



## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23 September, 2024

### **Protecting our people and Tasmanians**

TasNetworks is asking Tasmanians to remain supportive and respectful towards its people amid fresh storm damage and outages.

At midday today, almost 10,000 customers were without power across about 20 separate outages, mainly in southern Tasmania, because of a severe storm felling trees across lines.

TasNetworks crews are working extremely hard in difficult conditions to restore power as quickly as possible. However, the business is mindful of recent frustration and anxiety in the community because of the unprecedented storm damage, and prior industrial action, in late-August and early-September.

CEPU-led industrial action remains suspended after a Fair Work Commissioner ruled that union officials led recent action in TasNetworks' Transmission Control Room that *'threatened to endanger the life, the personal safety or health, or the welfare, of the population or of part of it'* during storm recovery.

TasNetworks Executive for People, Renee Anderson, said TasNetworks' field crews and other team members were outstanding in their commitment and professionalism during recent storm recovery.

"Facing unprecedented damage, our people worked tirelessly to restore power to almost 200,000 customers in an impressive timeframe," Ms Anderson said.

"They're again fully committed to restoring customers' power amid the current storm, and we urge Tasmanians to remain patient and supportive.

"We're aware of a CEPU rally occurring amid the storm today. However, we're focussed solely on protecting the safety of our people and Tasmanians, and restoring supply as quickly as possible.

"Our workers are doing everything they can to get peoples' power back on as quickly as possible, and we thank them for their efforts. We also understand Tasmanians' anxieties may be high after the unprecedented recent storm damage, and may be further exacerbated after the recent Fair Work ruling on safety.

"We urge all Tasmanians to treat our staff with respect as they get on with the task at hand. We can assure Tasmanians that CEPU-led industrial action remains suspended, and TasNetworks has sole command of today's response efforts," she said.

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