

Contact Officer: Laura Considine  
[REDACTED]

2 February 2026

Sean Mc Goldrick  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Tasmanian Networks  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sean,

**Re: TasNetworks' Ring-fencing Waiver Application – Before You Dig Australia**

I am writing to inform you that on 2 February 2026, the AER granted Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (TasNetworks) a waiver to obligations under clause 3.1(b) of the [Ring-fencing Guideline \(Electricity distribution\)](#) ('the guideline') until 30 June 2029. This allows TasNetworks to record Private Underground Electricity Cables (PUEC) asset information into Before You Dig Australia (BYDA).

This ring-fencing waiver is granted in response to TasNetworks' application dated 2 October 2025. TasNetworks currently records its regulated assets into BYDA. It proposes to extend this function to cover PUECs and provide the following services:

- Receiving drawings from electrical contractors / customers.
- Reviewing / quality assurance for drawings.
- Seeking further information from the electrical contractors / customers if the drawings are inadequate.
- Updating TasNetworks Geospatial Information System where this data is recorded internally and sent to BYDA.
- Recording information and associated disclaimers / limitations of information with BYDA.
- Administrative and overhead costs and activities.

PUECs are installed for the purposes of connecting a property occupied by a person to a connection point of a distribution network that is on public land and is installed underground beyond the boundaries of the property and does not supply electricity to any other property. TasNetworks sought this ring-fencing waiver following amendments to the Electricity Supply Industry Regulations to allow PUECs to be recognised as electricity supply lines in Tasmania.

**AER assessment and decision**

Under clause 5.3.2(a) of the guideline, when assessing whether or not to grant a waiver the AER must have regard to the National Electricity Objective (NEO); the potential for a distribution network to engage in cross-subsidisation of services and discriminatory behaviour; and whether the costs of compliance with the guideline outweigh the benefit to consumers of that compliance, including in relation to impacts on competition.

The AER's decision to allow TasNetworks to record PUEC asset information into BYDA on behalf of councils, electricity contractors and consumers aligns with the principles of the NEO,

as it contributes to ensuring a reliable, safe, secure supply of electricity for Tasmanian electricity customers. Granting this waiver minimises the risk to the public of injury or death when engaging in excavation work on public land.

We consider the waiver poses minimal risks of discrimination as no market currently exists, and is unlikely to develop, for BYDA data entry services. We also consider cross-subsidisation risks will be adequately addressed, as TasNetworks is required under clause 3.2.2 of the guideline to appropriately allocate the costs of providing 'other services' in accordance with TasNetworks' Cost Allocation Methodology.

The waiver will apply until 30 June 2029, at which time TasNetworks will seek to classify this activity as a distribution service as part of its next revenue determination for the 2029-2034 period.

### **Compliance and review matters**

The AER has broad discretion to review and revoke ring-fencing waivers at any time and on its own initiative if there are grounds to do so, having regard to the same matters in granting the waiver. The AER will give TasNetworks at least 40 days' notice if the AER is considering a variation or revocation of this waiver.

Finally, under clause 6.3 of the guideline, TasNetworks is required to notify the AER in writing within 15 business days of becoming aware of a breach of its obligations under the guideline.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, or have any questions, please contact Laura Considine, Director Ring-fencing, at [AERringfencing@ aer.gov.au](mailto:AERringfencing@ aer.gov.au) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Jarrod Ball  
AER Board Member

Sent by email on: 2 February 2026