

## Representation No. 14

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**From:** Odin Kelly <Odin.Kelly@tasnetworks.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 April 2020 4:39 PM  
**To:** 'council@cirularhead.tas.gov.au' <council@cirularhead.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Circular Head Council <council@cirularhead.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** TasNetworks submission Circular Head LPS

Hi Circular Head Planner

Please see attached TasNetworks representation regarding the Circular Head LPS.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification.





**Odin Kelly**  
Consultant Planner  
Strategic Asset Management  
**P: 0402 627 369 E [odin.kelly@tasnetworks.com.au](mailto:odin.kelly@tasnetworks.com.au)**

***Monday & Wednesday***

1 – 7 Maria Street, Lenah Valley 7008  
PO Box 606, Moonah TAS 7009

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

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# Circular Head Council draft Local Provisions Schedule

TasNetworks' Submission

April 2020

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## 1. Who is TasNetworks?

TasNetworks was formed on 1 July 2014, through a merger between Aurora Energy's distribution network (the poles and wires) and Transend Networks (the big towers and lines). We're a Tasmanian state-owned corporation that supplies power from the generation source to homes and businesses through a network of transmission towers, substations and powerlines.

### Transmission

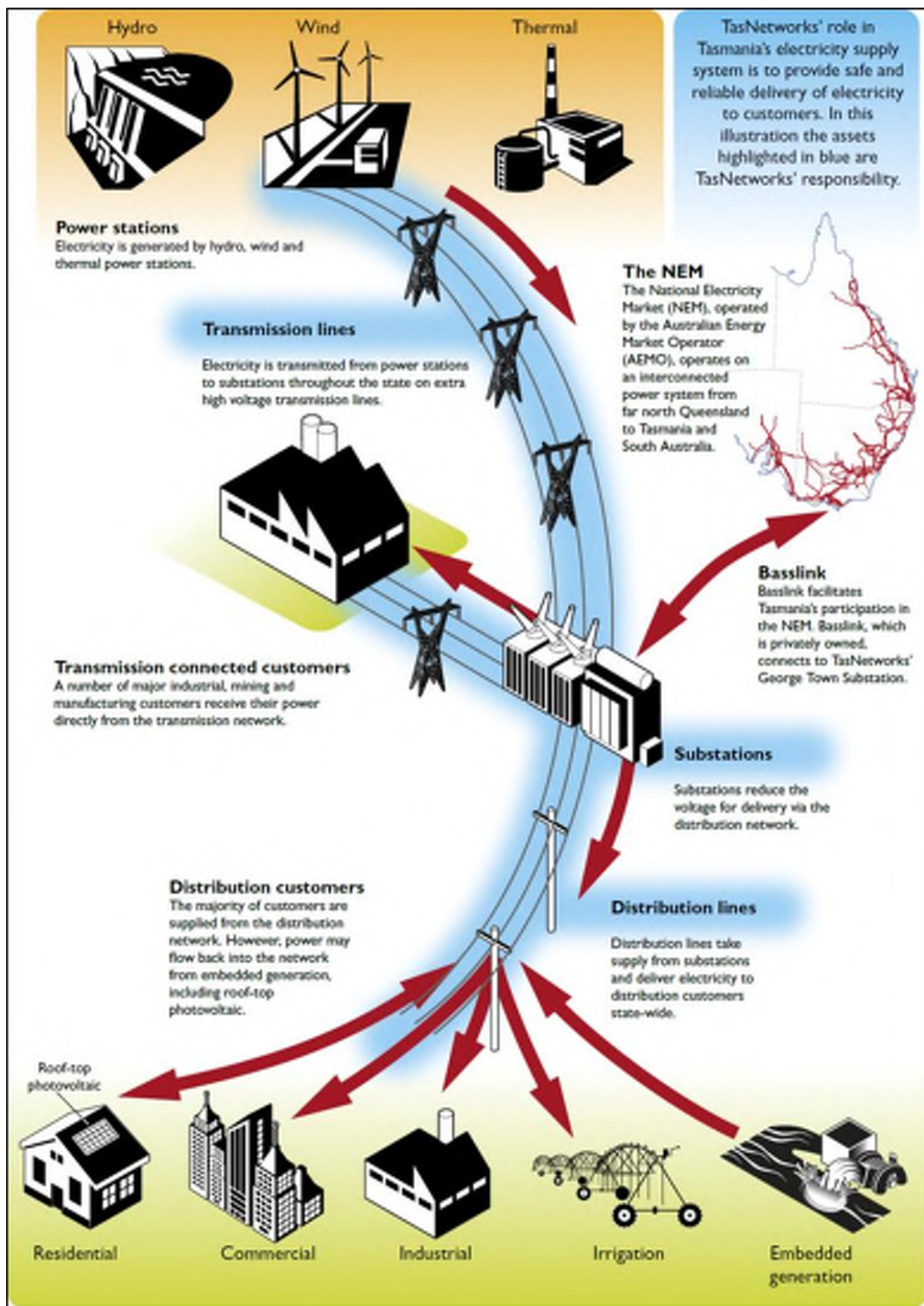
TasNetworks own, operate and maintain 3564 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and underground cables, 49 transmission substations and six switching stations across the state.

### Distribution

TasNetworks own, operate and maintain 22,400km of distribution overhead lines and underground cables, 227,000 power poles, 18 large distribution substations and 33,000 small distribution substations. There's also 20,000 embedded generation and photovoltaic (PV) grid-connected installations connected to the distribution network.

### Communications

TasNetworks own, operate and maintain communication network infrastructure to enable safe and efficient operation of the electricity system.



**Figure 1 TasNetworks' role in Tasmania's Electricity Supply System**



## 2. Executive Summary

TasNetworks, as a referral agency, has been notified of the public exhibition of Circular Head Council's draft Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) under section 35B of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA). Council has been given direction by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) to publicly exhibit the draft LPS and invite representations. TasNetworks has undertaken a review of the draft LPS and makes the following representation with a view of seeking a state-wide consistent approach to major electricity infrastructure.

TasNetworks assets within the Circular Head Council Local Government Area includes two substations, two communication sites and two electricity transmission corridors.

Electricity transmission infrastructure is protected by the Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Protection Code (ETIPC) under the State Planning Provisions (SPP). The ETIPC applies to transmission lines, terminal (or transmission) substations and switching stations and transmission communication assets. The purpose of the ETIPC is:

- *To protect use and development against hazards associated with proximity to electricity transmission infrastructure;*
- *To ensure that use and development near existing and future electricity transmission infrastructure does not adversely affect the safe and reliable operation of that infrastructure;*
- *To maintain future opportunities for electricity transmission infrastructure.*

The draft LPS includes the ETIPC Overlay maps which is based on data provided by TasNetworks. As part of its review, TasNetworks has examined the ETIPC Overlay maps to ensure that it applies to all relevant assets and that the locations of these assets is correct.

The draft LPS also includes the spatial application of zoning and overlays via the mapping. In preparing this representation, TasNetworks has reviewed the draft LPS maps for each of its assets. This representation seeks to ensure:

- Utilities zoning is applied to existing substations and communication facilities;
- Impacts on the strategic benefits and development potential of existing corridors through the application of the Landscape Conservation Zone are mitigated;
- The Natural Asset Code – Priority Vegetation Overlay is not applied to part of a substation or communication site that is cleared of native vegetation; and
- The Scenic Protection Code – Scenic Protection Area has not been applied to substations, communication site or corridors.

The LPS and the potential impact on future development has also been reviewed. These considerations include whether there is a permissible approval pathway for Utilities under the Particular Purpose Zones (PPZ) or Specific Area Plans (SAP); and any Local Area Objectives or Site Specific Qualifications. TasNetworks representation is made having regard to the draft LPS requirements under LUPAA.

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These submissions are consistent with those previously made by TasNetworks (and formerly Transend) on the Meander Valley, Brighton, Central Coast, Burnie, Glamorgan Spring Bay and Clarence draft LPS's as well as the draft State Planning Provisions and Interim Planning Schemes.

### 3. Overview

#### 3.1. Glossary

The following table provides the definitions of the terms used throughout this submission.

**Table 1 Definitions**

Term	Definition
Commission	Tasmanian Planning Commission
Council	Circular Head Council
D	Discretionary
ESI exemption	Activities classified as 'work of minor environmental impact' for the purposes of Regulation 8 of the <i>Electricity Supply Industry Regulations 2008</i> .
ETC	Electricity Transmission Corridor
ETIPC	Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Protection Code
Guideline	<i>Guideline No. 1 – Local Provisions Schedule Zone and Code Application</i> (Tasmanian Planning Commission, 2018)
interim scheme	Circular Head Interim Planning Scheme 2013
IPA	Inner Protection Area
LAO	Local Area Objectives
LGA	Local Government Area
LPS	Circular Head draft Local Provisions Schedule
LUPAA	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>
NPR	No Permit Required
P	Permitted
PPZ	Particular Purpose Zone
SAP	Specific Area Plan
SPP	State Planning Provisions
SSQ	Site Specific Qualification

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TPS	Tasmanian Planning Scheme
UWA	Unregistered Wayleave Agreement

### 3.2. Existing Assets

Circular Head Council LGA is located in TasNetworks North Western planning geographic area. An operationally significant part of the Tasmanian transmission electricity network is contained within the boundaries of the Circular Head Council LGA. This includes:

- Transmission lines which:
  - o Transfer power from wind farms in the far north west to the greater part of the Tasmanian transmission network via Smithton substation; and
  - o Transfer power to Port Latta and Smithton substations via 110kV lines.
- A number of substations:
  - o Port Latta Substation which supplies a major industrial customer and is a 22kV supply point for local customers;
  - o Smithton Substation which is the main connection point for wind farms in the far north west and the 22kV supply point for customers in the far north west region area.
- A number of communications sites used in operation of the transmission electricity network.

The following table and figure provide more detail regarding these assets. Notification and negotiation of work or changes in land use around these assets is critical for the safety and operation of the electricity network, the safety of people working on these assets and the general public whether living near or traversing the transmission network areas.

**Table 2 TasNetworks Assets in Circular Head LGA**

Asset	Location
Substation sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smithton Substation (CT132780/1 &amp; CT129742/1)</li> <li>- Port Latta Terminal Substation (CT238145/1)</li> </ul>
Communication sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smithton Substation (CT132780/1 &amp; CT129742/1) fibre connection</li> <li>- Port Latta Terminal Substation (CT238145/1) fibre connection</li> </ul>
Electricity Transmission Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 415 Burnie to Smithton 110kV</li> <li>- 416 Port Latta Spur 110kV</li> </ul>

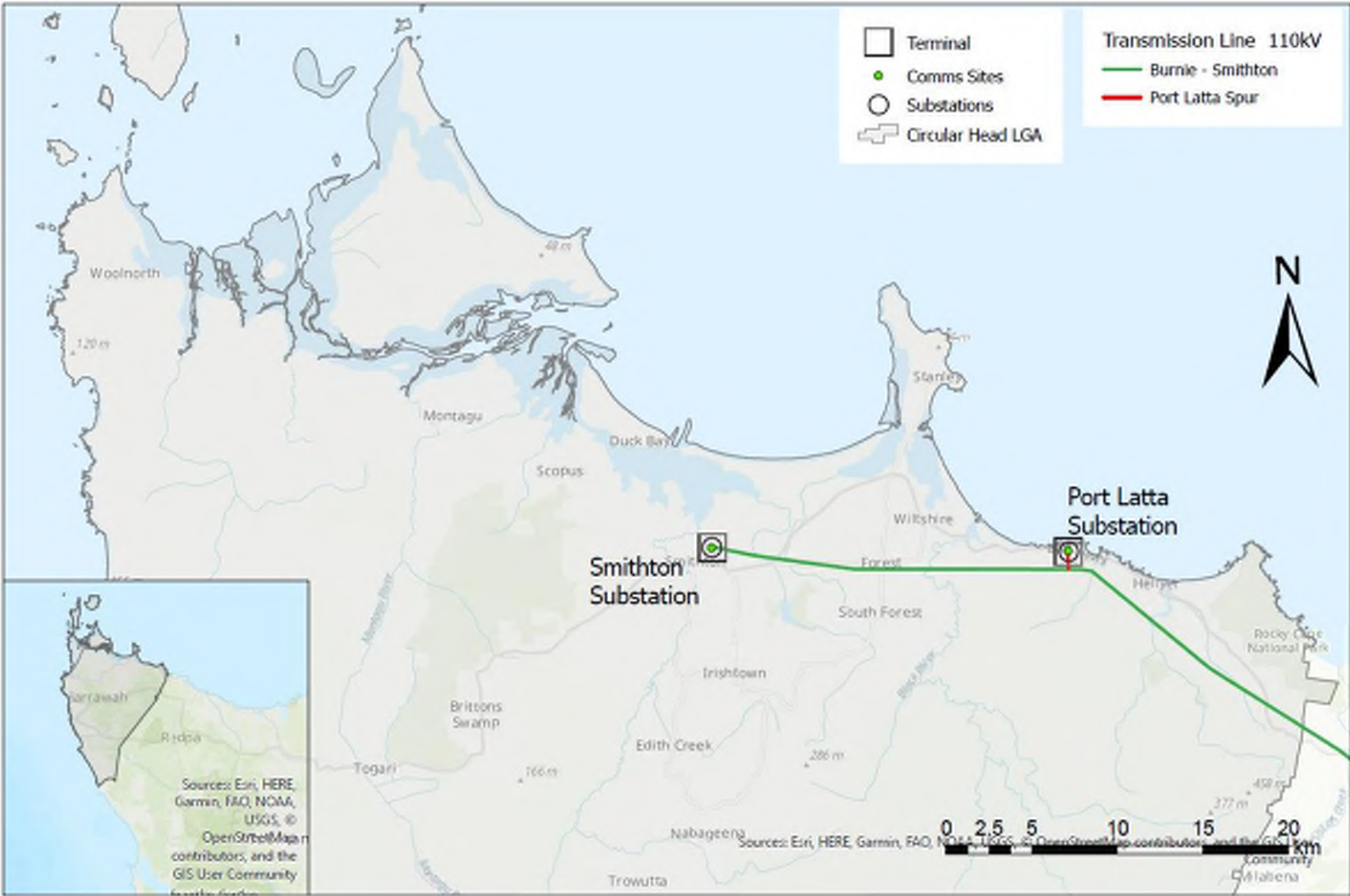


Figure 2 TasNetworks Assets within Circular Head LGA

### 3.3. Planned Future Development

As Tasmania's transmission and distribution network service provider, we have a responsibility to ensure the infrastructure to supply Tasmanians with electricity evolves to meet customer and network requirements in an optimal and sustainable way. We achieve this through our network planning process to ensure the most economic and technically acceptable solution is pursued.

The need for network changes can arise for a number of factors. Annually TasNetworks undertakes a planning review that analyses the existing distribution and transmission networks and considers their future requirements to accommodate changes to load and generations, and whether there are any limitations in meeting the required performance standards. Our [Annual Planning Report 2019](#) indicates that TasNetworks is committed to the replacement Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition equipment at end of life at Smithton Substation as well as replacement of supply transformers at Port Latta Substation. These activities are likely to be classified as 'work of minor environmental impact' and as such, are unlikely to be subject to assessment under a planning scheme.

In addition to these planned works the Annual Planning Report outlines two prospective wind generation developments within the north-west both with connections to Port Latta Substation those being the Port Latta Windfarm and the Western Plains Windfarm.

Integrated into our planning process is our [network transformation road map 2025](#). This ensures that what we do in the next 10 to 15 years facilitates an efficient and orderly transition of the network to its new roles in a changing energy sector. This includes consideration of impact of large scale wind farms, solar systems, pumped hydro (battery of the nation) batteries, electric vehicles, and a potential second inter connector. It is therefore important that the LPS provides for appropriate approval pathways for potential future TasNetworks development works.

## 4. Submission

### 4.1. Overview

TasNetworks is seeking state-wide consistency across all LPSs in the treatment of its assets. TasNetworks policy position is summarised in Table 3 and is further detailed below. Appendix 1 provides more detailed analysis on an asset by asset basis.

#### Legend for Table 3:

Consistent with policy position, supported	
Inconsistent with policy position, amendments are possible to achieve consistency	
Inconsistent with policy position, Schedule 6 transition prevents amendments required for consistency	

**Table 3      Policy Position – Submission Summary and Circular Head LPS evaluation**

LPS Mapping / Controls	Policy Position	Rationale	Circular Head LPS evaluation summary / submission
Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Substations (terminal and zone) to be zoned Utilities</li><li>- Communication sites to be zoned Utilities where the communications facility is the primary use of the site.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reflects the primary use of the site and the nature of the asset</li><li>- Reflects the long asset lifespan</li><li>- Utilities zone allows for the future operation, maintenance modification and development requirements of the asset (this is particularly important for communications sites as these do not enjoy any ESI Act exemptions once established)</li><li>- Clear message to the community about the existing and long term use of the site.</li></ul>	<p>The zoning of the substations and communication sites is consistent with the policy position and supported by TasNetworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Smithton Substation is zoned Utilities</li><li>- Port Latta Substation is zoned Utilities</li><li>- Both communication sites are co-located with the substations and therefore appropriately zoned.</li></ul>
	No specific zoning is to be applied to ETC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Allows for other compatible uses to occur in corridor</li><li>- Corridors are protected by ETIPC</li></ul>	LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported
	Landscape Conservation Zone (through LPS rezoning) is not applied to ETC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Conflicts with the existing use of the land for electricity transmission</li><li>- Diminishes strategic benefit of existing corridors making consideration of new corridors more likely</li></ul>	<p>Inconsistent with policy position, not supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Landscape Conservation Zone has been applied to Line 415 Burnie-Smithton 110 kV near Speedwell Road, Crayfish Creek.</li></ul>

LPS Mapping / Controls	Policy Position	Rationale	Circular Head LPS evaluation summary / submission
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More onerous approvals pathway for augmentation of assets</li> <li>- Sends conflicting message to public regarding the ongoing use of the land</li> </ul>	
Natural Asset Code – Priority Vegetation Overlay	<p>Not to be applied to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Substations or communication sites where the site is cleared of native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assets are required to be cleared for safety and maintenance</li> <li>- Clearing of vegetation is exempt under ESI Act</li> <li>- Where asset already exists impact on the natural assets have already been assessed / approved and will continue to be impacted for the lifespan of the asset</li> <li>- Supports strategic value of the site</li> <li>- Clear messaging to community regarding the use of the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Inconsistent with policy position, not supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove priority vegetation overlay from Port Latta Substation site as applied to developed / cleared parts of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Note: vegetation clearance exemptions from the application of a planning scheme for electricity infrastructure.</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported with respect to the Smithton Substation.</li> </ul>



LPS Mapping / Controls	Policy Position	Rationale	Circular Head LPS evaluation summary / submission
Scenic Protection Code Overlay	Not to be applied to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- substations,</li> <li>- communication sites, or</li> <li>- ETC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assets are required to be cleared for safety and maintenance</li> <li>- Where asset already exists impact on scenic quality / natural assets have already been assessed / approved and will continue to be impacted for the lifespan of the asset.</li> </ul>	LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Scenic Protection Code has not been applied over any of TasNetworks assets.</li> </ul>
Utilities Use Approval Status	In all zones, PPZs and SAPs the Use Class for Utilities and Minor Utilities must be either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No Permit Required,</li> <li>- Permitted or</li> <li>- Discretionary</li> </ul> Utilities must not be Prohibited	The ability to consider Utilities Use Class in all zones is a requirement for the effective planning and development of linear utility infrastructure, which is required to be located in a range of areas and will be subject to multiple zonings.	LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LPS does not include any PPZs or SAPs</li> </ul>
SAPs / PPZs	Not to apply to substations	To ensure that future development on these sites is not unreasonably affected by SAP.	LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LPS does not include any PPZs or SAPs</li> </ul>

LPS Mapping / Controls	Policy Position	Rationale	Circular Head LPS evaluation summary / submission
PPZs or SAPs use and development standards	Are drafted with at least a discretionary approval pathway. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No absolute height limit</li> <li>- Allow subdivision for utilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consistent with policy in SPPs that enables consideration of Utilities in all zones and no finite quantitative development or subdivision standards.</li> </ul>	<p>LPS is consistent with this policy position and is supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LPS does not include any PPZs or SAPs</li> </ul>
ETIPC	Is mapped and applied to relevant transmission infrastructure	Consistent with policy in SPPs	<p>Inconsistent with policy position, not supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove the Communication Station Buffer Area at 'Massey Reservoirs' CT198870/1 as this site has been decommissioned.</li> </ul>
Local Area Objectives	Are drafted in a manner that does not conflict with the ETIPC if they apply over an area within the Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential impact on future development</li> <li>- Diminishes strategic benefit of existing corridors making consideration of new corridors more likely</li> <li>- More onerous approvals pathway for augmentation of assets</li> <li>- Sends conflicting message to public regarding the ongoing use of the land</li> </ul>	<p>Inconsistent with policy position, not supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIR-22.3Rocky Cape applies to the Line 415 Burnie – Smithton and does not acknowledge the existing infrastructure.</li> </ul>

## 4.2. SPP Issues

Please note, this aspect of TasNetworks' representation should not be taken as a request to change or amend the SPPs. However, this information is provided to highlight fundamental land use conflict issues that could occur as each LPS implements the SPPs across the State.

### 4.2.1. Exemptions

In this representation, TasNetworks would like to highlight a failing in the SPPs that causes a fundamental conflict between existing electricity transmission easement rights and SPP Exemptions and will prevent implementation of the purpose of the ETIPC. This failing is resulting from not applying the Code, in particular, the Electricity Transmission Corridor (ETC) and Inner Protection Area (IPA) to certain exemptions that would:

- On almost every occasion, conflict with easement rights (and have the potential to impact human safety) and compromise the Purpose of the Code; and
- Unless managed appropriately, have the potential to conflict with easement rights (and have the potential to impact human safety) and the Purpose of the Code.

Where the Code does not apply, easement rights still exist but can only be enforced once a breach has occurred or (at best) is imminent. This can result in a costly process of removal or relocation and in the interim, could pose a safety risk. When the Code applies, it provides developers, Council and TasNetworks an opportunity to avoid or manage this issue early in the application process. See Appendix 2 for benefits that can be realised by considering electricity transmission assets in the planning process and conflict examples.

### 4.2.2. Scenic Protection Code

The Scenic Protection Code does not apply to sites in the Utilities Zone. As a result, assuming a Utilities zoning, TasNetworks' substations and communication sites are not subject to the application of this Code, thus supporting the continued and consolidated use and development of these sites for electricity infrastructure.

TasNetworks' recognises that a Council may wish to regulate other activities in the ETC that could impact on scenic values. However, application of the Scenic Protection Code to new electricity transmission use and development within an existing ETC has a number of impacts in conflict with the continued use of these corridors:

- Does not recognise the already established vegetation clearance and scenic quality
- Does not recognise existing and continued use of these corridors, including vegetation clearance, for significant linear infrastructure on a state wide basis.
- Unreasonably diminishes the strategic benefit of the ETC.
- Devalues the substantial investment already made in the establishment of these corridors.
- Unreasonably fetters augmentation of existing corridors by imposing development standards relating to scenic protection to electricity transmission use and development in an existing electricity transmission corridor.

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- Conflicts with the purpose of the ETIPC;
- Supports a misconception in the community that where the Scenic Protection Code (tree preservation) is applied, vegetation clearance will be limited, when in fact vegetation clearance for transmission lines is required and authorised by separate regulatory regimes in these locations.

If the Scenic Protection Code in the SPPs were amended to ensure that, where this Code intersects with an ETC, it does not apply to electricity transmission use and development in that ETC, these impacts could be largely mitigated. This approach recognises the presence of this substantial electricity infrastructure and:

- its place in a broader state-wide network that is essential to the safe and reliable provision of electricity to Tasmania (as recognised in the Regional Land Use Strategy);
- implements the purpose of the ETIPC;
- facilitates continued use or augmentation of existing corridors and ensures that future development (that is not otherwise exempt) can be efficiently provided.

The purpose of the Scenic Protection Code is to recognise and protect landscapes that are identified as important for their scenic values. In accordance with the Commission's Guidelines the Code is applied where: *SPC2 The scenic protection area overlay and the scenic road corridor overlay should be justified as having significant scenic values requiring protection from inappropriate development that would or may diminish those values.*

The ETIPC Code Purpose is: *To protect use and development against hazards associated with proximity to electricity transmission infrastructure. To ensure that use and development near existing and future electricity transmission infrastructure does not adversely affect the safe and reliable operation of that infrastructure. To maintain future opportunities for electricity transmission infrastructure.*

The application of the Scenic Protection Code to electricity transmission use and development in an ETC is inconsistent with the ETIPC purpose to retain electricity transmission infrastructure in these locations and to maintain future development opportunities.

For works that do not have the benefit of ESI exemptions, it would be difficult to comply with the Scenic Protection Code standards. Further, these assets form part of a wider network that is essential to the safe and reliable provision of electricity to Tasmania which is recognised in the Regional Land Use Strategy.

Please note that these issues have been previously raised and discussed with Meander Valley Council, Brighton Council, Central Coast Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Clarence Council and the Commissioners throughout the draft LPS assessment process and will continue to be raised as part of this process.

## 5. Appendix 1 – Detailed Assessment

### 5.1. Substations

There are two substation sites within the Circular Head LGA. These are:

- Smithton Substation (CT132780/1 & CT129742/1)
- Port Latta Terminal Substation (CT238145/1)

The following table details TasNetworks planning policy position with respect to substations.

**Table 4 Substation Policy Position Summary**

Zoning	Overlay	SAP / PPZ	ETIPC
Zoned Utilities	Not applied - Scenic Protection (SP) - Priority Vegetation (PV) - where the site is cleared of native vegetation	Not applied or - Utilities use is NPR, P or D. - No finite discretionary development standards	Applied

Both substations within the draft LPS are zoned Utilities, which is supported by TasNetworks. The Utilities zoning reflects the primary and future use of the site and is consistent with the zone application guidelines issued by the State and TasNetworks policy position for substations.

The Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code have not been applied the Smithton Substation site and this is supported by TasNetworks.

The Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code has been applied the Port Latta Substation site. As shown in the following figure, this overlay has been applied to areas cleared of native vegetation. Despite this overlay being relatively small amendment sort to remove this overlay form these cleared and developed parts of the site.



**Figure 3 Port Latta Substation – Priority Vegetation overlay**

No PPZs or SAPs have been applied over substation sites which is supported by TasNetworks.

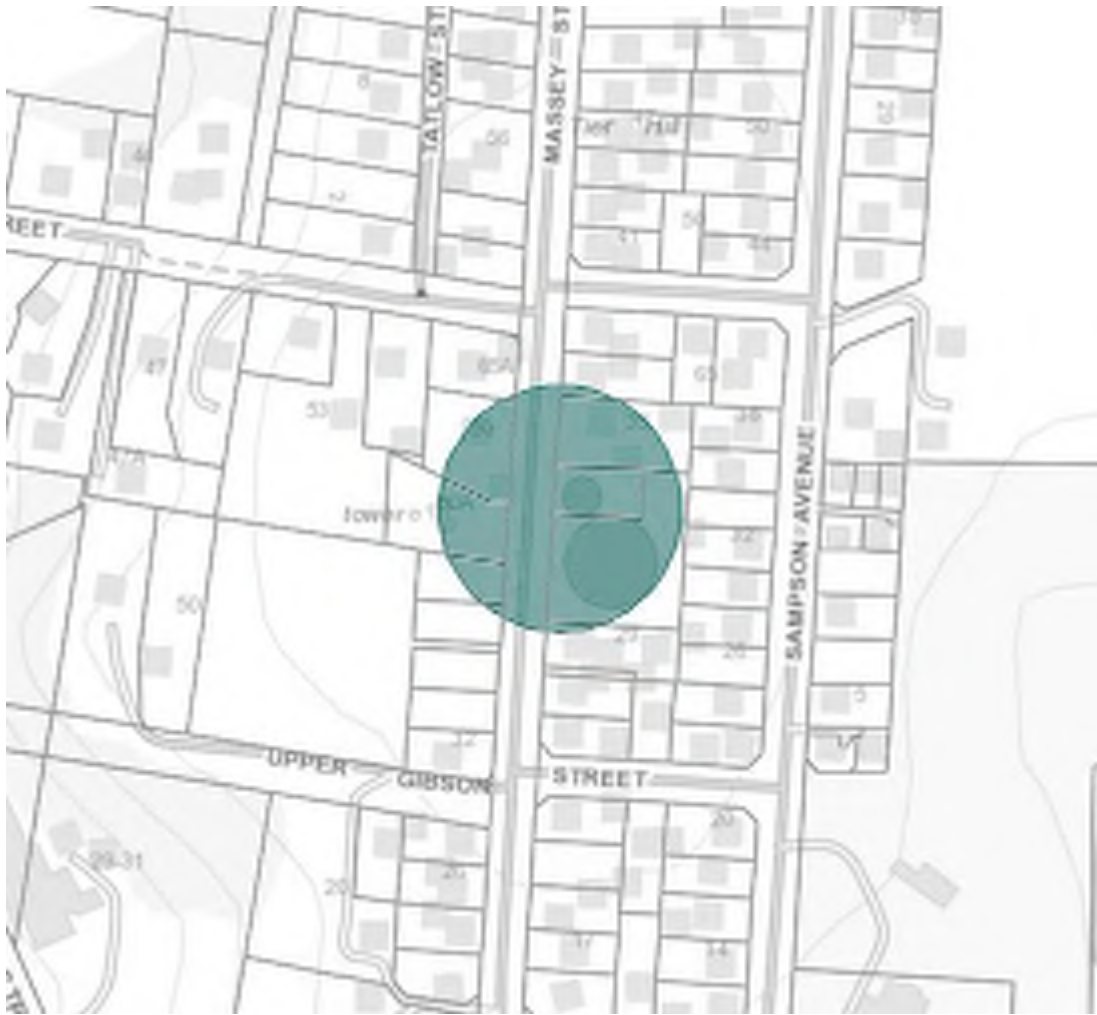
The Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Protection Code has been applied appropriately to both substation sites which is supported by TasNetworks.

## 5.2. Communication Sites

There are two communication sites within Circular Head LGA these are co-located at the Smithton Substation and Port Latta Substation and both are provided with fibre connection and do not form part of the electricity transmission backbone. As such they not required to be mapped by the ETIPC within the draft LPS and no amendment is sort regarding this communication site.

The draft LPS however has identified a communication site at 31-33 Massey St, Smithton CT198870/1 'Massey Reservoirs'. This communication facility has been decommissioned and as such TasNetworks requests that the draft LPS be amended to remove the Communication Station Buffer Area from the ETIPC at this location. The site is shown in the following figure.





**Figure 4 'Massey Reservoir' Communication Site to be removed from ETIPC**

### 5.3. Electricity Transmission Corridors

There are two TasNetworks Electricity Transmission Corridors that extend across the Circular Head LGA. These are:

- 415 Burnie – Smithton 110 kV;
- 416 Port Latta Spur 110 kV.

The following table details TasNetworks policy position regard ETC.

**Table 5 ETC Policy Position Summary**

Zoning	Overlay	ETIPC	SAP / PPZ
- No specific zoning applied to ETC;	- Scenic Protection Code not applied to ETC	Applied	Not applied or - Utilities use is NPR, P or D.



- Landscape Conservation Zone not applied to ETC			- No finite discretionary development standards
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A range of zones have been applied to the land underneath these corridors and as the SPP allows for consideration of Utilities in all zones this is acceptable to TasNetworks. Having said this, the Landscape Conservation Zone has been applied to Line 415 Burnie – Smithton as demonstrated in the following figure.



**Figure 5    Landscape Conservation Zone applying to ETC Line 415 Burnie – Smithton**

The introduction and subsequent rezoning of land within the ETC to the Landscape Conservation Zone has created a number of unforeseen issues for TasNetworks. Primarily the Landscape Conservation Zone – Zone Purpose is *to provide for the protection, conservation and management of landscape values*. This is considered to conflict with the Purpose of the ETIPC which is *to maintain future opportunities for electricity transmission infrastructure*.

Additionally, development approval for augmentation of an existing corridor under the Landscape Conservation Zone is more onerous than if under the Environmental Living or Rural Resource zones in the interim scheme or the Rural Zone under the SPP. For example the Acceptable Solution

building height requirement in the Landscape Conservation Zone is 6m as opposed to 12m under the Rural Zone.

Further, TasNetworks has concern regarding the rezoning of land within an ETC to the Landscape Conservation Zone and the inconsistent messaging it provides to the public. That being that the land is for 'conservation', where in fact clearing of vegetation within the ETC is exempt and augmentation of corridors can occur.

TasNetworks acknowledges that the introduction of the Landscape Conservation Zone is per SPP drafting guidelines however would like to open discussions with Council and relevant stakeholders regarding the impacts that this change in zoning has on the continued operation of electricity transmission infrastructure across the State.

The Scenic Protection Code has not been utilised in the draft LPS.

The Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Protection Code has been applied correctly to the ETCs.

It is noted that the draft LPS has applied Local Area Objectives over the titles discussed above within the Landscape Conservation Zone. The concerns of applying LAO over ETC is detailed in the following section of the submission.

#### 5.4. Particular Purpose Zones (PPZ) and Specific Area Plans (SAP)

The following table provides an overview of TasNetworks policy position regarding PPZs and SAPs.

**Table 6 PPZ and SAP Policy Position Summary**

Application	Policy
Use Standards in PPZ or SAP	- Use Class for Utilities or Minor Utilities must be either NPR, P or D. Must not be Prohibited
Development Standards in PPZ or SAP	- Are not drafted without a discretionary approval pathway (e.g not include a finite development standard - an absolute height limit) - Allow subdivision for Utilities use in all zones

The draft LPS includes no PPZs or SAPs and is consistent with this policy position. If PPZ or SAPs are introduced in the future TasNetworks requests that they are drafted in line the abovementioned policy positions to ensure state-wide consistency.

#### 5.5. Local Area Objectives

The following table provides an overview of TasNetworks policy position regarding LAOs.

**Table 7     Local Area Objectives Policy Position Summary**

Application	Policy
LAO	Are drafted in a manner that does not conflict with the ETIPC if they apply over an area within the Code

The draft LPS has included numerous new LAOs. One of which, CIR-22.3 Rocky Cape applies to the Line 415 Burnie – Smithton. This is shown in the following figure.



**Figure 6     CIR22.3 Rocky Cape and Line 415 Burnie to Smithton**

The LAO associated with this area are:

- (a) To recognize the proximity to, and importance of the Rocky Cape National Park in encouraging uses that support the area’s coastal lifestyle.*

- (b) To encourage uses which benefit from efficient access to the Bass Highway and subsequent ability to commute to Wynyard, Burnie and Smithton.*
- (c) To encourage uses that support the transition of land in this area from a vacation of settlement to residential settlement.*

Whilst TasNetworks acknowledges the reasoning and importance of including such LAOs in this location it notes that they fail to recognise the existing infrastructure that is within this area: Transmission Line 415 Burnie – Smithton 110 kV. This omission not only sends conflicting messages to the public regarding the ongoing use of the land but has the potential to impact on future augmentation of this corridor.

## 6. Appendix 2 – SPP Issues

**In addition to TasNetworks' request regarding the Scenic Protection Code application, this appendix outlines the benefits of considering electricity transmission assets in the planning process for new development**

The following benefits can be realised if impact on electricity transmission assets are considered in the planning process. (See Table 1 for the list of relevant exemptions):

- Removes the incorrect perception that buildings and other works exempt under the SPPs can safely occur in a transmission line or underground cable easements without the need to consider asset easement rights or operational requirements.
- Empowers the Planning Authority to request further information, condition or refuse a development that conflict with the Code requirements and Purposes.
- Saves developers, Councils, TasNetworks and the community time, cost and distress associated with easement right enforcement after a building, structure or other works have either commenced construction or have been built.
- Reflects the reality with respect to what can and cannot safely occur in an electricity easement.
- Saves developers project delay and cost required as a result of reworking proposals to ensure easement rights are not compromised later in the process.
- Increases the chances of considering the impact of new development on electricity assets early in the planning assessment process, before significant expenditure on project preparation has occurred.
- Prevents land use conflict between existing critical electricity transmission assets and new development.
- Protects human safety.
- Aligns the planning considerations and electricity easement rights.
- Avoids increased acquisition or construction cost for future assets as a result of encroachment (eg: dwelling encroachments within strategically beneficial easements may not cause operational issues for existing assets. However, dwelling acquisition and increased community and social impact of processes required to remove dwellings in the easement if it is required later can be avoided if encroachment is prevented in the first place.
- Supports compliance with AS 7000.

- The strategic benefit of existing electricity easements and the strategic purpose of the Code is preserved.

## Conflict Examples

Table 1 presents examples of exempt development where TasNetworks believes conflict with easement rights can occur.

Colour coding indicates the following:

Conflicts with easement rights and may be capable of management to ensure appropriate alignment with easement rights.
Conflicts with easement rights. In almost all cases, this exemption will pose a safety and operational hazard for overhead and underground transmission lines and cables.

**Table 8 Exemptions and land use conflict with electricity transmission assets**

SPP exemption	Comment
4.3.6 unroofed decks	<p>If not attached to a house and floor level is less than 1m above ground level.</p> <p>A deck of this nature can pose an impediment to safe access and due to other exemptions can be roofed without further assessment which is in conflict with easement rights and could compromise safety.</p> <p>A deck over the operational area required for an underground cable would always be unacceptable.</p>
4.3.7 outbuildings	<p>One shed: up to 18m<sup>2</sup>, roof span 3m, height 2.4m, fill of up to 0.5m.</p> <p>Up to two shed: 10m<sup>2</sup>, sides 3.2m, height 2.4m.</p> <p>Similar to PD1.</p> <p>This type of building almost always poses a safety and operational hazard for transmission lines, cables and human safety.</p> <p>This type of building over the operational area required for an underground cable always poses an unacceptable safety risk.</p>
4.3.8 outbuildings in Rural Living Zone, Rural Zone or Agriculture Zone	<p>4.3.8</p> <p>Provides for an unlimited number of outbuilding per lot as follows:</p>

SPP exemption	Comment
<p>4.3.9 agricultural buildings and works in the Rural Zone or Agriculture Zone</p>	<p>Floor area 108m<sup>2</sup>, height 6m, wall height 4m.</p> <p>Already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p>Slightly broader than PD1.</p> <p>4.3.9</p> <p>New and broader than PD1 exemptions.</p> <p>Provides for unlimited number of outbuilding per lot as follows:</p> <p>Must be for agricultural use, floor area 200m<sup>2</sup>, height 12m.</p> <p>Already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code and the Scenic Protection Code.</p> <p><b>TN COMMENT:</b></p> <p>These exemptions create a new and potentially more dangerous conflict with electricity transmission lines and cables where a larger and higher building can be constructed in an electricity transmission easement without the need for planning approval.</p> <p>Buildings of this nature can severely impede TasNetworks' ability to safely access, operate and maintain electricity transmission lines. If built, these buildings could also present a threat to human safety.</p> <p>As a result, in almost all cases, if built, buildings covered by these exemptions would necessitate the enforcement of easement rights, either during or after construction and after the planning and building (exemption), process has occurred. This will likely mean relocating the proposal, a further planning assessment and added cost and time to a development.</p> <p>The nature of electricity transmission line assets (ie: running from isolated generation locations into populated areas) means the zones mentioned in this exemption are almost certain to contain (and appropriately so) electricity transmission assets. The cost of removing substantial agricultural buildings from easements required for new assets also adds to future asset construction costs.</p>



SPP exemption	Comment
4.3.11 garden structures	<p>Unlimited number, 20m<sup>2</sup>, 3m height max. Already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p>If not managed appropriately, this type of structure has the potential to compromise clearances and the safe and reliable operation of transmission lines and underground cables. Depending on location within an easement, could also present a threat to human safety.</p> <p>Cost of removal is limited, however still requires post breach enforcement of easement rights.</p>
4.5.1 ground mounted solar energy installations	<p>Each installation can be 18m<sup>2</sup> area. Already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p>This type of activity has the potential to compromise clearances or adversely impact easement access (especially during emergency repair conditions).</p>
4.5.2 roof mounted solar energy installations	<p>Already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code. This would likely only apply to existing buildings within easements.</p> <p>Encroachment is likely existing, however, this exemption has the potential to compromise clearances in what may be a compliant situation.</p>
4.6.8 retaining walls	<p>4.6.8 Allows for retaining 1m difference in ground level. This exemption is already subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code and the Landslip Hazard Code. Reflects what was in PD1.</p> <p>4.6.9 Allows for filling of up to 1m above ground level. This exemption is already subject to the Natural Assets Code, Coastal Erosion Hazard Code, Coastal Inundation Hazard Code, Flood-Prone Areas Hazard Code and Landslip Hazard Code. Reflects what was in PD1.</p> <p><b>TN COMMENT:</b></p> <p>This type of activity has the potential to compromise ground clearances for existing transmission lines and safe operational separation for underground transmission cables. Subject to appropriate management, this type of activity can usually occur within transmission line easements, however, may pose a more challenging risk for underground cables.</p>
4.6.9 land filling	

SPP exemption	Comment
<p>4.6.13 rain-water tanks</p> <p>4.6.14 rain-water tanks in Rural Living Zone, Rural Zone, Agriculture Zone or Landscape Conservation Zone</p> <p>4.6.15 fuel tanks in the Light Industrial Zone, General Industrial Zone, Rural Zone, Agriculture Zone or Port and Marine Zone</p> <p>4.6.16 fuel tanks in other zones</p>	<p>Rainwater, hot water &amp; air conditioner exemptions with the 1.2m stand were already included in PD1 and were carried through to the draft and finalised SPPs.</p> <p>This was one exemption in the draft SPPs and was modified by the Commission into four exemptions. TasNetworks requested the original exemption be subject to the Code.</p> <p>4.6.13: attached or located to the side or rear of a building and can be on a stand height 1.2m high. Subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p>4.6.14 attached or located to the side or rear of a building with no height limit. Subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p>4.6.15 no height limit, no requirement is be located near a building. Limited when storage of hazardous chemicals is of a manifest quantity and Coastal Erosion Hazard Code, Coastal Inundation Hazard Code, Flood-Prone Areas Hazard Code, Bushfire-Prone Areas Code or Landslip Hazard Code, applies and requires a permit for the use or development.</p> <p>4.6.16 must be attached or located to the side or rear of a building, max 1kL capacity, on a stand up to 1.2m high and subject to the Local Historic Heritage Code.</p> <p><b>TN COMMENT:</b></p> <p>These exemptions allow for water tanks on stands and some have no height limit. These developments have the potential to compromise access to the easement, compromise ground clearances for existing transmission lines and safe operational separation for underground transmission cables. Depending on location in the easement, these developments could pose a threat to human safety. Subject to appropriate management, this type of activity may occur within transmission line easements, however, may pose a more challenging risk for underground cables.</p>