



ECOLOGY

**MARINUS**  
LINK

# What is Marinus Link?

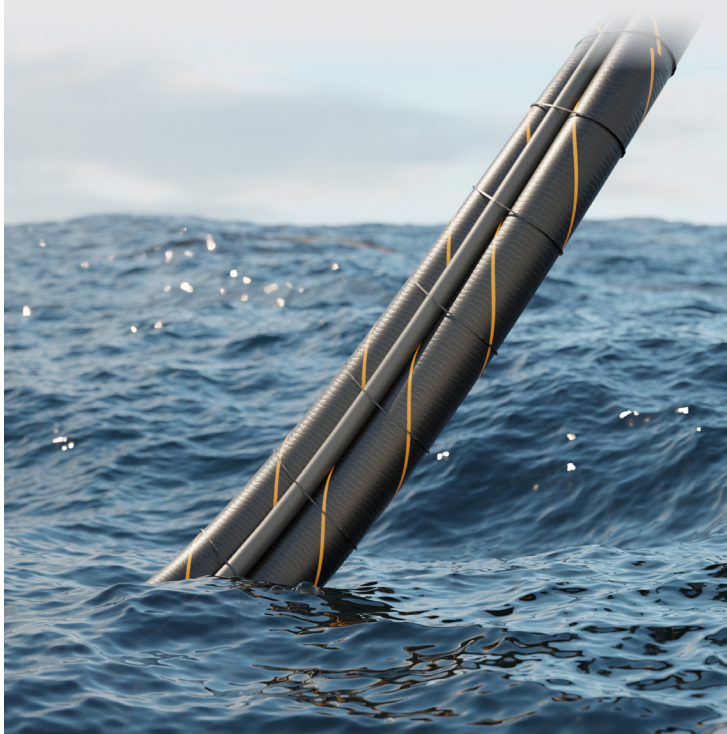
**Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and telecommunications interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria.**

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.



# Planning and approvals process

**Marinus Link is a complex project which must go through environmental assessment and planning processes.**

Marinus Link is required to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Commonwealth legislation and Environmental Effects Statement (EES) under Victorian legislation.

Marinus Link has done assessments to inform these documents and to understand potential project impacts and how they should be managed.

## Overview

This is a summary of the findings of the terrestrial (land-based) ecology study and impact assessment for the Victorian section of Marinus Link. The terrestrial ecology study and impact assessment were based on the desktop review and field surveys done by the project to date.

The findings consider potential direct and indirect impacts of Marinus Link within the survey area, including potential cumulative effects.

### The findings consider the following:

- ◇ Native vegetation and habitats indigenous to the region;
- ◇ Threatened species recognised under state and national legislation;
- ◇ Threatened ecological communities recognised under state and national legislation.

# Potential impacts during construction

- ◇ Clearing of vegetation to create trenches, access tracks, laydown and storage areas;
- ◇ Indirect impacts reducing the health or reproduction of vegetation or habitats, resulting in a long-term decline or loss over time;
- ◇ Animal injury and death through direct disturbance, such as interactions with vehicles and machinery, or being trapped in trenches;
- ◇ Introduction of pest plants and animals;
- ◇ Disturbance from dust, noise, vibration and light through the operation of equipment;
- ◇ Erosion from exposed and disturbed ground, with runoff into waterbodies and sedimentation;
- ◇ Changes in water quality due to erosion and sedimentation, or changes to watercourses at cable crossing locations;
- ◇ Spills and leaks of hazardous materials used in construction (e.g., diesel, chemicals).

# Potential impacts during operation

- ◇ Minimal clearance of vegetation to maintain areas that require permanent access, such as access tracks;
- ◇ Animal injury and death from maintenance and inspection vehicles and machinery;
- ◇ Ongoing effects of weeds and pests particularly within areas of permanent vegetation removal;
- ◇ Dust and fire risk from vehicles;
- ◇ Permanent fragmentation of habitat associated with above-ground infrastructure (such as converter stations);
- ◇ Light disturbance to plants and animals.

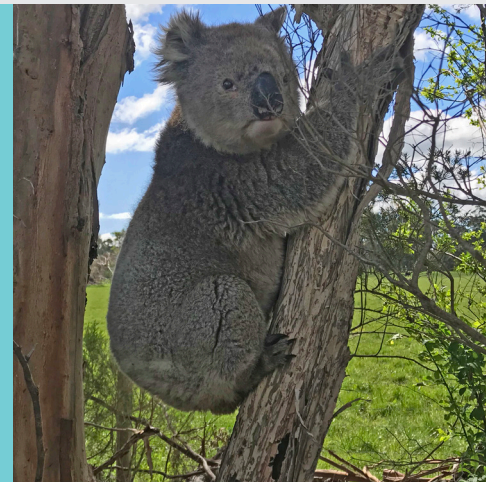


# Management approaches during design and construction

- ◇ **Obtain native vegetation offsets**
- ◇ **Minimise vegetation removal and disturbance, including:**
  - Develop and implement measures that avoid or minimise impacts on native vegetation, particularly remnant vegetation and tree protection zones;
  - Use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) where feasible to reduce impacts to native vegetation;
  - Complete an arboricultural assessment of trees close to or within the alignment;
  - Minimise habitat fragmentation and loss;
  - Maximise retention of mature trees and remnant trees and vegetation;
  - Maximise retention of fauna habitat such as standing dead hollow trees, logs and leaf litter.
- ◇ **Vegetation protection measures, including a vegetation management plan for inclusion in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP);**
  - Fauna management, including a fauna management plan for inclusion in the CEMP;
  - Waterway habitat protection measures, including obtaining a works on waterways permit from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and preparing a Site Environmental Management Plan.

## What we've heard from the community

Landowners are eager to protect the woodland and native vegetation on their properties as it provides vital habitat for native species such as platypus and koala.



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## MORE INFORMATION

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