

TasNetworks Pass Through Costs - Storm Event 2024

Mr Arek Gulbenkogu
General Manager
Australian Energy Regulator

Dear Mr Arek

In respect to the storm in Tasmania in August-September 2024, I wish to make representation on behalf of our property group in the state. I have personally been a participant on TasNetwork's stakeholder pricing policy committee for a good length of time, having resigned from the team last year. We have previously expressed concern about the nature of trees being allowed to grow around power poles, transmission and distribution lines and the management of storm water around ground installed substations.

Tasmania's municipal councils are responsible for road side trees and uncontrolled growth on public land. Similarly Councils are responsible for the management of storm water infrastructure. TasNetworks should be directing Municipal Councils to do their job.

I have also personally met and made similar representation to AER officers when they visited Tasmania a couple of years ago. Municipal Councils should be driven to keep electrical infrastructure safe and clear of tree growth along road sides and public land. Councils should be contributing to the cost of repairs and keeping electrical infrastructure safe. Similarly stormwater infrastructure should be better managed, many cases where we have blocked drains, over grown culverts and discharge creeks, again not adequately maintained by Councils. A recent example in Hobart is included in the attached link <https://youtu.be/Lq7ilWi2H1M?si=P8R5DvzawlNuPW> - .

TasNetworks, should be seeking cost recovery from the offending local municipal councils. There are 29 of them in Tasmania, so the offending Councils should be reimbursing TasNetworks and thus directing costs to the offending areas. Not all electricity consumers should be covering the costs that could have been avoided by Councils doing the right thing.

I am very happy to discuss this further.

Thank you

Charles

Charles Scarafiotti
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