

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
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25th September 2025

Ms Jen Butler
Member for Lyons
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 10 September 2025 on behalf of your constituents regarding their residential power connection.

I am advised the challenge with Brian and Tanya's situation is regarding their desire to share the existing private pole on their current property with their new residence, which is on a separate title. I understand this is a similar situation to some of the other properties in their community, with private electricity assets shared across multiple land titles.

However, in line with modern connection laws and regulations under the *Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) Act 1995*, shared private electricity assets between land titles are no longer permitted. These changes were made to modernise the connections process and to minimise the risk of safety, compliance and/or liability issues. I am advised the land titles in Brian and Tanya's community that do have shared private electricity assets would have been connected prior to these changes in the *ESI Act 1995*; should they require electrical work in the future, these customers would first be required to upgrade their existing assets in line with modern legislated standards.

I am advised TasNetworks provided Tanya and Brian with two options for facilitating power connection at their new residence:

- Option 1 involved adhering or merging the two titles into one combined title, which is a process requiring planning approval from the local Council, and an application submitted to the Land Titles Office. Adhering the titles would allow TasNetworks to use the existing private pole on the other land title to connect the residence;
- Or Option 2, connecting the new residence to the existing power network. However, as unfortunately there is no existing TasNetworks infrastructure on public land close to the property boundary, this option would involve costs to Brian and Tanya in order to design and install private electricity assets. As a regulated business, whose income is recovered from end-users, it is required that TasNetworks only incurs costs that are prudent and efficient. The costs associated with scoping and installing private electricity assets for individual customers do not meet the definition of prudent and efficient and thus must be charged to individuals requiring the work.

I also understand Brian has since contacted TasNetworks directly with a third possible option and a site visit has been arranged to assess the feasibility of his suggestion.

With regard to the cost of a site visit, TasNetworks do not charge for basic site visits. I am advised the cost quoted to Brian and Tanya (\$4,860) were costs of detailed design and scoping work required for Option 2. As noted previously, costs associated with private electricity infrastructure cannot be recovered as part of TasNetworks regulated revenue and instead must be borne by the owners of the private electricity assets.

I am advised that when TasNetworks did not receive a previous decision from Brian and Tanya regarding which option they wished to progress, their connection application was closed, as per standard processes. However, as it now appears Tanya and Brian would like to progress, I have instructed TasNetworks to re-open their application and contact them directly to discuss these options further. I have also instructed TasNetworks to expedite Brian and Tanya's connections' application wherever possible to minimise any further delay to a completed connection, once they have decided which option would best suit their situation.

In relation to your direct enquiry to TasNetworks in July 2025, I apologise for the lack of timely response. I have reiterated my expectations with TasNetworks regarding timely management of their inquiries and correspondence.

Once again thank you for raising Tanya and Brian's issue with me and I hope this information is useful to both you and your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', followed by a long horizontal line.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables