

3 May 2019

AFAC Review
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE Cronstedt review of the management of bushfires during the 2018-19 fire season

Bushfires pose a very real threat to the lives, property and livelihoods of Tasmanians, as well as the State's world-renowned natural values. They also represent a significant threat to the electrical infrastructure which households and businesses throughout the State depend on for a safe and reliable power supply.

As the owner and operator of Tasmania's electricity transmission and distribution networks, TasNetworks spends millions of dollars each year on preventing vegetation from coming into contact with power lines and preventing faults from occurring on network assets that might have the potential to ignite a bushfire. We also work closely with other agencies and the community to foster a shared responsibility approach to bushfire risk management.

With bushfires representing one of the highest risks to the State's electricity network, TasNetworks recognises the value in reviewing bushfire management in Tasmania during the 2018-19 fire season, having already conducted an internal review of our own response to the bushfires. However, while we appreciate the invitation to make a submission to the Cronstedt Review, TasNetworks does not have any specific comments in relation to its terms of reference.

Nonetheless, TasNetworks would like to acknowledge the effectiveness of the State, regional and local command, control and co-ordination arrangements put in place by the Tasmania Fire Service and its partner agencies during the recent bushfire season. Those arrangements and the efforts of fire-fighting and emergency service personnel in the field were instrumental in ensuring the safety of our people and minimising the damage to TasNetworks' infrastructure caused by the bushfires. They also enabled us to maintain or quickly restore safe supplies of electricity to communities and businesses within areas affected by the fires.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the review of bushfire management in Tasmania during the 2018-19 fire season. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact Michael Emmett, Bush Fire Mitigation Manager, at Michael.Emmett@tasnetworks.com.au or on (03) 6324 7580.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Tucker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayne Tucker

General Manager Regulation, Policy & Strategic Asset Management