they meet again later in the year.

Once finalised, the draft framework will be presented to the TasNetworks Leadership Team and Board to review and endorse in late 2022.

## More information

We encourage you to visit our website and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date.



[facebook.com/tasnetworks](https://facebook.com/tasnetworks)



[linkedin.com/tas-networks](https://linkedin.com/tas-networks)



[tasnetworks.com.au/youthpanel2022](http://tasnetworks.com.au/youthpanel2022)



**“My favourite part of the Youth Panel is having the opportunity to meet such an amazing group of people and being given the opportunity to voice our opinions about what we want to see happen in the community”**

– Laura, Youth Panel member

**“If you want programs and initiatives that are going to address the things you care about then you should be involved so that they are going to be the right things for you and your community”**

– Stephanie, Youth Panel member

**“It is really important that any guidelines we have come up with are reinforced by the community”**

– Keeomi, Youth Panel member



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Watch the Youth Panel in action

Watch the Youth Panel process in action and hear more from participants about their experience developing the draft CBSP framework.