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Hampshire to Staverton – **Route selection and environmental values and impacts**

TasNetworks is currently investigating a new electricity transmission corridor between Hampshire and Staverton in North West Tasmania.

The proposed development would increase the capacity of North West Tasmania's transmission network, supporting new renewable energy projects such as the proposed Robbins Island and Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Parks and Battery of the Nation.

In identifying transmission corridors, **TasNetworks** considers environmental impacts, cultural heritage sites, land-use planning requirements, complex energy system requirements, constructability, total project development costs, and many other factors.

Our design seeks to minimise adverse impacts on landowners, businesses and conservation areas, and we have also taken into account tourism, visual amenity, high value agriculture and broader community values.

All relevant landowners have been contacted and engagement is underway with the wider community, through a series of ongoing engagement activities in North West Tasmania.

After talking to landowners, we are now publicly announcing the proposed route, which is available on our website.

Landowner feedback is critical and will help to further refine or confirm sections of the proposed route. Community input will also be taken into consideration in finalising a proposed route, and will also help to inform design and construction considerations to reduce impacts, where possible.

fact sheet

What is the Hampshire to Staverton proposed route?

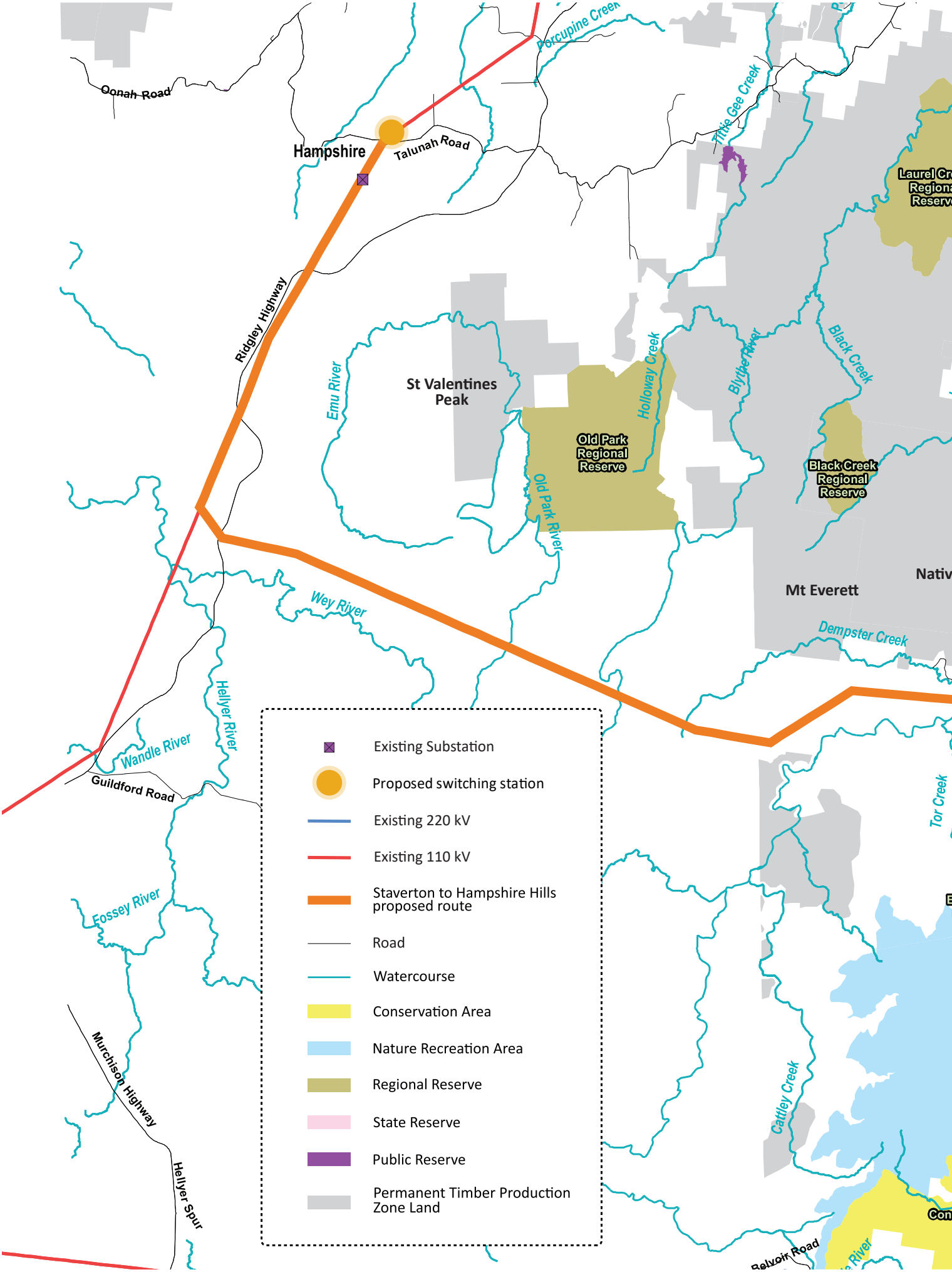
TasNetworks has identified a proposed route to connect a new switching station at Staverton to a new switching station at Hampshire. A switching station is equipment used to tie together two or more electric circuits through switches.

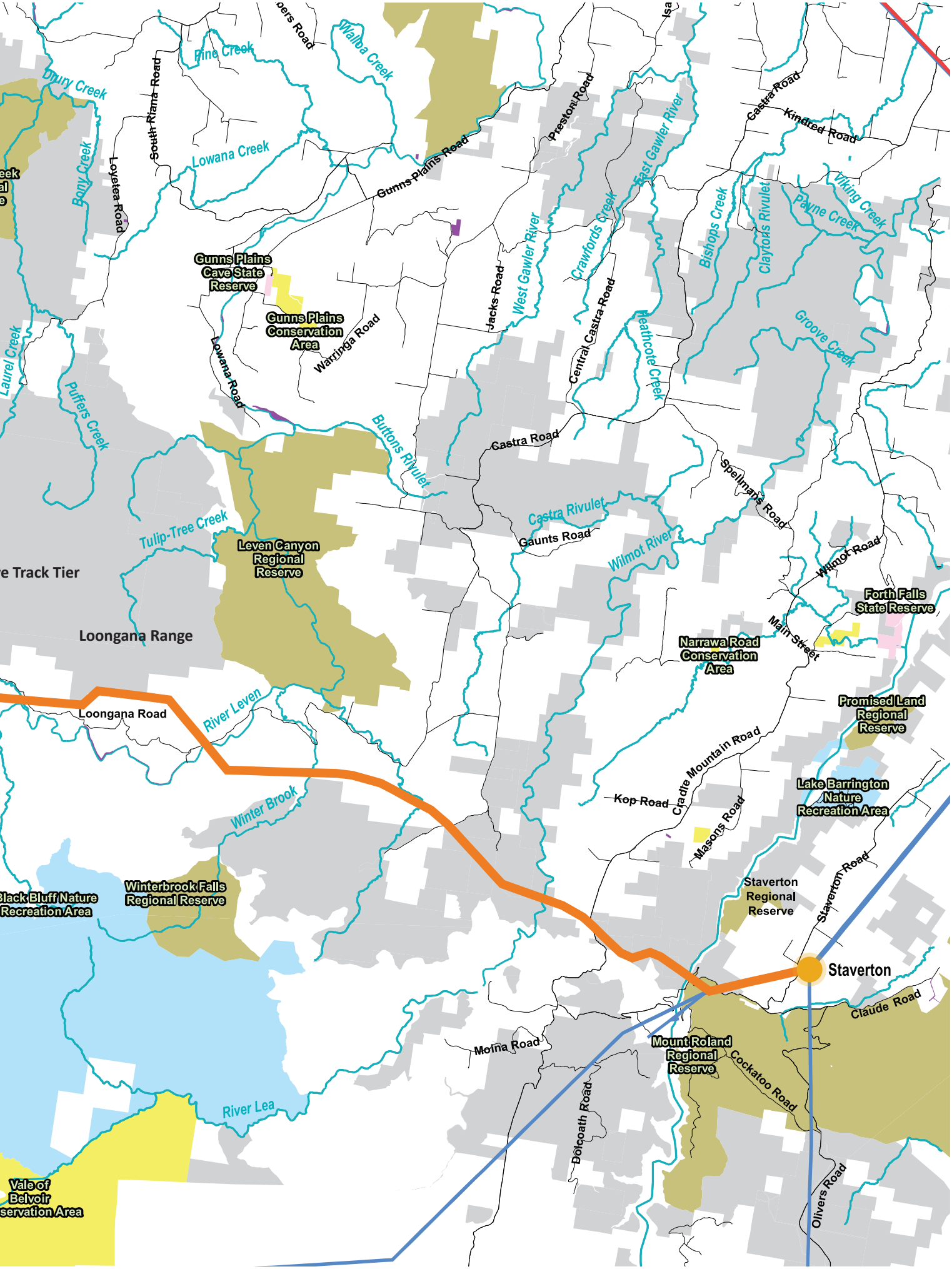
Several corridors were considered for this proposed transmission line – one through Gunns Plains, another through the River Leven valley and a third, south through the Vale of Belvoir. The upper River Leven valley between Loongana Range and the rugged Black Bluff Range and Fossey Mountains is the most favourable corridor.

West of Loongana, routes east and west of St Valentines Peak were investigated. Avoiding Old Park Regional Reserve and difficult granite terrain near Mt Housetop were reasons a western route through Rabbit Plain and Peak Plain was favoured over the eastern route. The proposed eastern route crosses extensive plantations reducing impacts on native vegetation and conservation assets.

The proposed route crosses through some native forest, mostly through plantations and a small number of private landholdings. TasNetworks will work carefully to reduce potential impacts through the detailed design of the proposed transmission lines, along with possible construction methods.

A map of the proposed transmission line from Hampshire to Staverton

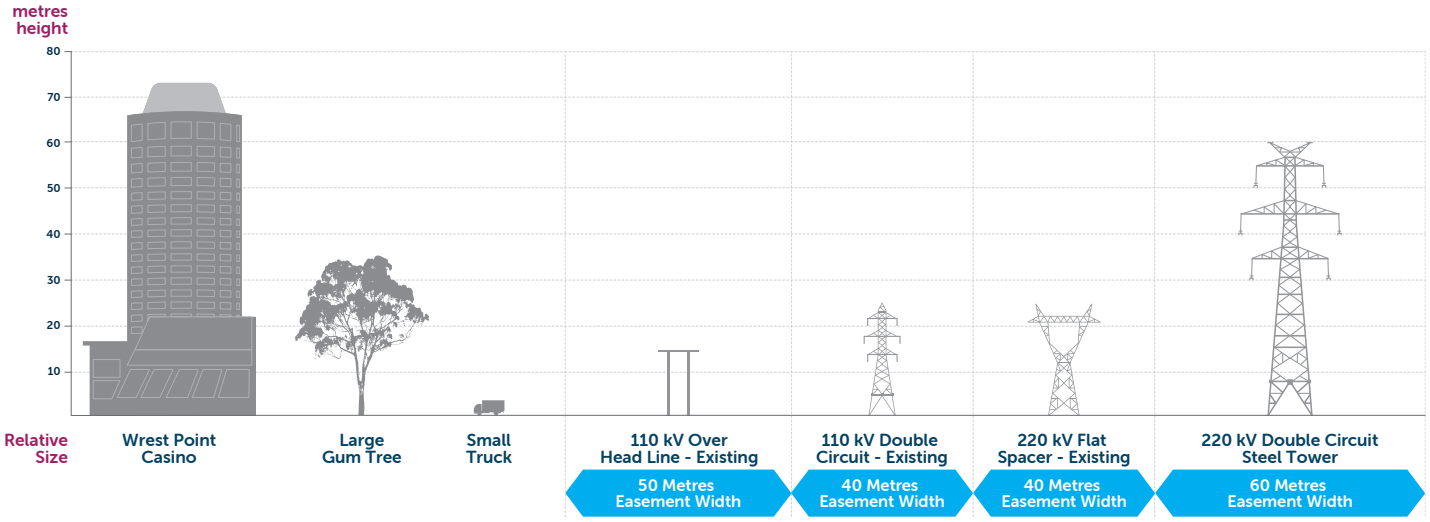



Drury Creek
Pine Creek
Wallba Creek
South Riana Road
Bony Creek
Loyetea Road
Lowana Creek
Gunns Plains Road
Preston Road
East Gawler River
Castra Road
Kindred Road
Viking Creek
Payne Creek
Bishops Creek
Claytons Rivulet
Gunns Plains Cave State Reserve
Gunns Plains Conservation Area
Warringa Road
Lowana Road
Jacks Road
West Gawler River
Crawfords Creek
Central Castra Road
Heathcote Creek
Groove Creek
Laurel Creek
Puffers Creek
Buttons Rivulet
Castra Road
Spellmans Road
Castra Rivulet
Gaunts Road
Wilmot River
Wilmot Road
Tulip-Tree Creek
Leven Canyon Regional Reserve
Forth Falls State Reserve
Loongana Range
Main Street
Narrawa Road Conservation Area
Promised Land Regional Reserve
Loongana Road
River Leven
Cradle Mountain Road
Kop Road
Lake Barrington Nature Recreation Area
Winter Brook
Masons Road
Staverton Regional Reserve
Staverton Road
Winterbrook Falls Regional Reserve
Staverton
Claude Road
Moina Road
Mount Roland Regional Reserve
Cockatoo Road
River Lea
Dolcoath Road
Olivers Road
Vale of Belvoir

What size are the towers?

The proposed electricity transmission corridor will consist of a single transmission line in a new easement. An easement up to 90 metres wide would be needed to accommodate the transmission line, along with transmission towers up to 60 metres tall.

Illustration of the proposed transmission line towers and easement from Hampshire to Staverton are shown below:



What is an easement?

An easement is a legal right that provides one party with rights over another party's land. Easements will allow TasNetworks to construct and maintain the transmission lines. Easements ensure public safety by restricting certain uses and activities that could cause people, vegetation or machinery to come into contact with live electricity conductors.

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How was the proposed route selected?

TasNetworks has been working hard to identify a proposed route that minimises impacts to landowners, local communities, the environment and areas that have cultural significance. Careful route selection is the most effective way to reduce the impacts of the project.

The route selection process starts by comparing possible options that are investigated and analysed against important criteria. These criteria consider a range of factors including:

- **Proximity to houses, businesses and townships**
- **Potential impacts on tourism and other business operations like forestry**
- **Visual impacts**
- **Cost for construction**
- **Ease of access**
- **Steep terrain and slope stability**
- **Energy system and technical requirements**
- **Land uses**
- **Planning and environmental policy**
- **Significant agricultural land**
- **Native vegetation**
- **Threatened plants and animals**
- **Cultural heritage sites**
- **Contaminated land**
- **Areas of local and state significance**

What has been protected?

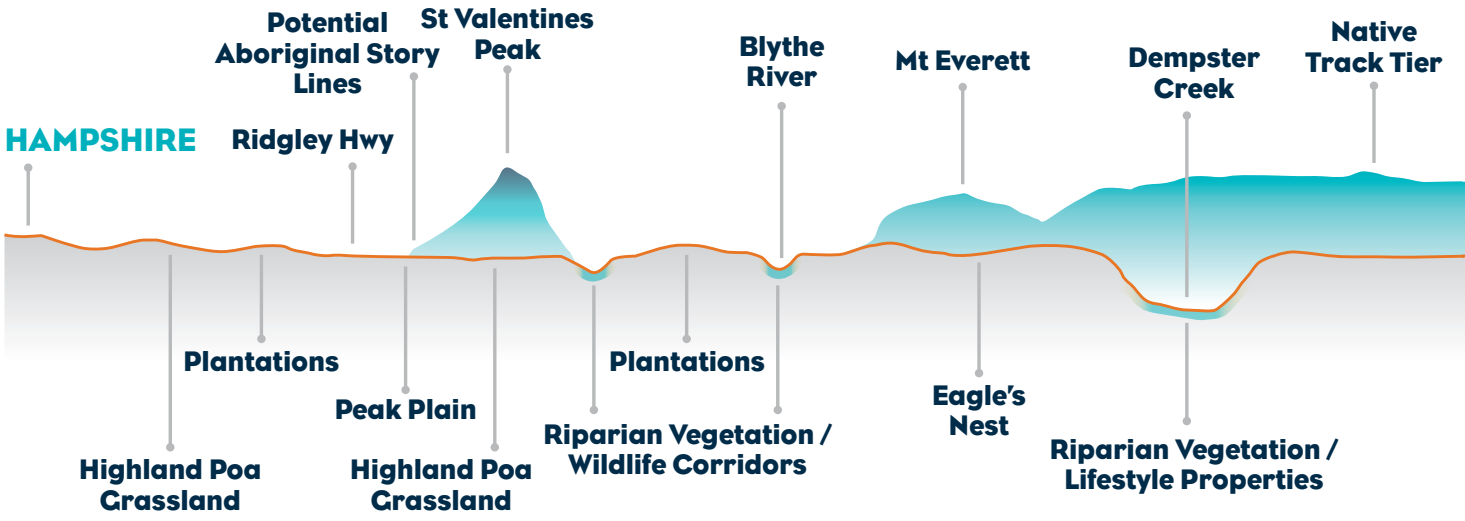
Where practical, TasNetworks has sought to reduce impacts on landowners, local communities and the environment. In designing the proposed route for the Hampshire to Staverton line, TasNetworks has avoided the following specific local areas:

- **Leven Canyon Regional Reserve**
- **Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park**
- **Gunns Plains Conservation Covenant**
- **St Valentines Peak**
- **Old Park Regional Reserve**
- **Black Bluff Nature Recreation Area**

What are the potential impacts of the proposed route?

TasNetworks has completed a range of desktop technical studies to understand the potential impacts of the proposed route. These studies included terrestrial ecology, cultural heritage and geomorphology. The findings now need to be tested by further field surveys and 'on-ground' testing over the coming months.

Hampshire to Staverton environmental sensitivities



Hampshire to Staverton environmental sensitivities

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The studies will help TasNetworks to identify and mitigate impacts where possible and to manage those that cannot be avoided. Some possible impacts identified through early investigations are outlined below along with strategies to avoid and manage them through careful planning, design and construction approaches.

What could be impacted?	How will impacts be avoided or managed?
Threatened birds of prey nests	Known raptor nests have been identified near the proposed route. Raptors, along with other threatened birds, could be displaced if their nests or nesting areas are disturbed by construction works. To avoid impacts TasNetworks will ensure that construction works occur outside of breeding season (July to January) where the route is within one kilometre of an active nest. TasNetworks will also ensure that vegetation around important nesting sites is protected and vegetation clearing along wildlife corridors is minimised.
Limestone formations and underground caves	The proposed route passes near areas that feature limestone formations and underground caves that may contain unique plants and animals and be important to Aboriginal people. Surveys will be completed to confirm the location of these formations, and towers will be sited to avoid these areas.
Threatened animal and plant species and their habitat, including: • **Spotted-tailed quolls** • **Tasmanian devils** • **Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles**	The proposed route has been designed to avoid impacts to threatened species and ecosystems where possible. Detailed surveys will be completed to confirm the location of threatened species, and towers will be sited, where practicable, to avoid these areas. TasNetworks will also ensure that works occurring near threatened animals and their habitat will be scheduled at times to avoid migration, nesting and breeding periods. Threatened species could also be impacted by the spread of animal and plant diseases and invasive weeds caused by construction works. To avoid this occurring, TasNetworks will ensure that appropriate measures are in place, such as regularly washing construction vehicles and applying disinfectants.
Aboriginal artefacts and rock-shelter sites	The proposed route avoids known Aboriginal artefacts and rock-shelter sites. Further surveys will be completed to identify important Aboriginal places, artefacts and story lines. TasNetworks will develop an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report in consultation with local Aboriginal communities and their representative organisations, to ensure important Aboriginal sites, story lines and artefacts are identified and appropriately managed.
Visual impacts, particularly from and near • **St Valentines Peak** • **Mt Housetop** • **Black Bluff** • **Leven Canyon** • **views from lookouts, roads and properties**	Some landscapes will be changed due to the presence of overhead transmission lines and towers. TasNetworks has considered landscape and visual impacts carefully. Impacts on significant views and from lookouts have been avoided where possible. The transmission line route was selected and towers sited to reduce impacts on landscapes and views. Tower heights will be varied where possible to further reduce impacts.
Significant river valleys, including steep and unstable areas, including: • **River Forth** • **Wilmot River** • **River Leven** • **Winter Brook**	Construction in or near steep and unstable slopes within river valleys can cause soil erosion and expose the transmission line to landslide or slumping risks. TasNetworks has selected routes and sited towers to avoid historic landslides and landslip prone areas where possible. Unstable slopes will be protected by minimising vegetation clearing in these areas and erosion will be managed by maintaining vegetation near watercourses.

fact sheet

How will the community be engaged?

TasNetworks will work closely with communities throughout all stages of North West Tasmania's transmission upgrades, including planning for the Hampshire to Staverton connection.

All relevant landowners have been contacted and engagement is underway with the wider community, through a series of ongoing engagement activities in the North West of Tasmania.

Landowner feedback is critical and will help to further refine or confirm sections of the proposed route. Community input will also be taken into consideration in finalising a proposed route, and will also help to inform design and construction considerations to reduce impacts, where possible.

Engagement findings reports will be submitted as part of formal planning and environmental assessment and approval processes. These formal assessment processes will also include 'public comment' periods at each critical stage. This will allow community feedback to be provided directly to government agencies and will help to inform decision-making and approvals.

Community feedback will be considered alongside a range of other factors, such as environmental impacts, energy system requirements, cultural heritage sites, constructability, total project development costs, planning, land-use requirements, and many other factors.

To learn more about the project, share your ideas and to find out about upcoming community engagement events visit tasnetworks.com.au, email team@marinuslink.com.au or call 1300 765 275. Visit out online engagement hub: To view a more detailed map, share your ideas and find out about upcoming community engagement events, visit out engagement hub at engage.marinuslink.com.au.

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