

Tarraleah Redevelopment: EIS Engagement Report

June 2026

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Hydro Tasmania pays respect to the rich, long and ongoing history of the Traditional Owners and Custodians and their connections to land, sea and community.

The mountains, natural lakes and rivers that capture and channel water for hydropower are rich in Aboriginal history, culture and tradition. We acknowledge ongoing connection to culture and custodianship of the lands and waters of places we share. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

1. Executive summary

This report summarises community and stakeholder engagement for public exhibition of the Tarraleah Redevelopment Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application (DA).

The public exhibition period was held between 13 April and 25 May 2026. Our team across Hydro Tasmania and Entura supported the EIS / DA process and community participation through a range of activities across Central Highlands communities including Hamilton, Tarraleah, Bothwell, Ouse, Bronte Park and Wayatinah.

A targeted, local communications approach was used. Social media, community networks, printed materials and face-to-face drop-in sessions ensured broad reach despite the Central Highland's dispersed population. Our objectives were met to increase project awareness, support community participation, and strengthen local relationships.

Our team had many great conversations, centred on understanding the changing energy landscape, why the project was needed, construction impacts, and opportunities for local employment and community benefit.

Themes included strong interest in the future use of the existing Tarraleah Power Station, preservation of local heritage assets, and the need for clear information about timelines, workforce accommodation and infrastructure impacts. Generally, there is support and enthusiasm for the Project and recognition of the Project's potential economic and regional benefits.

Four formal representations were made to Central Highlands Council during the exhibition period.

2. Project overview

The Project is in the Upper Derwent Valley, between Lake King William and the Nive River. Our stakeholders are in the communities of Tarraleah, Wayatinah, Ouse, Hamilton and Bothwell, within the Central Highlands Council municipal boundary.

The proposed Project would replace the existing Tarraleah hydropower scheme, which is reaching the end of its operational life. Redevelopment would involve:

- building a new, higher capacity power station adjacent to the existing one
- replacing the old canals, flumes and penstocks with a new pressurised pipeline and tunnel
- building a new surge tower, pump house and transmission line
- connecting the new pipeline to a new water intake at Lake King William.

3. Objectives

This round of engagement focused on:

- Connecting with local communities and raising awareness of the project's status.
- Sharing information about the EIS and DA, their purpose and the approvals process:
 - Discussing the project and the purpose of an exhibition period.
 - Explaining what an EIS is and how it is developed.
 - Encouraging representations for or against the project
 - Sharing project information (fact sheets, EIS summary)
 - Providing a registration form for people to receive updates and newsletters.

The three methods of engagement are described below.

Method	Activities	Who	When
Awareness	• Social media campaign • Community events • Project web page update	Central Highlands community	Pre-exhibition period – March 2026
Briefing / workshop	• Presentations • Aboriginal engagement workshop/ yarning session	Central Highlands Council & Tassal palawa community members	During exhibition period - April/May 2026 March 2026
Exhibition	• EIS summary • EIS and project fact sheets • Drop-in sessions • Posters and flyers • Social media • Project web page updates.	Central Highlands community	During exhibition period - April/May 2026

3.1 Community activities

3.1.1 Awareness building

Our project team attended community events that offered an opportunity to reach our target audience prior to the public exhibition period.

Events	Format	Date
Hamilton Show	Marquee with posters, fact sheets and giveaways.	14 March
Tungatinah Power Station Open Days	Pop up display with fact sheets, posters and giveaways.	20 and 27 March

3.1.2 Briefings/ workshops

Central Highlands Councillors and key staff were provided with a tour of the Tarraleah project site, including the upgrade works, water conveyance, existing power station and the proposed site at Tarraleah Village for the Workforce Accommodation Facility.

The project's Aboriginal engagement advisor, Sharnie Read, facilitated a two-day workshop with members of the palawa community and key project staff.

Day One: Responding to community feedback, providing detailed project information, and discussing future opportunities for engagement.

Day Two: A dedicated yarning session facilitated by the advisor without project staff present. This provided a culturally safe space to openly share perspectives, ask questions and discuss the project. Following the workshop, the advisor prepared a summary of key themes, feedback and suggestions, which was shared with the project team to inform ongoing project planning and engagement.

We also provided briefings to the Council, the Tarraleah Golf Club and Tassal.

3.1.3 EIS / DA Exhibition

Communities closest to the project are small and remote, with residents spread across large rural properties or living part-time in local shacks. We planned our activities for locations and times that provided the greatest opportunity for community members to attend and participate.

After our community activities finished, we set up a permanent display in the Battery Café at the Tarraleah Village. This will support the staff at the Village who are often asked about the project by visitors.

Events	Date
Waddamana Family Fun Day	18 April 2026
Drop-in session: Bothwell	21 April 2026
Drop-in session: Hamilton	22 April 2026
Drop-in session: Ouse	29 April 2026
Drop-in session: Bronte Park	30 April 2026
Drop-in session: Wayatinah	1 May 2026



Marquee display, Patrick Street, Bothwell.

3.1.4 Culturally safe engagement practices

Our Aboriginal engagement advisor, Sharni Read, reviewed the EIS Summary to ensure it was relevant, accessible and easy to understand for members of the palawa community. The document was updated in response to this feedback.

To support culturally safe engagement with the EIS, we shared Sharni's contact details in our documents and on the Hydro Tasmania website. This created a safe and confidential opportunity for members of the palawa community to discuss the project, ask questions, and seek help to navigate the EIS and submission process. Community members could share as much or as little information as they wished with the advisor, who could facilitate discussions with project staff if requested.

4. Participation summary

Attendance figures represent stakeholders who had a meaningful conversation with staff about the project. Some participants were asked where they were from to help contextualise discussions and feedback, but no formal demographic information was collected.

Overall, engagement numbers were positive at each event, considering:

- the regionality of the communities
- dispersal of population
- communication with the palawa community was predominantly via word of mouth.

Events	Number of conversations
Hamilton Show	52
Two Power Station Open Days – Tarraleah Village	62
Central Highlands Council tour	12
Waddamana Family Fun Day	31
Drop-in session Bothwell	15
Drop-in session Hamilton	22
Drop-in session Ouse	17
Drop-in session Bronte Park	13
Drop-in session Wayatinah	20
Meeting with Tarraleah Golf Club	2
Meeting with Tassal / Saltas	3
Contact with the Aboriginal engagement advisor	6
TOTAL conversations	255

5. Key themes and feedback

5.1 Themes

- **Changing energy market**
 - Awareness of the changing energy environment and the increase in energy projects proposed across Tasmania, of which Tarraleah is one.
 - A wish to understand why the energy market is changing and how energy will be delivered in future, including the role of Marinus Link.
- **Future opportunities**
 - How locals could be involved in the expected boost in economic activity throughout the region from the project's construction.
 - Members of the palawa community wish to be involved in future, including land management, cultural activities and practices, development and installation of artwork, and employment and training opportunities.
- **The existing power station's future**
 - The existing Tarraleah Power Station is highly valued for personal and amenity reasons and future business opportunities for the location were suggested.

5.2 Community priorities

Topic	Interest
<i>Education and training</i>	Retain young people in the region if there are training and employment outcomes.
<i>Employment</i>	Local employment opportunities to keep people in the community, which supports other existing businesses.
<i>Transmission lines</i>	Understanding potential impacts to neighbouring properties (access, visual) from new proposed transmission lines.
<i>14 Mile Road</i>	Locals keen to see the road upgraded /sealed as it's an alternative, less windy route.
<i>Lake King William, Wayatinah Lagoon</i>	Water levels and impact on fishing, and impact on tourism if lake levels are lower during construction.
<i>Community benefits</i>	Understand how communities might benefit from the project.
<i>Derwent River</i>	Impacts downstream of Lake King William during construction (turbidity and sediment concerns).
<i>Butlers Gorge Road</i>	Road access (noting that the road has been partially / fully closed during upgrade works).

Topic	Interest
Future of Tarraleah Village	Community keen for Hydro Tasmania to retain the Village and keep it as a tourism facility. Some concern that it would remain closed after construction is completed.
Future of Tarraleah Power Station	We received many suggestions that the existing station would be a great museum or café and educational facility.
Workforce accommodation	Communities keen to see families live in the area.
Construction start time and length	Enthusiasm for the Project to commence.
Future energy market	Desire to understand the changing energy market, our business model and how we operate our power stations both now and in the future.
Future of the wooden penstocks	Significant sentiment and connection to the history of Hydro Tasmania. People are keen to see some level of preservation.

6. Recommendations and next steps

Our community activities undertaken during the EIS/DA exhibition period demonstrated that meaningful, place-based engagement is critical to building understanding and trust within regional communities.

Our conversations showed a strong desire for ongoing involvement and input, clearer understanding of project timelines, and visibility of how local communities will benefit from the Project. We will continue to connect with communities on a regular basis through:

- Project newsletters
- Using community networks and locations to share project information and display newsletters
- Identifying community events that will help us build greater community connection
- Continuing to offer briefings and updates to local and interested stakeholder groups
- Continuing to work with members of the palawa community.