

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

SUBCO is proposing a new subsea fibre connection at Bellbuoy Beach as part of the Bernacchi-1 Project. This community update provides information about the proposed works, how the cable will come ashore, and the two potential telecommunications sites being considered. SUBCO and Firmus have partnered to deliver this new connectivity for Tasmanian users.

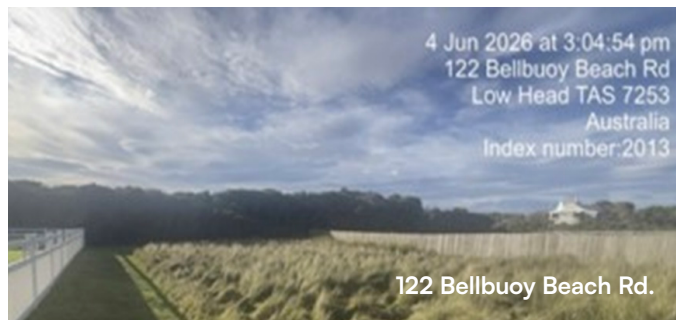
SUBCO is an Australian-owned independent telecommunications company. Bernacchi-1 will connect Tasmania to the Sydney-Melbourne section of the SMAP subsea cable, adding an independent path and improving the resilience and diversity of Tasmania's digital infrastructure.

SUBCO and its predecessor, SubPartners, have worked for more than 13 years to establish additional connectivity to Tasmania.

In 2022, Tasmania experienced an almost six-hour communications disruption when both Telstra subsea cables connecting the State to mainland Australia experienced technical issues. Bernacchi-1 will provide an additional connection to help reduce the risk of similar disruptions.

Fast facts

- Approximately 180km of subsea cable will connect Tasmania to the SMAP system.
- The cable is approximately the diameter of a 50-cent piece.
- The system will use less power than your kitchen kettle — just 2kW to boost the fibre-optic signal.
- The project does not include mobile phone towers.
- Existing telecommunications infrastructure will be used wherever practical to minimise new construction and community impacts.

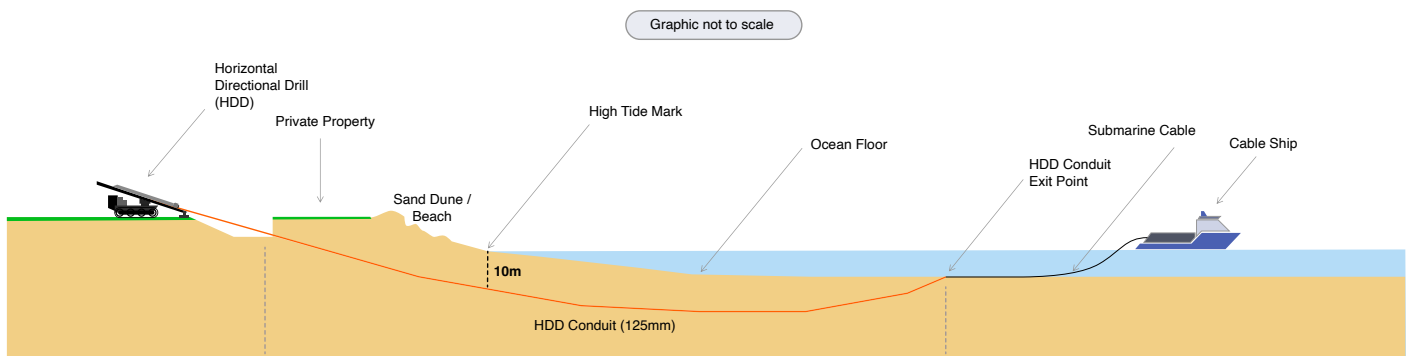


How will the cable come ashore?

A 125mm underground ocean lead-in duct will be installed from 122 Bellbuoy Beach Road to approximately 750–800m offshore using horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

The duct will generally pass 10–12m below the surface, including beneath the beach and coastal dune system. This method avoids excavation of the beach and dunes.

Offshore, the cable will be laid on the seabed in coastal waters without blasting or seabed ploughing.



HDD works will be undertaken from a temporary construction compound at 122 Bellbuoy Beach Road over approximately 6–8 weeks. Works will occur during normal working hours, with temporary acoustic barriers used to minimise noise, traffic and disruption. Once the works are complete, the underground infrastructure will be covered and disturbed areas reinstated.



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Telecommunications site options

Two potential site options are being considered for the telecommunications infrastructure required to terminate the subsea cable and connect to the terrestrial fibre network. Only one option will ultimately progress, with the final location to be determined as project planning continues, taking into account council planning requirements and community feedback.

OPTION ONE

Cable Landing Station (22 Lord Liverpool Dr.)



A small purpose-built cable landing station (CLS) housing the telecommunications equipment required to terminate the subsea cable and connect it to the terrestrial fibre network. Approximately 13m x 4m pre-fabricated shelter to be dropped into a newly built shed similar to those in the surrounding area at 22 Lord Liverpool Drive.

OPTION TWO

Telecommunications Shelter only (On land behind Lot 7 of 1-22 Moana Av.)



Simpler concept comprising a telecommunications shelter only, housing the equipment required to connect the subsea cable to the terrestrial fibre network. Shelter measures around 12m x 3.45m, and overall site footprint is approximately 42m².

Neither option is a data centre or mobile phone tower.

Standby power is required at the site via small generators (no greater than 60kVA) which will be contained within an acoustical enclosure. The generator will only be used in the event of an extended power outage to the area. The standby equipment will also be run for a short maintenance period (5-10mins) every 1 – 2 months to ensure they are operating correctly.

Environmental considerations

SUBCO has undertaken extensive surveying, planning and design works to ensure the project avoids environmentally sensitive areas, and the local environment is protected.

- SUBCO is working with all relevant Federal, State and Local authorities to ensure any impacts are minimised and the project plans are adaptable for local conditions.
- SUBCO is prioritising building activities to urban land to protect local vegetation and cultural heritage. Wherever possible SUBCO is utilising existing infrastructure within the community (such as existing telecommunications cables and duct to connect back to major Tasmanian population centers) to further reduce building impacts.
- As Bellbuoy Beach already has telecommunication and other utility infrastructure, landing the data cable on a vacant lot in the town and connecting to this infrastructure ensures the least impact to the local environment and identified culturally significant areas, compared to surrounding beaches and alternative landing points.
- The method SUBCO is using to lay the cable - the ocean lead in process - is the least impactful to the environment and the Bellbuoy Beach community. By using this method SUBCO completely avoids any ocean or beach-based excavation works. The beach manhole and connecting conduit will be built well onshore within the vacant block and will be completely covered and not visible once work is complete.



Keeping the community informed

Briefings with all key stakeholders including registered first nations parties and federal/state bodies.

- Mailbox drops to local residents near construction, with QR Codes to Bernacchi-1 explainer pages
- Blog updates, website explainers and fact sheets
- Email and contact details provided for questions from local residents
- Clear signage on site describing the project activities and timing of works with key project contacts
- Collaboration with local bodies to provide clear online project information for residents and visitors

