



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

Transmission lines & grid connection

How a data centre connects to the electricity grid — and what it means locally

Why a connection is needed

A large data centre needs a high-voltage (HV) connection to the electricity grid, and sometimes new or upgraded transmission lines and a substation. This connection is often a separate approval, handled with the network operator (in Tasmania, TasNetworks).

What people ask about

The common questions are about visual impact and easements for new lines, who pays for network upgrades, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) near lines and substations. On cost: a well-handled connection means the facility pays its fair share of the upgrades it needs, rather than passing them to households. On EMF: see the dedicated EMF sheet — the fields that reach homes depend on distance and design, and are managed to stay near everyday background.

What good practice looks like

- The HV connection assessed as part of the proposal, not left as a later detail.
- The facility covering its fair share of network and connection costs.
- Line routes and substation siting chosen to limit visual impact and EMF at homes (undergrounding and good design where lines pass near houses).
- Early, transparent engagement with the network operator and affected landholders.

Questions you can ask

- Will new transmission lines or a substation be needed, and where?
- Who pays for the network upgrades?
- How will visual impact and EMF near homes be managed?

Want to know more? TasNetworks and your local council publish further information on grid connections. This sheet is general information, not medical, legal or planning advice; figures are indicative and a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.