



7 December 2020

Mr Stephen Clark  
Project Director, Marinus Link  
TasNetworks  
PO Box 606  
Moonah TAS 7009

Lodged via email: [team@marinuslink.com.au](mailto:team@marinuslink.com.au)

Dear Mr Clark,

### **MARINUS LINK: SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSIS REPORT**

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. We represent and work with hundreds of leading businesses operating in renewable energy and energy storage along with more than 7,000 solar and battery installers. We are committed to accelerating the transformation of Australia's energy system to one that is smarter and cleaner.

The CEC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Marinus Link Supplementary Analysis Report. The CEC strongly supports new transmission investment in the National Electricity Market (NEM) that demonstrates rigorously tested benefits to consumers. Australia's transmission network has simply not kept pace with the transition to a 21<sup>st</sup> century energy system and is a major concern for investors in renewable energy. The lack of transmission is now one of the most critical challenges facing the transition of Australia's energy system. This underinvestment in transmission is now stifling new generation investment, constraining existing generation and resulting in increased energy security and reliability risks and higher power prices.

The Australian Energy Market Operator's Final 2020 Integrated System Plan (ISP) sets out the least cost development pathway for the NEM. It confirms there is a clear need for a strongly interconnected NEM and that there is a need to continue progressing Marinus Link as a multi-staged actional ISP project with decision rules.

The optimal timing of Stage 1 of Marinus Link will depend on which ISP scenario eventuates. The CEC notes that the ISP also suggests the need for the first stage of Marinus Link to be available as soon as feasible, in case the Step Change scenario eventuates. The Step Change scenario is a high renewables scenario. It is possible that government commitments subsequent to the ISP, such as the passage of the legislation to give effect to Tasmania's 200 per cent renewable energy target and the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Investment Roadmap, are already setting us on a path that overshoots the Step Change scenario.

Depending on the scenario, the ISP suggests the NEM will need 6-19 GW of new flexible, utility-scale dispatchable resources. Storages are key to a future NEM with a high penetration of renewable energy generation. The CEC supports the significant potential that Tasmania presents to the NEM through its storage assets and therefore the continued need for Marinus Link to unlock this deep storage potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation. If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this submission, please contact me, as outlined below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lillian Patterson', written in a cursive style.

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