MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 30 November 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Number: 01

Chair: Jane Leslie

Attendees	
Martin Fuller (MF), West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Cameron Spence (CaS), GROW
Jeanie Hall (JH), Latrobe Valley Authority	Mikaela Power (MP), TAFE Gippsland
Charles Solomon, GLaWAC	Benjamin White (BW), Marinus Link
Tina Bradshaw (TB), TAFE Gippsland	Joe Fennessy (JF), Marinus Link
Leigh Kennedy (LK), Federation University	Tony Cantwell (TC), Committee for Gippsland
Crystal Serblan, RPS (minutes)	Mandi Davidson (MD), a/ Marinus Link

Apologies	
Ken Griffiths, South Gippsland Shire Council	Peter Mooney, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council
Daniel MIller, GLaWAC	Owen Chapman, TAFE Gippsland

Abbreviations

AC	Alternating current
DC	Direct current
EMF	Electromagentic fields
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
GSLG	Gippsland Stakeholder Liasion Group
HDD	Horizontal direct drilling
MW	Mega Watts

RIT-T	Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission
SoTS	Star of the South

Minutes

Project Overview

Background

- BW provided background on energy sector in transition.
- Sector needs at least 19,000MW of dispatchable resources.
- Marinus Link will carry an additional 1500MW capacity.
- Two possible converter station locations, connecting in at Hazelwood, or one near Driffield in the Hancock Victorian Plantation estate.

Proposed Route

- Route selection process and documentation available to share on this process if people want to read.
- Feasibility studies and business case developments have taken place over the last 3.5 years
- Converter Station overview-

- Voltage Source Conversion technology to convert DC to AC power which provides significant system security and technological advancements since the last interconnector.

- Have conducted a number of marine reconnaissance surveys and about to undertake main geotechnical marine survey across the Bass Strait. Do we include a statement about no adverse survey results?
- Using DC to cross the Bass Strait because of its ability to efficiently and safely transmit electricity across water.
- Bundling the cables will help cancel the electromagnetic Field (EMF).
- Investigations of seabed so far have shown it to be mostly sand and clay
- Overview provided of construction approach for proposed shore crossing at Waratah Bay – horizontal directional drilling (HDD) proposed from approx. 1km inshore to approx. 1km offshore, avoiding impacts to near shore, beach, dune and coastal reserve.
- Land cabling – Primarily trenching but will look to use HDD to avoid sensitive environmental areas.
- A corridor of up to 36m may be required during construction, with a 20m wide easement left after construction.
- A number of agricultural activities can resume such as irrigation, grazing and most cropping
- Activities and uses such as erection of sheds or houses, stockpiles or bore holes will not be permitted.

- Two cable conduits, with a third available for future cables if required.
- The converter stations will be quite large and are very specialised buildings with only a few proven suppliers in the world.

Environmental approvals process

- For the Commonwealth referral, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC), the Project requires a whole of environment assessment. Referral lodged to Victorian Government under Environment Effects Act, awaiting response. Assuming an Environmental Effects Statement will be required.

Project timeline

- Project started early in 2018 with feasibility studies and business case assessment.
- It concluded the case for Marinus Link delivers a solution that is reliable and cost effective for consumers.
- Project has also gone through a full Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) process, governed by the Australian Energy Regulator, which is a rigorous cost benefit analysis and energy market test that also evaluated alternatives.
- Currently in design and approvals phase.
- Final Investment decision anticipated by the end of 2024 and after that construction will commence.
- Built in two 750MW stage. First stage operational from 2028-29, second stage operational from 2030-31.

Community engagement

- Have reached out during floods and are keen to provide broader benefits to the community, delivered through community benefits scheme and economic development.
- Marinus Link wants to work with the GSLG to deliver social value in the area. Advice from GSLG will help inform a Sustainability Framework for Marinus Link which will guide the community benefits approach, together with broader Environment, Social and Governance outcomes.
- Marinus Link has a 40-50 year life, so the business wants to be a good partner, neighbour and citizen.
- By 2050, Marinus link will have saved 140 million tonnes of Co2-equivalent (like taking one million petrol/diesel cars off the road).
- Marinus Link is currently recruiting for additional team members including community engagement.

Questions

Q – Any intent to include community members?

A – We have an active and documented community engagement program. We currently engage directly with landowners along the proposed route and have open/constructive dialogue with many on things like micro route realignments etc. We do not have an intention to establish a separate community consultative committee, or add community members to the GSLG, however the GSLG will be reviewed periodically through the design and approvals phase and a community liaison group may be considered leading into construction.

C–SoTS Advisory Group has community members. It has been a good forum to get information out into the community. Marinus Link might take some lessons from SoTS and think about adding community members.

Q – Are we planning to engage with Traditional Owner Groups?

A – We have GLaWAC representation on the GSLG, and we have also engaged with the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung.

Role of the GSLG

Purpose from Terms of reference

- Important forum to provide information about the project, raise and understand issues, concerns and opportunities to constructively progress the project.
- Will be a sounding board across a number of agencies and portfolio areas with advisory capacity.

What do members want to get out of GSLG?

GROW:

- Interest in linking Gippsland people to jobs and inclusion.
- Need to create awareness of the opportunities and manage the expectations of local community.
- Being clear about what the opportunities are and when and where it is important. GROW can help manage expectations and lessons learnt from past projects.

TAFE Gippsland:

- Interested in the link between industry and skills provision.
- Understanding what Marinus Link is looking for in terms of skills and training.
- As people transition from other energy operations, TAFE Gippsland can plan and have a more mapped out approach.
- People need clarity or they will fill the void with the first information they receive.

Federation Uni:

- Education and skills are a focus for Fed Uni. Strong focus working in partnership with industry to offer courses that will meet industry and workforce need.
- Being able to clearly define what roles will be required in the future so there can be planning and delivery will be important to manage expectations.
- Establishing first Engineering for clean energy projects course in coming weeks. A great opportunity to align Marinus Link with this new qualification.

Committee for Gippsland:

- Act as connector within community and industry.
- Also looking to attract investment to the region.
- *How do they support these projects through skills and training and through jobs and opportunities from Yallourn power station closure.* – what does this mean?
- Just completing energy vision which can be used for advocacy and messaging, and Marinus Link features in this prospectus.

LVA:

- JH sits on school industry round table working group.
- Will want to engage with current secondary school students to direct them towards what jobs will be available. JH can provide this link.

BW – Noting comments regarding skill development and job creation, Ben White informed the GSLG that a lot of the assets are very specialised and they will likely be procured via an international tender, noting northern Europe has majority of cable and converter station supply chain, but the jobs in Gippsland could come in the assembly, installation/civil construction and ongoing operation of these assets.

We can work with other projects in the region to make sure we get a strategic view of what is going on and where potential synergies are in relation to skills and job creation?

Delegated authority

Chair: Does anyone have limitations in their delegated authority regarding what they can commit to in the GSLG?

No limitations noted.

Administration

No objections to Terms of Reference as presented. ToR endorsed.

No objections to Code of Conduct as presented. CoC endorsed.

Action: Send updated documents to members. All members to review, sign and return to Crystal prior to next meeting.

Questions

Q – Who should GSLG direct questions to if they are asked by the community.

A – In the interim, Ben White will be available field most questions, however in the first instance please contact Chair Jane Leslie and Crystal as Secretary.

ACTION – *Share GSLG contact list with members.*

Q -Who owns the project?

A – Currently the project is a partnership between the State of Tasmania and the Australian Government. Project delivery is being done by Marinus Link Pty. Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of TasNetworks (which is an electricity transmission and distribution company wholly owned by the Tasmanian Government). Marinus Link (as the High Voltage Direct Current component) will potentially move to be owned and delivered by a Commonwealth Government Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), reflecting its national significance and importance.

Q- How do you recoup the cost?

A - Usually this is done through electricity customers. It is being built in Tas and Vic but energy market benefits flow throughout to whole National Electricity Market (NEM). Conversations at a national level are currently focusing on how do we more fairly allocate costs that more accurately reflects where the benefits are realised.

Q – What are the differences between Marinus Link and Basslink?

A – Marinus Link will be transporting 3 times more capacity than Basslink (Marinus Link is 1500MW and Basslink nominally 500MW), so a total of 2000MW of transmission/interconnection capacity will be available between Victoria and Tasmania. Since Basslink (now approximately 16 years in operation), technology has advanced significantly. Marinus Link is being designed for a future with significant variable renewable energy generation and changing load profiles. It will offer greater voltage and frequency stabilising services, an ability to instantaneously switch direction and simultaneously flow energy in multiple directions, while also offering 'black start' capability, to support a ride through during major system fault events. These services offer extraordinary flexibility, redundancy and security in a rapidly transitioning system. Marinus Link is being progressed as a regulated service owned by government, where Basslink is current a market or merchant service that is privately owned. The case for Marinus Link and further interconnection only grows stronger, and this is recognised by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

Q- Does Marinus Link make financial sense with opportunities like battery storage (referencing ABC article)?

A - Bob Brown foundation commissioned a report by Prof. Bruce Mountain looking at Marinus Link and essentially concluded that batteries in Victoria would be more cost effective. The inputs to this report are limited. Marinus Link has commissioned reports from EY, Jacobs and FTI Consulting (internationally recognised and reputable energy technology and market specialist firms), together with other extensive technology, energy market and environmental assessments over a number of years and found under a wide range of future scenarios, inclusive of batteries, hydrogen, electric vehicles and other sensitivities, that Marinus Link stacks up (i.e. more benefit than cost) and is needed. Marinus Link also recognises that batteries (domestic and industrial) will be required, and probably sooner than later. The question is how we support communities, customers and the environment through the transition.

Meeting close

Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Send updated Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest to members to sign.	Crystal	3-12-21	Complete
GSLG Members to review, sign and return Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest to Crystal	GSLG	xx-xx-xx	In progress
Send contact list and presentation to GSLG members	Crystal	10-12-21	In progress
Create form for members to register preferences for meeting, burning questions and distribute	Crystal	3-12-21	Complete