

Investment Evaluation Summary (IES)



Project Details:

Project Name:	Remote Area Power Supply - Future Sites
Project ID:	01121
Thread:	Non Network Solutions
CAPEX/OPEX:	CAPEX
Service Classification:	Standard Control
Scope Type:	A
Work Category Code:	NNNOC
Work Category Description:	Non Network Solutions Network Optimisation Capex
Preferred Option Description:	Implement RAPS solutions and decommission the distribution spur line
Preferred Option Estimate (Nominal Dollars):	\$2,500,000

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
Unit (\$)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Volume	0	0	0	0
Estimate (\$)				
Total (\$)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Governance:

Project Initiator:	Thanh Nguyen	Date:	07/08/2015
Thread Approved:	Andrew Fraser	Date:	19/10/2015
Project Approver:	Stephen Jarvis	Date:	19/10/2015

Document Details:

Version Number:	1
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Related Documents:

Description	URL
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Section 1 (Gated Investment Step 1)

1. Background

The distribution network in Tasmania grew dramatically from 1950 to 1990, as the Hydro Electric Commission rolled out electrification across East Coast, West Coast, Central and North parts of the State. During this electrification period, the network was extended to any rural sites to facilitate new load connections as required. These practices have resulted in sites where small isolated loads are connected at the end of long distribution spur lines. These spur lines are often travel through heavily vegetated areas in mountainous terrain. Issues associated with supplying these small isolated loads include:

1. Ongoing pole inspection and replacement costs relative to the supplied load
2. Ongoing bushfire mitigation and vegetation clearing costs
3. Fault operation cost
4. Supply reliability and quality
5. Revenue collected from the customers

TasNetworks has experience in the area of remote area power supply. We already deployed a RAPS unit to supply customer loads at Crotty Dam. The technical performance of the RAPS system is as expected. Implementing this solution has helped avoid the cost of maintain the existing distribution spur line to Crotty Dam.

1.1 Investment Need

Many spur distribution lines are approach the end of the design line. The ongoing maintenance may involve bushfire mitigation, vegetation clearing, fault operations, pole inspections and replacement. At the same time the total load consumption of the connected customers is relatively small.

The ongoing maintenance issue has resulted in the need to implement an alternative solution in order to reduce the related distribution cost.

1.2 Customer Needs or Impact

TasNetworks continues to undertake a consumer engagement as part of business as usual and through the voice of the customer program. This engagement seeks in depth feedback on specific issues relating to:

- how it prices impact on its services
- current and future consumer energy use
- outage experiences (frequency and duration) and expectations
- communication expectations
- STPIS expectations (reliability standards and incentive payments)
- Increase understanding of the electricity industry and TasNetworks Consumers have identified safety, restoration of faults/emergencies and supply reliability as the highest performing services

offered by TasNetworks. Consumers also identified that into the future they believe that affordability, green, communicative, innovative, efficient and reliable services must be provided by TasNetworks.

This project specifically addresses the requirements of consumers in the areas of:

- safety, restoration of faults/emergencies and supply reliability
- affordability, green, communicative, innovative, efficient and reliable services

Customers will continue to be consulted through routine TasNetworks processes, including the Voice of the customer program, the Annual Planning Review and ongoing regular customer liaison meetings.

Where implemented, the local connected customers will be specifically consulted prior to the project implementation.

1.3 Regulatory Considerations

This project is required to achieve the following capital and operational expenditure objectives as described by the National Electricity Rules section 6.5.7(a) and 6.5.6(a).

6.5.7 (a) Forecast capital expenditure

- (1) meet or manage the expected demand for standard control services over that period;
- (2) comply with all applicable regulatory obligations or requirements associated with the provision of standard control services;
- (3) to the extent that there is no applicable regulatory obligation or requirement in relation to:
 - (i) the quality, reliability or security of supply of standard control services; or
 - (ii) the reliability or security of the distribution system through the supply of standard control services, to the relevant extent:
 - (iii) maintain the quality, reliability and security of supply of standard control services; and
 - (iv) maintain the reliability and security of the distribution system through the supply of standard control services; and
- (4) maintain the safety of the distribution system through the supply of standard control services.

2. Project Objectives

The aim of this project is to deploy a RAPS system at a site each year, where necessary and justified as a cost effective alternative to the existing distribution spur line. The RAPS will be an efficient combination of diesel generators, battery banks and renewable energy sources such as wind or solar. The equipment sizing will mainly be dictated by optimising the implementation cost, but such factors as environment impact will be taken into account.

The project is to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Reduce the cost of providing distribution network services, by avoiding the following distribution

line maintenance costs:

- Fault operations
- Vegetation clearing
- Conductor replacement
- Pole inspections and replacements
- Other (ancillary) costs

2. Provide demonstrable innovative solutions, raising our business profile

3. Provide a reliable supply for the connected customers

4. Reduce the need for fault response in difficult terrains, contributing to a safe environment for employees, customers and the general public

5. Decommission the existing distribution spur line (that is incurring poor reliability.)

3. Strategic Alignment

3.1 Business Objectives

Strategic and operational performance objectives relevant to this project are derived from TasNetworks 2014 Corporate Plan, approved by the board in 2014. This project is relevant to the following areas of the corporate plan:

- We understand our customers by making them central to all we do.
- We enable our people to deliver value.
- We care for our assets, delivering safe and reliable networks services while transforming our business.

3.2 Business Initiatives

The business initiatives that relate to this project are as follows:

- Safety of our people and the community, while reliably providing network services, is fundamental to the TasNetworks business and remains our immediate priority
- We care for our assets to ensure they deliver safe and reliable network services
- We will transform our business with a focus on:
 - the customer, and a strong commitment to delivering services they value
 - an engaged workplace with strong cultural qualities and people who will be great ambassadors for TasNetworks
 - a high performing culture with clear accountabilities for deliverables
 - an appropriate approach to the management and allocation of risk

- a well run, efficient business, that delivers sustainable returns to the Tasmanian community and is resilient to future challenges.

The strategic key performance indicators that will be impacted through undertaking this project are as follows:

- Customer engagement and service – customer net promoter score
- Price for customers – lowest sustainable prices
- Zero harm – significant and reportable incidents
- Network service performance – meet network planning standards
- Network service performance – outcomes under service target performance incentive schemes
- Sustainable cost reduction – efficient operating and capital expenditure

4. Current Risk Evaluation

Bushfire and/or asset failure results in

1. A fatality or permanently impairs a person’s life
2. Significant media coverage

4.1 5x5 Risk Matrix

TasNetworks business risks are analysed utilising the 5x5 corporate risk matrix, as outlined in TasNetworks Risk Management Framework.

Relevant strategic business risk factors that apply are follows:

Risk Category	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Customer	Disruption to customers with declining network reliability	Likely	Minor	Medium
Environment and Community	Vegetation contact and/or asset failure results in a catastrophic bushfire with widespread loss of property	Unlikely	Severe	High
Financial	The business continues to incur the financial burden associated with maintaining the existing feeder	Almost Certain	Minor	Medium
Network Performance		Likely	Minor	Medium

	Interruption of supply to customers (and detrimental power quality)			
Regulatory Compliance	Increased number of unplanned outage leads to local NCEF breaches	Possible	Minor	Low
Reputation	Bushfire and/or asset failure results in significant media coverage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium
Safety and People	Bushfire and/or asset failure results in a fatality or permanently impairs a person's life	Unlikely	Severe	High

Section 1 Approvals (Gated Investment Step 1)

Project Initiator:	Thanh Nguyen	Date:	07/08/2015
Line Manager:		Date:	
Manager (Network Projects) or Group/Business Manager (Non-network projects):		Date:	
[Send this signed and endorsed summary to the Capital Works Program Coordinator.]			

Actions			
CWP Project Manager commenced initiation:		Assigned CW Project Manager:	
PI notified project initiation commenced:		Actioned by:	

Section 2 (Gated Investment Step 2)

5. Preferred Option:

The preferred option is to deploy a RAPS system where necessary and justified as a cost effective alternative to the existing distribution spur line. The proposed project involves the following principle components:

1. deploy a RAPS unit to supply the customers at Eddystone Point
2. remove the thereafter redundant distribution spur line

The other options considered are doing nothing (e.g. continuing with the maintenance of the existing distribution lines), and replacing the line with a new underground cable. These options have pros and cons; importantly they incur higher costs than that of the proposed solution.

5.1 Scope

The deployed RAPS unit will feature an optimal and efficient combination of diesel generator/s and battery unit/s. Renewable energy could be considered in order to reduce the amount of diesel consumption and the need for regular refuelling. The renewable energy sources could include solar PV and/or wind. There are several factors influencing the renewable selection:

1. Upfront and ongoing costs
2. Environment impact
3. Land availability

The proposed project will involve planning and design, specification, construction and finally performance evaluation of the RAPS unit. Whilst the ongoing running and maintenance tasks are considered in the NPV (economic) analysis they will not be covered by the project itself.

The planning and design phases will address the following:

1. Detailed assessment to determine the optimal sizing of RAPS equipment (diesel generators, battery banks and renewable energy) in order to minimise the total deployment cost;
2. Engagement with all the individual customers that have physical load connections. The discussions will specifically be to understand customer expectations on the supply reliability.

The specification phase will define the essential performance characteristics that TasNetworks require in order to maintain the supply reliability and quality for the Eddystone Point customers. Such specification will facilitate the tendering process for choosing the right vendor to supply RAPS equipment (generators, batteries, wind turbines, solar panels.)

The construction will involve site preparation, equipment delivery and installation.

The performance evaluation phase will be undertaken for 12 month in order to ensure that the deployed RAPS system technically performs as expected. Upon a positive evaluation result the distribution spur line will be decommissioned and removed.

5.2 Expected outcomes and benefits

Where implemented, project deliverables are as follows:

1. A complete RAPS unit, featuring an optimal combination of diesel generator/s, battery bank/s and renewable energy (solar and/or wind)
2. Removal of the SWER distribution spur line

Completion of the project will result in the following outcomes:

1. Reduced asset management cost associated with the supplied load, which includes
 - 1a. Fault Operation
 - 1b. Vegetation (and bushfire mitigation)
 - 1c. Pole inspection and replacement
 - 1d. Conductor replacement
 - 1e. Other (ancillary) costs such as pre-fire inspection and meter reading
2. Improved safety for both staff and the public
3. Reduced risk of bushfire start
4. Improved power supply reliability and quality for the customers

These outcomes are consistent with the investment needs of TasNetworks.

5.3 Regulatory Test

6. Options Analysis

Options considered are:

1. Option 0: Do nothing (and keep maintaining the existing distribution line)
2. Option 1: Deploy a RAPS unit

6.1 Option Summary

Option description	
Option 0	Do nothing
Option 1 (preferred)	Implement RAPS solutions and decommission the distribution spur line

6.2 Summary of Drivers

Option	
Option 0	
Option 1 (preferred)	

6.3 Summary of Costs

Option	Total Cost (\$)
Option 0	\$0
Option 1 (preferred)	\$2,500,000

6.4 Summary of Risk

Remove the existing distribution spur line in order to minimise the risk of bushfire

6.5 Economic analysis

Option	Description	NPV
Option 0	Do nothing	\$0
Option 1 (preferred)	Implement RAPS solutions and decommission the distribution spur line	\$0

6.5.1 Quantitative Risk Analysis

N/A

6.5.2 Benchmarking

N/A

6.5.3 Expert findings

N/A

6.5.4 Assumptions

- [For Option 1] The cost of deploying a RAPS unit (including planning and design, specification, construction and performance evaluation) is \$450,000 in 2015 dollar
- [For Option 1] Volumes of RAPS deployments will be consistent for each of the four years 2013-2027. E.g. 1 site per year.

Section 2 Approvals (Gated Investment Step 2)

Project Initiator:	Thanh Nguyen	Date:	07/08/2015
Project Manager:		Date:	

Actions			
Submitted for CIRT review:		Actioned by:	
CIRT outcome:			