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# ON LAND CONSTRUCTION

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January 2023

**MARINUS**  
LINK

# Planning is underway to identify the best construction method for Marinus Link

**Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and telecommunications interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria.**

It will further connect Tasmania to the National Electricity Market, comprising Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

Marinus Link will comprise high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables, fibre-optic cables and converter stations in both Tasmania and Victoria.

Marinus Link will be about 345 kilometres long – 255 kilometres of undersea cables and 90 kilometres of underground cables.

It will have a 1500 megawatt capacity, equal to the power supply for 1.5 million Australian homes.

## INSTALLING THE LAND CABLES

The land cables for Marinus Link will be installed using open trenching wherever possible. Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be used when the cable route needs to cross rivers, environmentally sensitive areas, railways, roads or utility services.

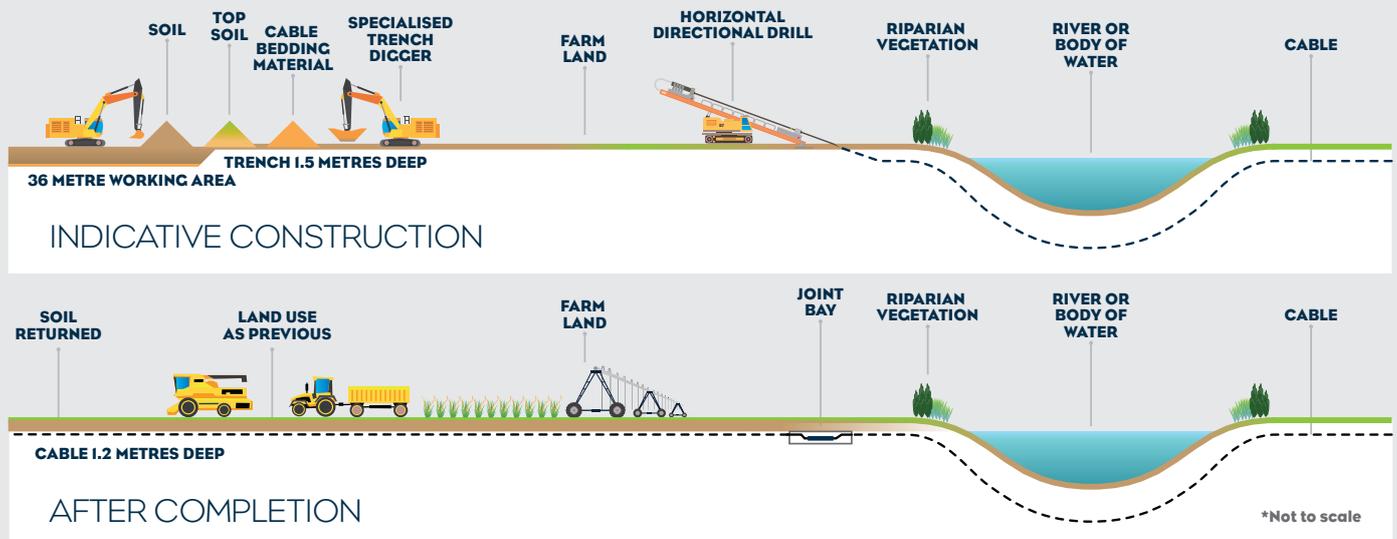
The standard construction corridor for trenching will be up to 36 metres wide to allow for trenches, drainage, machinery (like excavators) and utilities. The construction corridor width will be adjusted where necessary to avoid impacts to vegetation and existing infrastructure.

### Horizontal directional drilling (HDD)

HDD is an underground construction method which uses a horizontal directional drill to create a bore hole in places trenching is not suitable.

The ability to use HDD, as well as the length of time needed for drilling, depends on geology and other land conditions.

Geotechnical and environmental investigations will help determine where HDD will be used.



# LAYING OF THE CABLES

## The land cables will be installed in lengths ranging from 800 to 1,300 metres.

The cable lengths will be connected at joint bays, which are below ground engineered concrete pits. Joint bays are approximately 12 metres long, 2.5 metres wide and 2.5 metres deep, buried at least 0.5 metres below the surface. Where possible, joint bay locations will be selected in consultation with land owners to reduce impacts.

## The construction corridor and other access areas will be reinstated and rehabilitated following construction.

## Victorian shore crossing

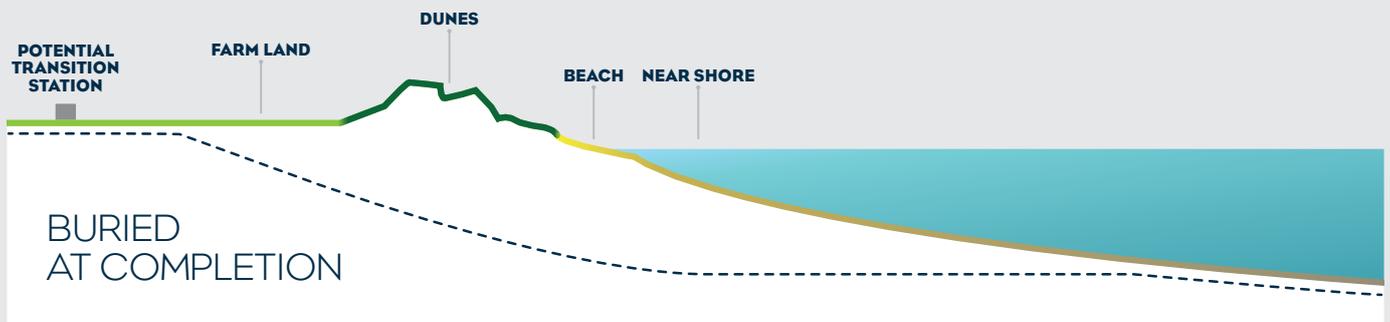
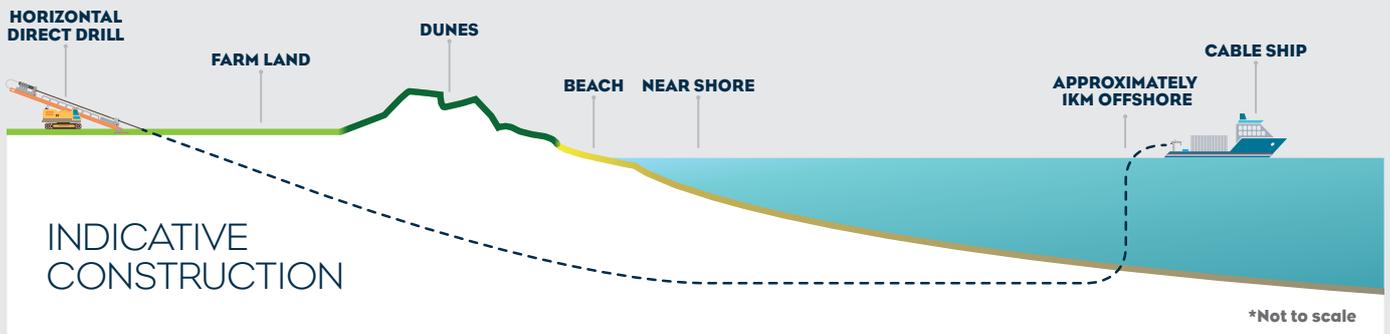
The Victorian shore crossing is proposed to be constructed using HDD.

To construct the shore crossing, a large temporary HDD drill pad of crushed rock will be laid on cleared farmland behind the sand dunes. From the pad, a drill will bore into the ground at an angle, working toward the water. The bore hole will extend into Bass Strait, either one kilometre from the transition point, or to a water depth of around 10 metres, whichever is determined to be safer.

This method means the shore crossing can be constructed with minimal disruption to the dunes, the beach and beach goers. It will also reduce the impacts on any environmental and cultural heritage values identified in the area.

## Disruption to the beach

Beaches at Waratah Bay will remain open during the shore crossing construction. The community will be advised of any temporary closures that may be needed to manage public safety during project activities. There will be no permanent access restrictions to the beach once construction is completed.



# Minimising construction impacts

**Most impacts to native plants, animals and cultural heritage values will be minimised either through minor changes to the route or by using HDD to install the cable in specific locations.**

## Plants

Vegetation may be removed for open trenching and for the construction of the converter and transition stations.

On-site environmental surveys will help determine which vegetation needs to be removed and where adjustments to the route can be made to minimise the impacts.

## Animals

Desktop studies have identified there may be several animal species in the project area.

Field surveys will help determine which of these species are found within our project area and what measures may need to be put in place to minimise impacts.

## Cultural heritage

An assessment of Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage was completed in 2021.

The project is working with Traditional Owners in the area to ensure any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and areas of significance are respected in accordance with their requirements, values and beliefs.

No places of historic cultural heritage significance have been located within the survey area to date, however on-site studies are ongoing.

## Visual impacts

Using underground cables will minimise the visual impacts of Marinus Link.

Above ground structures such as converter and will be designed to blend into the local environment through building placement and colour schemes.

## MORE INFORMATION

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For further information on the project:

**visit** [marinuslink.com.au](https://marinuslink.com.au)  
**email** [team@marinuslink.com.au](mailto:team@marinuslink.com.au)  
**call** 1300 765 275

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