



MEDIA RELEASE

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Interstate support welcome

Interstate contractors will today start supporting TasNetworks' storm recovery efforts.

22 crew members from New South Wales arrived in Tasmania this morning. They'll supplement dozens of rotating TasNetworks crews already working hard to restore customers as quickly as possible.

At 6am, almost 8,600 customers remained without power across more than 620 active jobs contributing to network outages. An overnight storm front has pushed those numbers back up slightly.

TasNetworks Acting Operations Executive, Tim Gowland, said while days to weeks of work remain, the interstate support crews will help TasNetworks' existing workforce address more outages in the north and north-west.

"We feel deeply for Tasmanians who've already gone several days and nights without power in their homes, businesses and farms," Mr Gowland said.

"It's somewhat customary, but always deeply appreciated, that Australians band together in times of need. TasNetworks crews have previously travelled interstate to lend support, including in the wake of devastating bushfires.

"These 22 New South Wales crew members have arrived on the Spirit of Tasmania this morning, fully equipped. They're bringing four Elevated Work Platform vehicles and 12 four-wheel-drive utilities. They'll receive a safety induction and specific knowledge before working on our network under local direction. We greatly appreciate their support.

"Our TasNetworks team members have been working long, hard hours, in severe conditions, to restore Tasmanians' power, and they've been outstanding in their commitment and professionalism. Overall, they've restored power to about 150,000 customers so far. The interstate help will give us more crews in the field, as well as the opportunity to rest and rotate people most effectively.

"We still have several days of hard work ahead. We'll succeed more quickly with extra field crews available," he said.

The impact of current storm damage is unprecedented in recent memory. While TasNetworks has confronted other storms affecting tens of thousands of customers in recent years, they've usually involved a few dozen separate outages, compared to more than 200 for much of the current event.

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