

NBN EXEMPT WORKS GUIDELINES

For National Broadband Network Infrastructure & Network Subscriber Connection

Under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* (HCHA), approval for any works to a property entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register must be sought from the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

Approval for heritage works may be in the form of a certificate of exemption or a discretionary permit. Where your proposed works are minor and won't affect the significance of the place, the Heritage Council may provide you with a certificate of exemption. If you do not have a certificate of exemption from the Heritage Council, you may need to lodge a development application with your local council. Your local council will forward your application to the Heritage Council to assess any impacts on the historic heritage values of the place.

These Guidelines lists those works, including infrastructure, trenching and cabling, and individual network subscriber connection activities that may be considered to be undertaken to places in the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) under a certificate of exemption.

These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Works Guidelines which can be found at <http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/works.html>.

The list may not be exhaustive, and discretion and caution should be used to ensure that works will have no impact on the heritage significance of the place. An unsympathetic installation that has impact on heritage values, including the streetscape character, or heritage appearance of a registered place may trigger the need for a discretionary permit application. The Heritage Council will refuse the approval of such works if it is apparent that there is an alternative that has less impact on the place's heritage values. The Heritage Council can order to have an unsympathetic installation removed.

Heritage Tasmania recommends that the NBN Co, or its nominated contractors, appoint a heritage consultant to plan and advise on the sympathetic placement of NBN infrastructure and individual subscriber connections to places in the THR and within identified heritage conservation areas or precincts.

The NBN Exempt Works Guidelines are structured in three parts;

- 1. Placement of infrastructure, including Fibre Distribution Hub cabinets and trenching within places that are entered in the THR,**
- 2. Network Subscriber Connections - External (Underground, Aerial, Fixed Wireless & Satellite); and,**
- 3. Network Subscriber Connections - Internal.**

1. PLACEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING FIBRE DISTRIBUTION HUB CABINETS AND TRENCHING WITHIN PLACES THAT ARE ENTERED IN THE TASMANIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

It is anticipated that the placement of infrastructure, including cabling and Fibre Distribution Hub (FDH) cabinets will occur largely within road reserves and within areas of land that are not subject to the provisions of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* (HCHA). Whilst the *Telecommunications Act 1997* provides for the development of telecommunications infrastructure to be exempt from approval under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA), the same provision does not apply to the HCHA.

It is important to recognise that the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) contains a number of places that are described by Central Plan Register (CPR) rather than a title area. The CPR may include an area of land that is within a road reserve and permanently entered in the THR. The road reserve may have historic cultural heritage values that include archaeological potential that may be affected by new infrastructure.

Heritage Tasmania recognises that the placement of cabling and FDH cabinets has the potential to intrude on the setting and historic heritage character of significant heritage streetscapes, and on the views to and from significant heritage places.

In planning new infrastructure it is important to:

- 1. Understand the heritage significance and status of the place, at either State (THR) or local level (LGA planning scheme), and for having precinct or site specific values.*
- 2. Understand the boundary of the place, as the property title, Central Plan Register diagram or zoning in the local planning scheme.*
- 3. Consult local authorities regarding their heritage requirements.*
- 4. Plan new infrastructure to avoid impact on historic cultural heritage values, including Criterion (C): Archaeological Research Potential, and on the appearance and setting of significant heritage places, including heritage streetscapes, viewfields to significant heritage places and on significant historic plantings.*
- 5. Position Fibre Distribution Hub (FDH) cabinets outside of significant heritage streetscapes and away from the setting and views to heritage places.*
- 6. Seek independent specialist advice if in doubt.*

In general, where any features and/or deposits of historic cultural heritage significance are found during excavations, a person must stop work and seek further approval from Heritage Tasmania. A development application may be required, and will need to include a strategy for the management of archaeological remains, which is to be prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council's Practice Note 2. In all matters, owners are encouraged to notify Heritage Tasmania of any findings.

The following types of work are considered to be undertaken under a certificate of exemption:

Type of Works	Conditions of Exemption
Hauling of NBN cable through existing conduits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ground disturbance required as existing service conduits are used.
Replacement of existing underground pits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The replacement of an existing pit does not involve the installation of additional new pits and will be located in the same position as the original pit. The land is to be restored to a condition that is similar to its condition before the activity began.
Excavation for open trenching or direct boring in areas - archaeological considerations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavations to be located in areas of no or low archaeological potential; and The land is to be restored to a condition that is similar to its condition before the activity began.
Excavation for open trenching or direct boring in areas - landscape considerations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavations are to be undertaken outside of the tree/vegetation drip line of significant plantings; or Excavations are carried out on the advice of a qualified arboriculturalist to determine the extent of protective exclusion zones required to avoid root pruning and any other prescriptions to ensure significant plantings are maintained in a stable, healthy condition.
Placing a Fibre Distribution Hub (FDH) cabinet within a place in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation of a FDH cabinet in a non-prominent and unobtrusive position, that does not impact on significant heritage fabric, setting, streetscape, or views to or from the heritage place.

2. NETWORK SUBSCRIBER CONNECTIONS – EXTERNAL

The application of external network subscriber connections is the most common enquiry to Heritage Tasmania having potential impact on places permanently entered in the THR.

It is understood that aerial connection may be required where existing aerial infrastructure exists, however the use of aerial connection should be reviewed in all cases to ensure that the proliferation of aerial cabling and resultant visual impact is avoided.

There are a number of general rules to follow:

- Excavation for open trenching must be read in accordance with the Conditions of Exemption for Infrastructure, above.*
- Network Subscriber Connections must be planned to avoid impact on historic cultural heritage values, including Criterion (C): Archaeological Research Potential, and on the appearance and setting of significant heritage places, including heritage streetscapes, viewfields to significant heritage places and on significant historic plantings.*
- Underground Cable is the preferred method for connecting the NBN to heritage places and streetscapes.*
- Aerial Cable is supported only where the property is connected by existing telecommunications aerial cable, and the new NBN cable may eventually replace the existing aerial cable allowing this to be removed once it becomes redundant and/or where the location is considered acceptable as having no impact on the streetscape or representative characteristics of the heritage listed place.*

5. Premises Connection Devices (PCDs) must be located away from principal facades, and cause no damage to significant heritage fabric (ie. stone, masonry, ornate render and applied finishes).
6. Multi-Dwelling Units (MDU's) and Complex Premises (CP's)(e.g. office building, shopping centre) should have a consolidated connection point (where possible) with individual dwelling connections and conduit/cables contained within the building, or in an external location that causes no damage to significant heritage fabric, or that is not located on principal facades.
7. Exercise caution. An unsympathetic installation that has impact on historic streetscape character and therefore on heritage values of the registered place may have to be removed and replaced where an alternative method (i.e. underground) exists. Penalties can apply where a breach of the HCHA has occurred.
8. Seek independent specialist advice.

2.1 NETWORK SUBSCRIBER CONNECTION - UNDERGROUND

- **Underground is preferred to connect to places in the THR.**

The following types of work are considered to be undertaken under a certificate of exemption:

Type of Works	Conditions of Exemption
Hauling of NBN connection through existing conduits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ground disturbance required as existing service conduits are used.
Excavation for open trenching.	See <i>Infrastructure, above.</i>
Fixing external infrastructure to heritage buildings (e.g. Premises Connection Device (PCD), Cable Transition Location (CTL), cabling & conduit)	<p>NOTE: PCD/CTL shall <u>not</u> be fixed into the front faces of buildings or into highly decorative or detailed fabric or into un-painted masonry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCD/CTL to be fixed at the lowest possible level of the wall within the product specifications. • PCD/CTL is to be located at a discreet location, that is, one that is screened, or not visible from public views. • PCD/CTL should be located next to existing external pipes/cables/meter or cable termination boxes to minimise the proliferation of services. • Where this is not possible, the PCD/CTL shall be screened to avoid direct public views. • Cabling and conduit generally to run internally within the building, either within the roof, floor or wall cavity, and where possible not be exposed to the building exterior. • With masonry buildings, the PCD/CTL is to be fixed using non-corrosive fixings through a mortar joint rather than fixed to the face of bricks or stones. Breeches in walls for cables from PCDs/CTLs are also to be made at mortar joints. • Where the PCD/CTL cannot be effectively screened, their visual impact may be minimised by painting to match external wall finishes.

2.2 NETWORK SUBSCRIBER CONNECTION - AERIAL

- **Aerial connection is not preferred for places in the THR.**

The following types of work can be undertaken under a certificate of exemption:

Type of Works	Conditions of Exemption
<p>Installation of subscriber drop cable and mounts – visual impact.</p> <p>Avoid proliferating aerial cabling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install aerial cable where the property is connected by existing aerial telecommunications cable, and the new NBN cable may eventually replace the existing telecommunications aerial cable allowing this to be removed once it becomes redundant. • Drop cable to follow similar alignment as existing aerial cable. • Where not following an existing aerial cable, locate new mounts and hardware away from front elevations – i.e. a minimum of 1 metre back from front wall. “Goose-neck” risers will be acceptable where required to meet minimum service requirements (i.e. height, proximity to services) and where the “goose-neck” is fixed to one side of the front elevation. • Cable mounts shall cause no damage to significant heritage fabric (i.e. stone, masonry, ornate render and finishes).
<p>Installation of subscriber drop cable – significant plantings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch pruning to be minimised – i.e. “as much as necessary, as little as possible”. Tree surgery to be conducted only in accordance with the Heritage Council’s Work Guidelines.
<p>Fixing the Premises Connection Device (PCD).</p>	<p><u>NOTE:</u> This part must be read in conjunction with Part 2.1 Network Subscriber Connection - Underground, above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCD/CTL to be located at a discreet location, that is, one that is screened, or not visible from public views, for example behind fascia or under an eave. Where this is not possible, the PCD/CTL should be screened or in the roof space. • Where PCD/CTL cannot be effectively screened, their visual impact may be minimised through painting to match the external wall or fascia finish. • Cabling and conduits should run internally within the building, either within the floor, roof or wall cavity, and where possible should not be exposed to the building exterior. • Where external cabling and conduits are required, the cabling and conduits should be discreetly located and the opportunity taken to group the cabling and conduit with rainwater pipes or other plumbing services. • Fixings into masonry should be into mortar joints (ie: not into the masonry unit) and fixings should be corrosion resistant.

2.3 NETWORK SUBSCRIBER CONNECTIONS - FIXED WIRELESS & SATELLITE

There are a number of general rules to follow:

1. Antenna and satellite dishes must be located away from prominent viewfields, and located to have no impact on setting, streetscape, or views to or from the heritage place.
2. The location and fixing of antenna, satellite dishes, and associated cabling must avoid damage to significant heritage fabric (i.e. slate, terracotta tiles, unpainted masonry). The placement of a freestanding mounting pole may be preferred and should be considered where necessary to avoid impact on significant heritage fabric.

The following types of work are considered to be undertaken under a certificate of exemption:

Type of Works	Conditions of Exemption
Premises connection antenna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of an antenna or aerial and associated mounting pole in a non-prominent and unobtrusive position that does not impact on significant heritage fabric, setting, streetscape, or views to or from the heritage place.
Satellite dish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of a satellite dish and associated bracket in a non-prominent and unobtrusive position, that does not impact on significant heritage fabric, setting, streetscape, or views to or from the heritage place.
Conduit and cabling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of conduit and cabling in a discreet location, such as within the wall or roof cavity, beneath the eaves, and not along the surface of significant external walls.

3. NETWORK SUBSCRIBER CONNECTION – INTERNAL

Whilst it is understood that internal subscriber connections will be directed by the subscriber, Heritage Tasmania recommends that NBN or its contractors appoint an independent heritage consultant to advise on optimum internal placement.

There are a number of general rules to follow:

1. Internal equipment, including the Power Supply Unit (PSU), Network Termination Device (NTD), and Fibre Wall Outlet (FWO) must be positioned to avoid impact on significant heritage features, and on the historic character of significant interior spaces (i.e. churches, formal character rooms, and rooms and spaces having high historic architectural integrity).
2. The installation of internal equipment must avoid impact on significant heritage features such as joinery (cabinetry, skirting boards, architraves, picture rails, mantle pieces, staircases, timber panelling, etc), wallpapers ('Anaglypta', hand-blocked, hand-painted, flocked, etc), plasterwork (cornices, ceiling roses, mouldings), pressed metal and significant paint and applied finishes.
3. The placement of additional power outlets and cabling that may be necessary to connect to the Power Supply Unit (PSU) must follow same.

The following types of work are considered to be undertaken under a certificate of exemption:

Type of Works	Conditions of Exemption
Installation of internal connection devices, including; Internal NBN Cable, Power Supply Unit (PSU), Network Termination Device (NTD), Fibre Wall Outlet (FWO), additional general power outlet (GPO), Premises Distribution Hub (PDH), Fibre Collector Distributor (FCD), Fibre Distribution Terminal (FDT), and Internal Connection Device (ICD).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduit or cabling is to run through existing wall or ceiling cavities. • External penetrations shall, to the extent that is possible, be through mortar joints and not through the face of unpainted face brick or stone units. • Where conduit or cabling cannot be run through existing wall or ceiling cavities, the cabling should be run along a visually unobtrusive point, such as the base or top of skirting boards, or at the base of cornices. • Care is to be taken to not permanently damage any significant heritage features; joinery, wallpaper, plasterwork, pressed metal or paint finishes.

4. CHECKLIST

1. Check that the place is listed in either a local planning scheme (including within a heritage precinct or overlay), or that the place is entered in the THR.
2. Fibre Distribution Hub cabinets should be located outside of significant heritage streetscapes, and not placed in front of heritage buildings, or in front of heritage places that abut the road reserve.
3. Tasmanian Heritage Council approval will be required for trenching or for works to install a FDH cabinet within an area of land that is entered in the Tasmanian Heritage Register. Heritage Tasmania recommends that the NBN appoint a heritage consultant for advice.
4. Underground is the preferred method for connecting subscriber activities to heritage listed places.
5. Aerial connection that will result in visual impact should be avoided unless (i) the existing telecommunications connection to the building is aerial and the NBN aerial connection may eventually be a replacement, or (ii) the location has no impact on the streetscape or representative characteristics of the heritage listed place.
6. Cabling for Multi-Dwelling Units and Complex Premises should be concealed within the building. They should not be on principal facades or in exposed conduits on the building exterior, unless it is in an external location that causes no damage to significant heritage fabric.
7. If cabling is not concealed, or if there is a moderate to high level of impact on significant heritage fabric, the works may require a development application to be lodged with the local council. The Heritage Council may condition that the works are conducted in a manner having no impact on heritage values, including concealment where possible.
8. When in doubt, seek independent expert heritage advice to determine the best fit solution, having no impact on heritage values, including no detrimental impact on significant fabric within, or to the outside of the building.