

27 April 2022

Gillian Gout
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Gout

RE Ring-fencing Guideline (Electricity Transmission) Waiver application

Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd (TasNetworks) is seeking a waiver from the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**) to those parts of the Transmission Ring-Fencing Guideline (**Guideline**) that require the operational separation of any part of TasNetworks' business providing regulated transmission services from any part of our business that provides distribution services.

TasNetworks is the merger of the former transmission network service provider (**TNSP**), Transend Networks Pty Ltd, and distribution network service provider (**DNSP**) Aurora Energy (Networks). The integration of the two Tasmanian network businesses was one of a number of reforms to the Tasmanian electricity supply industry announced by the Tasmanian Government on 15 May 2012. TasNetworks applied to the AER and was granted a waiver from Clause 7.1(a)(ii) of the Guideline which requires that a TNSP that provides ring-fenced services must not carry on a related business, including electricity distribution. The waiver was provided on 9 May 2014 just prior to the merger of the two businesses. As TasNetworks remains both a TNSP and DNSP, the reasons for the waiver given by the AER in 2014 remain valid. TasNetworks therefore requests the AER reissue the waiver to ensure the ability for TasNetworks to continue to legally operate as a combined TNSP and DNSP.

Should you have any questions, please contact Chantal Hopwood, Leader Regulation, via email (Chantal.hopwood@tasnetworks.com.au).

Yours sincerely



Wayne Tucker

General Manager Regulation, Policy and Strategic Asset Management