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11 MAR 2026

Mr Mark Shelton MP
Liberal Member for Lyons
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Shelton *Mark*

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 5 March 2025 on behalf of your constituent regarding fire recovery efforts in Dolphin Sands and general fire resilience of the electricity network.

The Dolphins Sands bushfires had a significant impact on the community and infrastructure, including the electricity network. At the height of the outage, over 800 properties were without power, and many network assets were damaged or destroyed. This is a serious outcome, and I express my deepest sympathies to those who lost homes and properties as a result of the fires.

I am pleased to let your constituent know the majority of poles in Dolphin Sands that were damaged in the recent fires will be replaced with fibreglass reinforced concrete ones. Whilst concrete poles are not suitable for all locations, they can provide better fire protection than wooden poles. Noting the fire risk in Dolphin Sands, TasNetworks is taking the opportunity to install concrete poles where possible to boost the fire resilience in that area.

Additionally, in locations within Dolphin Sands where concrete poles are not suitable for installation, TasNetworks will be installing a special type of mesh on wooden poles that provides additional protection and boosts their fire resistance. This mesh was installed on several poles in Dolphin Sands previously, as a pro-active fire mitigation measure, and I'm advised that it substantially improved their fire resistance in the recent fires.

More broadly, TasNetworks have a rigorous maintenance and inspection program to ensure Tasmania's electricity network remains safe, secure and reliable. Whilst natural events will always be a risk to the electricity network, TasNetworks is always looking for ways to improve network resilience and security. This includes the measures detailed above, along with vegetation management and proactive pole and wire inspections.

It is absolutely essential that communities have access to safe, clean and reliable energy, and this is reflected in TasNetworks strong capital investment program, designed to upgrade and safeguard our electricity grid for the future. Last financial year, TasNetworks invested almost \$272 million into its network to boost reliability for Tasmanians.

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The continued safety of our clean, renewable electricity system is a top priority for Government and I thank you for raising this constituent's question with me. Should your constituent have any further questions regarding this matter, they are welcome to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Acting Minister for Energy and Renewables