

# MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 8 Feb 2022

Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Number: 02

Chair: Jane Leslie

## Attendees

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Tina Bradshaw (TB), TAFE Gippsland	Leigh Kennedy (LK), Federation University
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Tony Cantwell (TC), Committee for Gippsland	Kate Lancaster (KL), Marinus Link
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Owen Chapman, TAFE Gippsland	Peter Mooney (PM) Gippsland Trades and Labour Council
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Mandi Davidson (MD), a/ Marinus Link	Mikaela Power (MP), TAFE Gippsland
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Joe Fennessy (JF), Marinus Link	Crystal Serblan, RPS (minutes)
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Tony Flynn (TF), Latrobe Valley Authority	Charles Solomon (CS), GLAWC
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Martin Fuller (MF), West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Cameron Spence (CaS), GROW
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Ken Griffiths (KG), South Gippsland Shire Council	Thomas Walker (TW), SGS
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Katherine Halliday (KH), Marinus Link	Benjamin White (BW), Marinus Link
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## Apologies

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Jeanie Hall, LVA	Daniel Miller, GLAWAC
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## Abbreviations

AC	Alternating current
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DC	Direct current
EES	Environment Effects Statement

FID	Final Investment Decision
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
GSLG	Gippsland Stakeholder Liasion Group
ISP	Integrated System Plan
NEM	National Electricity Market

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## Minutes

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### Introduction (JL)

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- Introduction to new Marinus Link Engagement Manager for Gippsland, Kate Lancaster
- Previous minutes endorsed

### Strategic overview and project update (BW)

- AEMO has released draft 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP), which covers future growth of energy generation, retirement of assets and future transmission and network connections required, with emphasis on reaching net zero emissions by 2050.
- AEMO’s Draft 2022 ISP puts Marinus Link (along with the Tasmanian transmission developments) as a fully actionable project, with no constraints (or decision rules applied). AEMO is calling on this project to be developed as soon as possible.
- Previously there were decision rules on Marinus Link, including resolving fair cost (or customer pricing) allocations, and legislating a renewable energy target in Tasmania. Fair cost allocation is being progressed by the Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee. Tasmania has also established and legislated a 200% renewable energy by 2040 target.
- Looking at how we can potentially bring the timing of the two 750MW Marinus Link stages closer together. First 750MW stage to be delivered by 2028-29 and the second by 2029-2030 (at the earliest).

How does Marinus Link connect to other projects or energy generators in the region?

For other projects including offshore wind, Marinus Link provides a firming service. Wind farms or solar farms in Victoria can be topped up by dispatchable hydro and wind energy from Tasmania via Marinus Link. If there is excess energy production and demand is low on mainland Australia, energy can be sent to Tasmania for storage using for pumped hydro. It can be stored in Tasmania and then exported back at low cost. This is reliable, dispatchable clean energy - which is the basis of the business case and observing the market is now starting to materialise as a critical need.

- Looking at two connection locations in the Latrobe Valley. Converter station placement either at Hazelwood next to the terminal station or near Driffield (about 12km south west of Hazelwood). Location is contingent on land acquisition and optimising technical and environmental values and constraints.
- Other projects in Gippsland (like Star of the South or the Delburn wind farm) won’t connect directly into Marinus Link but instead will connect into the existing HVAC network. That was one of the reasons we decided to run Marinus Link as an underground HVDC connection (noting that to cross Bass Strait it was more prudent to deploy HVDC cabling).

Other updates

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- The project is continuing with landowner access agreements and undertaking some environmental survey and geotechnical investigations.
  - **Question (PM)** – with Basslink going into administration, how does Marinus Link sit in relation to this?

**Answer (BW)** - Basslink is somewhat different to Marinus Link. For starters, Basslink is older technology. It has been operating as a Market Network Service Provider (MNSP) or better known as a 'merchant link', meaning privately owned and commercial arrangement is based on arbitrage market and limited access. Marinus Link is proposed as a regulated service, being progressed under government ownership, and will be an access model. Basslink is continuing to operate, however any reduction in energy transfer via the existing interconnection would only increase the value and importance of Marinus Link as a service to energy consumers. Our understanding is that Basslink will continue to operate and Marinus Link's cost-benefit modelling is based assumptions and a scenario where Basslink continues to operate. In all business case scenarios Marinus Link continues to stack up.

**Question (MF)**- Is the final investment decision still 2024?

**Answer (BW)** – We are still aiming for FID in 2024. There may be slight adjustments to the schedule. COVID has delayed all major projects to some extent. Marinus Link's FID could be mid or late 2024, we're still working through the details. There is still a 5 to 6 year construction window, with the two phases of the project potentially being brought closer together.

### **Economic Development (BW, TW)**

- Marinus Link is estimated to create approx. 1400 direct and indirect jobs. The project is interested in supporting local economic development and supply chains were relevant and achievable.
- Introduction to SGS who have been helping Marinus Link develop a draft regional economic development strategy for Marinus Link.

#### SGS Presentation

- SGS is delving into more details about what skills will be needed, profile of jobs and skills requirement. Relating to both design and approvals and construction phases.
- Tom Walker is the SGS economist who has been working with ML for the past 12 months.
- Purpose of economic development strategy is to take high level thinking and ground it and determine how project benefits can be delivered.
- The objectives of the Economic Development Strategy are to:
  - Identify and promote the economic benefits at each phase of the Project.
  - Identify opportunities to leverage economic benefits within local communities.
  - Collaborate with key stakeholders in the co-design & delivery of activities/initiatives.
- The overall outcome for this Strategy and Action Plan is that the regional economic benefits of Marinus Link are fully realised at each phase of the Project.
- Development of the strategy will be a four-step process.

Step1: Regional profile and stats analysis of region to understand area better

Step 2: Identify benefits of Marinus Link by five themes and consider how the benefits align with the economic profile of the region

Step 3: Work with stakeholders in co-design and identify opportunities to leverage economic benefits within local communities and within existing initiatives. Identify gaps and barriers.

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Step 4: Work with stakeholders to identify actions and implantation plan which pursues opportunities and overcome barriers

- Currently up to co-design process to work with stakeholders
- Despite economic shocks recently, the region is well placed for industry revitalisation. A lot of work already going on. How do we tap into existing efforts?
- Benefits – Five themes:
  - Workforce development, skills & training
  - Procurement & opportunities for local businesses
  - Infrastructure / assets & national market benefits
  - Local and regional community (social) benefits
  - Public and private sector investment
- Most jobs in construction with 30 to 40 into operations
- What flow on job opportunities might come about because of Marinus Link?
- What procurement policies can we implement ensure local?
- What capacity development is required for local businesses?
- Broader benefits delivered to the National Electricity Market, transition to renewables, downward pressure on prices and attracting businesses looking to move to renewable supply.
- Marinus Link is scoping an Environment, Social and Governance (ESG), or Sustainability Framework to create an integrated approach to economic, social, environmental and governance benefits. The approach to the Local Benefits Sharing scheme will be guided by this framework.
- Taking a long-term view on economic development to 2050.
- Action plan – will focus on work force development, skills and training and business support.
- The co-design process will:
  - Scope the economic development agenda
  - Identify opportunities and initiatives for economic development
  - Determine how these initiatives can be implemented (actions)
  - Identify who is a partner for action implementation
- Today is the intro to the process. SGS will come back in April/May 2022 to workshop more in-depth opportunities discussed today and work out how Marinus Link can partner with local organisations and initiatives. SGS will use this to draft the strategy and then test the draft with the GSLG members.

**Comment (CS)**– Several areas GLAWAC and possible other TO groups would be interested in. Key areas include:

- Workforce development. How can TO groups can be involved in recruitment to create more culturally safe positions, particularly in the procurement space. Encourage Aboriginal businesses to participate. More work within TO community to develop capacity in this space. GLAWAC have released an [Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy](#) in this space and are working closely with Kineway to strengthen Aboriginal business.
  - Investment ties into work force development and is needed to support capacity development. Support to the TO community needs to extend beyond just creating job opportunities.
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**Comment/Question (MF)** -Considering the proposed development and thinking about legacy of long-term investment has there been consideration to the large developments pooling resources for a fund for Gippsland so it benefits the community and region. A joint fund might be complicated to set up and manage or might require local government input but it would be great if something like that could be developed.

**Response (BW)**—Marinus Link is open to exploring opportunities to work with other projects in an approach like this. Marinus Link wants the regional economic development strategy to integrate, not duplicate or sit isolated, with other projects in the area. How do we create opportunity and legacy and not capture other project and government initiatives in the region?

Marinus Link will continue to work with TO groups on how we achieve some the outcomes GLaWAC referenced.

**Comment (TF)** – LVA is supportive of a pooled fund and looking at regional benefits which can be delivered with an integrated approach across projects. There is a nucleus of projects which will give economies of scale. About five offshore wind farms slated for Gippsland as well.

**Question to members (Chair)** -What is the current economic development work taking place in the region?

**Response (CS):** The Aboriginal community has experience and skills in areas like Caring for Country, cultural tourism, food and hospitality, and arts and design. Identifying opportunities to draw on these skills will be important. Aboriginal people have aspirations which have been captured in the [Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy for Gippsland](#).

(JF) – Marinus Link is currently in the process of looking at what an Indigenous Participation Strategy looks like, but if there is existing work being done and local expertise the project can draw on that can help inform the strategy.

(CS)- GLAWAC are currently working closely with Kineway to develop a Business Incubation Hub.

**Response (TC)** – Economic development work Committee for Gippsland has undertaken and will be doing. They've completed an Energy Vision for the region looking at how the region attracts public and private investment. This is a big piece of work which will be rolled out over the next 6-12 months then ongoing to achieve renewable energy opportunities.

C4G also looking at Hydrogen Strategy around this sector especially for Gippsland including hydrogen generation and application. It covers work done around Sale and Wellington Shire and Latrobe Valley region. The Federal Government announcement likely to be in March around hydrogen hubs and carbon capture and will also generate opportunities. There are a number of opportunities in region around generation and carbon capture. What's needed to support this emerging sector?

**Response (LK)** - Fed Uni and TAFE Gippsland are co-chairs of the Regional Skills Committee which brings together industry, government and providers to work through emerging skills needs and address long-term education attainment type issues. One topic emerging is renewing the Gippsland Workforce Plan, looking 5 to 10 years in the future. Consultation with industry is taking place to understand what skills and programs will be required to fulfil these jobs.

**Response (TF)** – LVA has funded TAFE Gippsland to undertake skills mapping and gap analysis. This report is due out by the end of April. Can be circulated to those interested. 2025 -2030 is very busy time for projects in the region so there is a window now to start to prepare for that.

**Comment (BW)**– Thinking about blue sky opportunities - when we look at Marinus Link, there are some skills that are very specialised/unique, where only a handful of supply, manufacture or assembly specialists exist globally. Most of the local direct jobs will be in construction and connection of asset. Marinus Link is a unique asset and there is an opportunity to provide training and a development base which can then translate to the skills needed to support other projects like future offshore wind that will likely require similar skills and assets including underground/undersea cabling and converter stations. Previously no market or scale to give confidence to set up such a

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skills/training platform let alone manufacture and broader supply chain. Gippsland could be in the prime location for HVDC development of this kind. There is also an opportunity for shared workforce/training exchange across Gippsland and North West Tasmania because of proximity, similar skills and industry history.

**Question (PM)** – Will Marinus Link implement a commitment around Gippsland first supply, then Victoria, then Australia to ensure local jobs? We do have some local manufacturing. They would like to see local manufacturing used first on the project before other suppliers are sourced.

**Response (BW)**– We’ll take the question on notice. The project is subject to the Australian Industry Participation Plan which defines local as Australia and New Zealand. The project is still working through what it can do so to enable local businesses and content to participate and be competitive suppliers for the project.

**Question to SGS (Chair)** – What is SGS looking to get out of the workshop in April/May?

**Response (TW)** – This conversation has helped inform what is happening currently with work force development and training in the region. The next session will be drilling down into benefits SGS has identified and how to make that happen.

**Comment (TB)**- It would be good to understand some of the niche roles and training which will be required so planning can start early.

**Response (TW)** – SGS is looking to develop that soon and matching up roles with training required so that can be delivered in 4 years.

### **Burning questions**

- What types of jobs will be available on the project?

#### **Direct job opportunities:**

Electricians  
Engineers  
Welders  
Metal workers  
Plumbers  
Carpenters  
Machinery operators and drivers

#### **Indirect job opportunities:**

Surveyors  
Cost estimators  
Construction managers  
Architects  
Safety and incident management  
Financial advisors  
Technicians  
Project controllers  
Metal workers

#### **Support sectors:**

Equipment hire  
Technical services  
Construction services  
Storage  
Real estate, rental services and accommodation services

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Crane hire and operations  
Retail  
Food services  
Cleaning services  
Transport and delivery  
Education and training  
Support workers and labourers

**Specialised areas:**

Maritime safety staff  
Maritime Construction staff  
Maritime Engineers  
Marine preservation advisors  
Maritime logistics and transportation specialists

**Comment** (Chair)– A lot of rental and holiday spaces have diminished since COVID. How do we make sure we have space and accommodation for these workers?

(TF) – From the desalination project experience we need to take lessons learnt. What we don't want to see is long-term rental people kicked out to accommodate workforce. Put in place measures to stop that from happening.

- Community engagement overview

Marinus Link is in the early phase mid-2021 to mid-2022 which focuses on raising awareness of project. We're doing pop-ups, attending local events and during COVID we did some webinars and virtual briefings. The project had hoped to be down in South Gippsland at the end of January but postponed this due to COVID. We'll be back out in next month or so and attending Farm World in March.

Our key intent is to make sure people know about the project, what it is, the alignment and so they can start to differentiate it from other projects.

We have survey work ongoing and are doing some work around consultation to support environmental approvals process. As we get information back from these studies, we'll be telling people about impacts. We'll be engaging through pop-ups and organised information sessions and presentations.

You'll see a Consumer Advisory Panel is listed. This is to support the regulatory process Marinus Link needs to go through. It is run by AEMO which determines how much revenue Marinus Link can earn which flows through to cost for consumers.

We're expecting to submit the EES at end of 2023 with exhibition in early 2024. The public exhibition process is driven by DELWP but we will support. Expecting the assessment in the second half of 2024 and we will support with information.

We're keen to understand from GSLG members if there are events, activities or comms channels we should tap into. Interested in COVID and what has been effective digitally and what has worked and what hasn't.

**Comment** (OC) – Managed Jobs Victoria advocates. The advocates are out in community managing high activity areas. It would be good to get them information about the project so they can answer questions if they are asked.

(MD) – Yes we'll organise a briefing

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Meeting close

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Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Contact OC to organise briefing for advocates	Mandi/Kate	25-02-22	In progress