

23 June 2023

Tasmanian Planning Commission
GPO Box 1691
Hobart TAS 7001

Submitted by email: tpc@planning.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies

TasNetworks welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Tasmanian Planning Commission's (TPC's) consultation on the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs).

As both the Transmission and Distribution Network Service Provider for Tasmania, TasNetworks aims to deliver safe, secure and reliable electricity network services to Tasmanian customers at sustainable prices now and into the future. TasNetworks is therefore pleased to support the development of the TPPs. It is hoped the TPPs will provide consistent planning regulations which will encourage investment and also provide protections for the electricity industry to support economic growth in Tasmania.

TasNetworks supports the proposed changes to the TPPs, with a particular emphasis on the key areas of the TPPs considering energy infrastructure, protecting electricity infrastructure, and integrating infrastructure providers' strategic planning into land use planning.

Consideration of Energy Infrastructure:

TasNetworks supports the inclusion of provisions for energy infrastructure in all use and development assessments. It is crucial to acknowledge the significant role that energy infrastructure plays in supporting the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Tasmania. The comprehensive integration of energy infrastructure considerations throughout the planning process to ensure the reliability, resilience, and sustainability of our energy systems is critical.

Protection of Electricity Infrastructure:

It is also critically important to protect existing and future electricity infrastructure assets, sites, and infrastructure corridors from encroachment by sensitive and incompatible use and development. Electricity infrastructure is a lifeline for communities, supporting essential services, businesses, and industries. It is imperative to safeguard these infrastructure assets

to maintain a safe, secure, and reliable energy system. The SPO is encouraged to strengthen the TPPs by incorporating robust guidelines and regulations to prevent encroachment on electricity infrastructure, including the establishment of buffer zones and setback requirements.

Integration of Infrastructure Providers' Strategic Planning:

TasNetworks supports the TPC's recognition of the need for a coordinated approach to planning and approvals across various infrastructure services. To enhance this integration, it is essential to promote a more coordinated and cooperative relationship between infrastructure providers and land use planning authorities. By sharing trenches for electricity, water, communications, and gas, we can minimize disruption, reduce costs, and improve efficiency. TasNetworks supports any moves that result in greater collaboration among key stakeholders, facilitating joint strategic planning and decision-making processes.

TasNetworks supports the prioritisation of the protection of electricity infrastructure in the revised Tasmanian Planning Policies and suggests further measures could be taken to prevent encroachment on critical infrastructure. The strengthening of provisions that safeguard electricity infrastructure and ensuring the integration of infrastructure providers' strategic planning will improve the resilience, reliability, and safety of our energy system to the benefit of all Tasmanians.

For more information or to discuss this submission, please contact TasNetworks' Land Use Planner, Anita Bourn, by email on Anita.Bourn@tasnetworks.com.au or by phone on 03 6271 6413.

Yours faithfully



Chantal Hopwood
Head of Regulation