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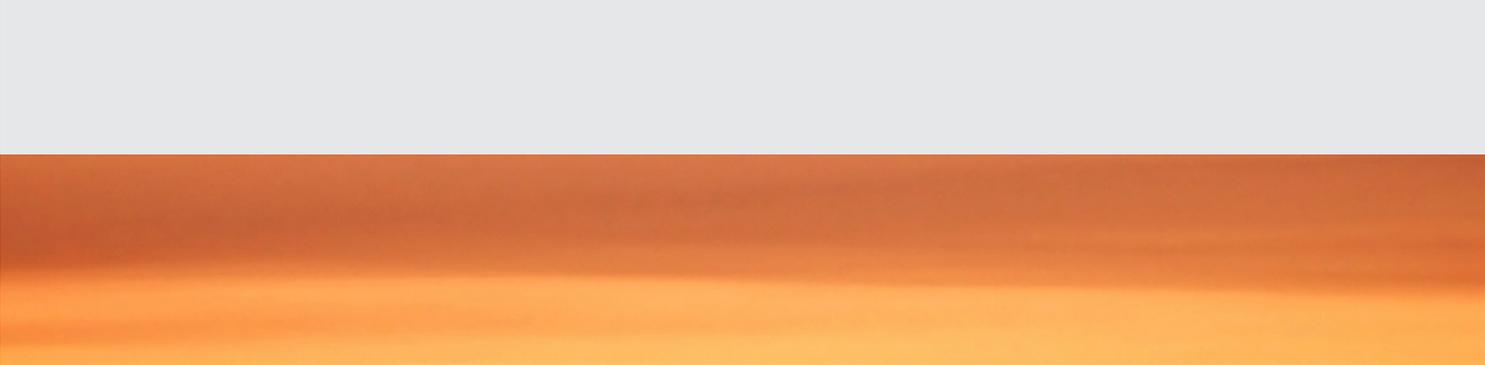
# SUMMARY COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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July 2018 – December 2022

**MARINUS**  
LINK





# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country on which Marinus Link is proposed in Tasmania, across Bass Strait and in Victoria.**

**We recognise Aboriginal Peoples' continuing connection to land, sea, waterways, sky and culture, and pay our respects to all elders past and present.**

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## Responsibilities

This document is the responsibility of Marinus Link Pty Ltd, ABN 47 630 194 562 (hereafter referred to as "Marinus Link").

You can contact us with any questions about Marinus Link via our dedicated email and phone line. If you would like to find out more you can also visit the Marinus Link website, email us at [team@marinuslink.com.au](mailto:team@marinuslink.com.au), or call us on **1300 765 275**.

Enquiries regarding this document should be addressed to [team@marinuslink.com.au](mailto:team@marinuslink.com.au)

# About 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, which comprises 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. It will be about 345 kilometres long - 255 kilometres of undersea cables and 90 kilometres of underground cables.

Marinus Link will be supported by more than 240 kilometres of high voltage alternating current network developments in Tasmania (under the North West Transmission Developments). Together, these projects are known as Project Marinus.

Marinus Link is a proposed regulated link under the National Electricity Market (NEM) and Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) rules. This requires satisfaction of the Regulatory Investment test for transmission (RIT-T), which Marinus Link has achieved. See page 6 for more information.

Marinus Link is currently in the design and approvals project phase.

**Marinus Link will unlock Tasmania's renewable energy and storage resources to deliver low-cost, reliable and clean energy for customers in the National Electricity Market.**

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

Its capacity will be equal to the former Hazelwood Power Station in Victoria, and three times the capacity of the existing Tasmania to Victoria connector, Basslink.

**A project of this scale is subject to environment, planning and heritage approvals under Victorian, Tasmanian and Commonwealth legislation. A core component of these approvals is public consultation.**

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

These will be designed to address regulatory requirements and developed in a coordinated process.

**This engagement report seeks to provide the community and interested stakeholders with summary details of engagement activities for Marinus link associated with the period July 2018 to December 2022.**

Information on future activities will be found on Marinus Link's engagement page at [marinuslink.com.au](http://marinuslink.com.au).

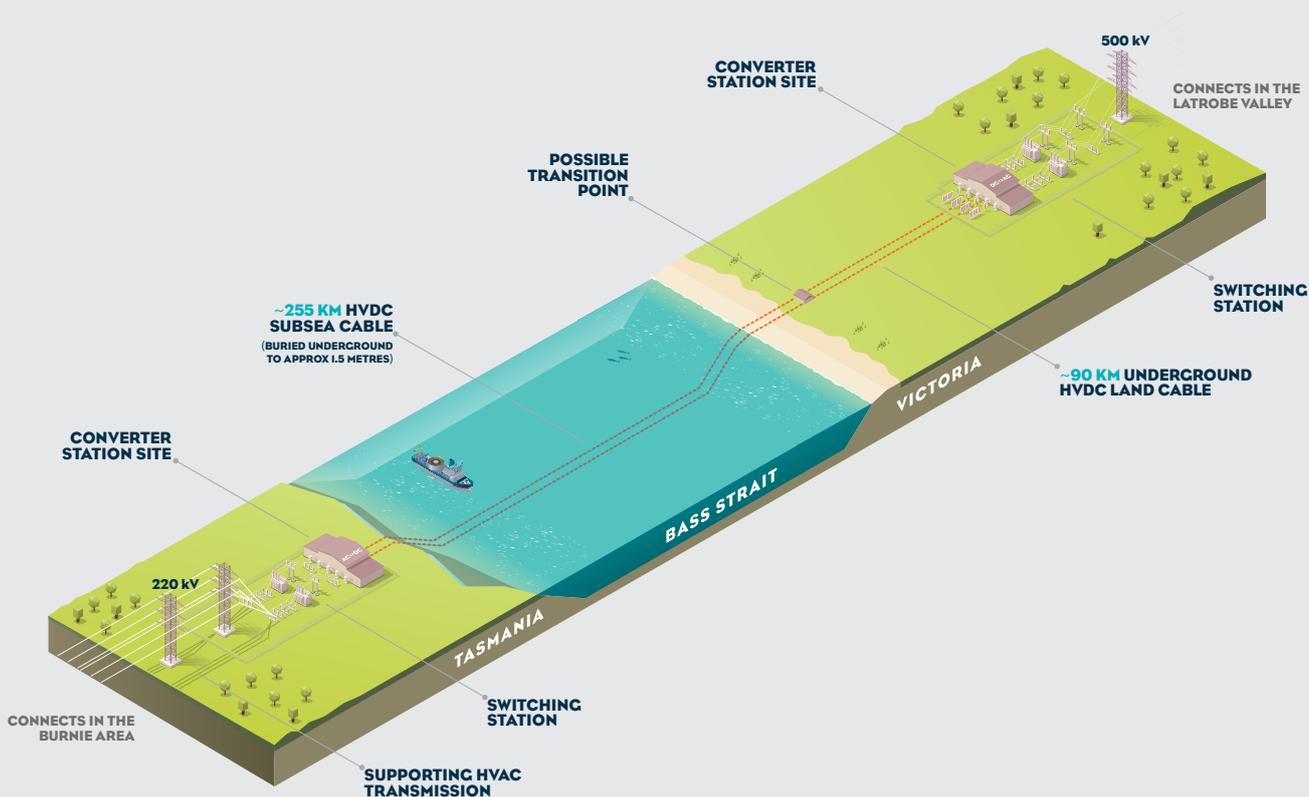


Figure 1 - Marinus Link and its geographic footprint

## Community engagement

**Marinus Link recognises the importance of engaging throughout the project's development to understand what is important to stakeholders and the community.**

This ensures issues and concerns can be addressed and mitigated to avoid issues arising during the approvals and construction phase.

The project team has been engaging with stakeholders and the community in both Tasmania and Victoria since 2018.

The objectives of engagement have been:

- ◇ Raise awareness about the project;
- ◇ Support the Feasibility Study, Business Case Assessment and Regulatory Investment for Transmission (RIT-T) processes;
- ◇ Communicate and engage with communities in Tasmania and Victoria in a variety of ways to ensure they had the opportunity to learn about the project, its benefits and impacts, and provide informed feedback to the project team;
- ◇ Provide information about Marinus Link's preferred route and why it was chosen, and consult with landowners to minimise impacts on their properties;
- ◇ Support the project team's understanding of issues and concerns to inform the project's design, and their response during the approvals process;
- ◇ Engage with industry, suppliers, and local businesses to ensure they understand the opportunities and have capacity to respond to tenders.

# Summary of engagement activities

## Phase 1 – Mid 2018 to late 2019

The first formal phase of engagement took place over 18-month from July 2018 to December 2019. The objectives of this phase of engagement were to:

- ◇ Raise awareness about the project.
- ◇ Support the Feasibility Study, Business Case Assessment and Regulatory Investment for Transmission (RIT-T) processes.

The RIT-T is a cost-benefit analysis overseen by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). It assesses the economic and technical impact of and preferred timing for all major network investments in the national energy market (NEM). The RIT-T process ensures regulated transmission investment decisions are in the long-term interests of customers.

Engagement throughout this phase included meetings, workshops and information sessions, as well as regular print and digital communications.

In July 2018 Marinus Link published its initial **Project Specifications Consultation Report**, as the first step in the regulatory process to examine the case for further electricity transmission interconnection between Victoria and Tasmania.

In June 2021 Marinus Link's **RIT-T Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR)** was published, demonstrating that the project satisfied the regulatory investment test for transmission.

## Phase 2 – Early 2020 to early 2022

### External impacts on engagement

The onset of Covid-19 and regional bushfire events in early 2020 delayed active on-ground engagements in Victoria. Face-to-face landowner and community engagement events had to be rescheduled or deferred until later in the year.

### Community and landowner engagement

In November 2020, Marinus Link began engaging with Gippsland landowners to introduce Marinus Link and consult around the proposed route. Engagement focused on face-to-face meetings, with several landowners also taking the opportunity to drop in at the public community information sessions and webinar.

Engagement with the broader Victorian public started in early 2021 and focussed on raising awareness of the project, capturing feedback on the proposed route and promoting the benefits for Victoria.

Awareness raising activities included:

- ◇ 4 x pop-up sessions at Sandy Point, Mirboo North, Meeniyan and Morwell;
- ◇ 1 x stall at the Farm World Exhibition at Lardner Park in Gippsland;
- ◇ 1 x community webinar;
- ◇ Launch of an interactive map where community members could leave feedback.

**Table 1: Summary of engagement activities between November 2020 – August 2021**

Event	Attendance	Areas of community interest
<b>Briefing to Victorian Environment groups Meeting - Beyond Zero Emissions Victoria November 2020</b>	<b>15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Beyond Zero Emissions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Environment Victoria</b></li> <li>◇ <b>National wind alliance</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Multiple individuals</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Coal retirement, need for storage, batteries</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Managing supply risk and dispatchable capacity when the market needs it</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Capacity, storage, supply, renewable generation (hydro and wind) and transmission</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project details</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Jobs, broader economic contribution</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Additional pipeline of projects.</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Environment approvals process across multiple jurisdictions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>AEMO scenarios, load forecasts, the RIT-T</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Cost, who pays and trading regions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction timelines and critical path</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Tasmanian rainfall projections (for hydro) and associated storage/ risk management</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sandy Point Information Session Victoria February 2021</b>	<b>35</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Foreign ownership</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Location of route</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project funding</b></li> </ul>
<b>Webinar Victoria February 2021</b>	<b>26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Connection to renewable energy developments</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Converter station details (cost, size)</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction staging</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Consultation process to date</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Cost benefit</b></li> <li>◇ <b>EES process</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Future land use</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Location of route</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Underground vs overhead transmission</b></li> </ul>
<b>Mirboo North Information Session Victoria February 2021</b>	<b>90</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Environment</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Jobs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Local benefits</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project funding</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition to renewable energy</b></li> </ul>
<b>Meeniyon Information Session Victoria March 2021</b>	<b>30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project funding</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Foreign ownership</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Location of route</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts</b></li> </ul>
<b>Morwell Information Session Victoria March 2021</b>	<b>20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Construction methodology/impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Cost to customers</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Jobs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Ongoing maintenance</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Technical details</b></li> </ul>

Event	Attendance	Areas of community interest
<b>Farm World Information Stall Victoria March 2021</b>	<b>200</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Construction methodology</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Enabling Tasmania's renewable energy resources</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Jobs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Location of route</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project timelines and approvals</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Reinstatement</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Technical details of cables</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition for Gippsland</b></li> </ul>
<b>Latrobe City Council Briefing - councillors and staff Victoria April 2021</b>	<b>11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Grid stability</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction timing and material supply chains</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Reliance on surplus wind power</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Converter station noise and location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Workforce transition and skills training</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Embodied carbon cost</b></li> </ul>
<b>Latrobe Valley Authority Briefing Victoria August 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project overview</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Economic development and job opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Community benefits</b></li> </ul>
<b>Community newsletter Print and online Victoria August 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>GROW Gippsland Briefing Victoria August 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project overview</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Economic development and job opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Community benefits</b></li> </ul>
<b>GROW Gippsland and Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce Workshop Victoria August 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project overview</b></li> </ul>
<b>Total conversations - 427</b>		

# Planning and Assessment Engagement

From September 2021, the engagement focus shifted to raising awareness about the upcoming Commonwealth and Victorian environmental planning and assessment referrals. COVID-19 restrictions continued to limit on-the-ground engagement, so engagement activities were undertaken virtually. Marinus Link worked with Gippsland organisations to participate in their existing online meetings and organised webinars for the broader community and environmental and community groups.

The project returned to face-to-face engagement in late 2021, with Marinus Link team members attending

community markets in Traralgon, Leongatha and Mirboo North (in early 2022) to raise awareness about the project and the planning and assessment process.

Marinus Link established a Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group in late 2021, appointing Jane Leslie as independent Chair. This group meets quarterly to share information, issues and to ensure the project aligns with key regional priorities. Minutes from all Marinus Link Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings are available on the [project website](#).

**Table 2: Summary of planning and assessment engagement activities**

Event	Attendance	Areas of community interest
<b>Community Webinar Victoria October 2021</b>	<b>32</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Battery storage</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition station location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Tasmanian assessment process</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timing for Request for Tender</b></li> </ul>
<b>Gippsland Climate Change Network Briefing Victoria October 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>About the project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Planning and assessment process</b></li> </ul>
<b>Committee for Gippsland Briefing Victoria October 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>About the project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Planning and assessment process</b></li> </ul>
<b>Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting #1 Victoria October 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>About the project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Planning and assessment process</b></li> </ul>
<b>Community newsletter Print and online Victoria November 2021</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Traralgon Farmers Market Victoria November 2021</b>	<b>300</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>About the project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Jobs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Proposed route and shore crossing</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Marine environment impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition to renewable energy</b></li> </ul>
<b>Leongatha Farmers Market Victoria December 2021</b>	<b>150</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition to renewable energy</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project timeline</b></li> </ul>

Event	Attendance	Areas of community interest
<b>Mirboo North Farmers Market Victoria January 2022</b>	<b>250</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>About the project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Transition to renewables</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project scope, cables and other infrastructure</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Future land use</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts for private property</b></li> <li>◇</li> </ul>
<b>Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting #2 Victoria February 2022</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Economic development work for Marinus Link</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Economic development work taking place in region</b></li> </ul>
<b>Total conversations - 732</b>		

Regular meetings and briefing sessions also took place with state government authorities, local Indigenous groups and industry organisations.

## A summary of what we heard during this phase

Throughout this phase of engagement, we learnt that the community was concerned about or interested in more information about:

- ◇ Converter stations
- ◇ Potential construction methodologies
- ◇ Potential construction impacts for residents near the project
- ◇ Marine and shore crossing construction methodology
- ◇ Job opportunities
- ◇ Regional benefits and opportunities.

## How we used this feedback

We used this feedback to ensure the project's design considered any issues or risks raised by landowners and the community, to ensure we had technical experts to respond to the community's questions, to inform Phase 3 Design and approvals (current phase) activities, and to address the issues we heard were important to the community.

Additionally, we used feedback to understand what people wanted to know more about, and responded to frequently asked questions in our written and digital materials, including our website, newsletters and fact sheets. This included new key messages, presentation talking points and written or visual materials to make complex, technical information easier to understand.

# Phase 3 – February to December 2022 (current phase)

Marinus Link is currently in the design and approvals phase. The project team has been engaging broadly across both Tasmania and Victoria. The project team has been engaging broadly across both Tasmania and Victoria, and have established an Aboriginal Advisory Group to facilitate ongoing conversations between Traditional Owners, providing valuable opportunities for cultural exchange, understanding and capacity building.

**Table 3: Summary of Phase 3 engagement activities (to date)**

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>Mirboo North Market Pop-up stand Victoria February 2022</b>	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Timeline</li> <li>◇ Technical questions about cables</li> <li>◇ Benefits of renewable energy</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Construction impacts</li> <li>◇ Impact management</li> <li>◇ Impacts to organic certification</li> <li>◇ Impacts to future land use and property sales</li> </ul>
<b>Farm World Pop-up stand Victoria March 2022</b>	250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ The Hazelwood Converter station</li> <li>◇ Firming power</li> <li>◇ Technical questions about cables</li> <li>◇ Funding</li> <li>◇ Affiliation with Basslink</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Construction impacts</li> <li>◇ Marine construction</li> <li>◇ Jobs</li> <li>◇ General renewable energy</li> <li>◇ Community benefits</li> </ul>
<b>Bunurong Land Council Briefing Victoria April 2022</b>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Engaging with three local TO groups</li> <li>◇ Interest in geotech data</li> <li>◇ Relevance of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018</li> <li>◇ The EES process and the Marine and Coastal Act</li> <li>◇ Bunurong's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values and framework</li> <li>◇ Determining how elders wish to be engaged</li> <li>◇ Site surveys, developing 'Statements of significance' and benefits for first nations people.</li> <li>◇ CHMP timelines</li> <li>◇ Aboriginal Engagement Advisor experience and alignment</li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
South Gippsland Shire Council Briefing for councilors and staff Victoria April 2022	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Victorian government support</li> <li>◇ Landowner concerns</li> <li>◇ Impact to existing land uses, the ability to plant crops on and drive machinery over the easement</li> <li>◇ Route options and using Basslink easement</li> </ul>
Community newsletter Print and online Victoria April 2022	N/A	◇ N/A
Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival Pop-up stand Victoria May 2022	118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Timeline</li> <li>◇ Project impacts</li> <li>◇ Technical questions about cables</li> <li>◇ Benefits of renewable energy</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Construction impacts</li> <li>◇ Impacts at Waratah Bay</li> <li>◇ Impact management</li> <li>◇ Location and use of Mardan Farm</li> </ul>
Dumbalk Drop-in session Victoria May 2022	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Impacts to organic certification</li> <li>◇ Haulage routes</li> <li>◇ Project stages</li> <li>◇ Construction timeline</li> <li>◇ Use of Mardan Farm</li> <li>◇ Impacts to native wildlife</li> </ul>
Tasmanian Energy Development Conference Presentation Tasmania May 2022	100	◇ General project information
Melbourne Careers Expo Pop-up stand Victoria July 2022	300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Project purpose</li> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Job opportunities and skill pathways</li> <li>◇ Benefits of renewable energy</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Timeline</li> </ul>
Baw Baw Job Skills Expo Pop-up stand Victoria July 2022	450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Jobs and skills pathways</li> <li>◇ Benefits of renewable energy</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Timeline</li> </ul>
Waratah Bay SLSC and Foreshore Committee Meetings Victoria August 2022	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Timeline</li> <li>◇ Route alignment / location</li> <li>◇ Technical questions about cables</li> <li>◇ Construction impacts</li> <li>◇ Impacts at Waratah Bay</li> <li>◇ Impact management</li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>Federation University Careers Day Pop-up stand Victoria August 2022</b>	70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Technical questions about cables and Basslink</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timelines</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities and skill pathways</b></li> </ul>
<b>Meeting with Federation University Victoria August 2022</b>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Placements</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Scholarships</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Cadetships</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Course offerings</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Curriculum content and delivery</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Joint marketing of the advantages of education generally, and higher education in particular</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Research</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Development of a centre of excellence in regional transitions</b></li> </ul>
<b>Gippsland New Energy Conference Presentation and Pop-up stand Victoria August 2022</b>	72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>General project questions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Route alignment / location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impacts at Waratah Bay</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impact management</b></li> </ul>
<b>Heybridge Door knock/ webinar invitation Tasmania August 2022</b>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>General project questions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Potential impacts to short term accommodation</b></li> <li>◇ <b>NWTD route/ location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Converter station visibility and noise</b></li> <li>◇ <b>EMF</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Visual impacts</b></li> </ul>
<b>Webinars To support the public release of draft EIS guidelines and public comment period Victoria August 2022</b>	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Impacts to native habitat</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impacts to local towns</b></li> <li>◇ <b>The type and location of above ground infrastructure</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Concurrent construction of both cables to minimise impacts to landowners</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Contracts with telecommunication providers</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impacts/ disruptions at Waratah Bay</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Rationale and cost for undergrounding</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Assessing, mitigating and/ or offsetting emissions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities (early works) and access for local businesses</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Planning scheme amendments and enviro approvals</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Developing community benefits</b></li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>Webinar</b> <b>To support the public release of draft EIS guidelines and public comment period Tasmania August 2022</b>	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Where to comment against the guidelines</li> <li>◇ Route alignment/ location</li> <li>◇ Energy transfer/ direction</li> <li>◇ Managing converter station noise</li> <li>◇ Converter station location</li> <li>◇ Job opportunities, skill pathways and engaging with government to ensure a skilled workforce</li> <li>◇ Activities and systems for navigational safety</li> <li>◇ Timing re assessing environmental effects</li> <li>◇ Tender timeframes</li> <li>◇ Funding and fast tracking for earlier delivery</li> </ul>
<b>Community newsletter</b> <b>Print and online</b> <b>Tasmania September 2022</b>	N/A	◇ N/A
<b>Community newsletter</b> <b>Print and online</b> <b>Victoria September 2022</b>	N/A	◇ N/A
<b>Sulphur Creek (Heybridge)</b> <b>Drop-in session</b> <b>Tasmania September 2022</b>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Connection to the network</li> <li>◇ Benefits for Tasmania</li> <li>◇ Electricity cost for Tasmanians</li> <li>◇ Construction duration</li> <li>◇ Construction noise and traffic hazards.</li> </ul>
<b>Burnie Farmers Market</b> <b>Pop-up stand</b> <b>Tasmania September 2022</b>	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Benefits for Tasmania</li> <li>◇ Who is paying</li> </ul>
<b>Sandy Point</b> <b>Drop-in session</b> <b>Victoria September 2022</b>	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Marinus Link's connection to offshore wind projects and policy</li> <li>◇ Route options (shore crossing)</li> <li>◇ Who will own and who will pay</li> <li>◇ Appreciation for project updates</li> <li>◇ EMF and distance from houses</li> </ul>
<b>Meeniyan</b> <b>Drop-in session</b> <b>Victoria September 2022</b>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ General project questions</li> <li>◇ Marinus Link's connection to offshore wind projects and policy</li> <li>◇ Timeline in light of Loy Yang's closure</li> <li>◇ Easement requirements (size, width etc.) and compensation</li> <li>◇ Technical project questions</li> </ul>
<b>Marinus Link Aboriginal Advisory Group Meeting #1</b> <b>Victoria September 2022</b>	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Advisory Group scope, requirements and ToR</li> <li>◇ Jobs, opportunities and procurement</li> <li>◇ Engagement approach</li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>Consumer Advisory Panel and Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group Workshop Victoria October 2022</b>	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Community benefit sharing</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Project benefits</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wellington Renewable Energy Forum Participation Victoria October 2022</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>
<b>Energy Charter meeting Victoria October 2022</b>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>How the Energy Charter is working with the agricultural sector to address concerns about the energy transition.</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Co-creating "better practice" guidelines for transmission projects working with farmers</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Social license research project</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Membership</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Capacity building for customer, comms and engagement teams.</b></li> </ul>
<b>City of Latrobe Councilor briefing Victoria October 2022</b>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project update</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Upcoming engagements re converter station.</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Council's role assoc with planning and approvals</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Sharing information with ratepayers.</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Opportunities for future engagement</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Providing a project update to other councilors</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Future jobs associated with the project.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Burnie Show and Agri Expo Pop-up stands Tasmania October 2022</b>	129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Heybridge converter station progress</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Converter station visibility, noise and construction impacts</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Who will own and who will pay</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Updates on the jump-up barge and associated shipping container</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Commencement of construction</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Benefits to Tasmanians</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Energy transfer/ direction</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Environmental impacts of NWTD</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Local job opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impacts to road uses during construction</b></li> </ul>
<b>South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) Presentation October 2022</b>	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Depth of sub-seabed cables and associated anchor damage</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Ongoing maintenance</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Future communication and engagement</b></li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>Mirboo North Pop-up stand Victoria October 2022</b>	<b>17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Landowner and road access during construction</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impact on neighboring farms (when refining cable route?)</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Capacity of renewables to meet future energy needs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Marinus Link's connection to offshore wind projects and policy</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Impact on residential electricity costs</b></li> </ul>
<b>Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) Inspiring Young Leaders Victoria October 2022</b>	<b>20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Jobs and career opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Renewable energy forecast</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Technical construction overview and advice</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Route alignment</b></li> </ul>
<b>Engineers Australia Forum Presentation Victoria October 2022</b>	<b>35</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>General project questions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Technical questions about cables, converter stations and the system</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Route alignment / location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities and skill pathways</b></li> </ul>
<b>ICT Conference Hobart Pop-up stand Tasmania November 2022</b>	<b>10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>General project questions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Benefits of the fibre optic cable and increased internet access as an outcome of ML</b></li> </ul>
<b>Rotary Club of Burnie Presentation Tasmania November 2022</b>	<b>16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Rationale re hydro generation and potential climate change/ reduced rainfall</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Current NEM arrangements/ trading with Vic</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Benefits for Tasmanians</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Power costs</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>The National Energy Market (NEM)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Foster Pop-up stand Victoria November 2022</b>	<b>43</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities</b></li> <li>◇ <b>ML's connection to offshore wind</b></li> <li>◇ <b>General project questions</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Route alignment / location</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Future engagement sessions</b></li> </ul>
<b>Burnie Farmers Market Pop-up stand Tasmania December 2022</b>	<b>32</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Project status</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Converter station</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Construction</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Funding</b></li> <li>◇ <b>The shipping container</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Benefits for Tasmanians.</b></li> </ul>

Event	Conversations	Themes of conversation / community interest
<b>NWTD Meet the Projects Presentation Tasmania November 2022</b>	<b>50</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities and skill pathways</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Benefits for Tasmanians</b></li> </ul>
<b>GROW Gippsland Advisory Group Meeting Victoria December 2022</b>	<b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Job opportunities and skill pathways</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wellington Renewable Energy Forum Participation Victoria December 2022</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>
<b>Launceston Networking Breakfast Tasmania December 2022</b>	<b>47</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Employment</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Rising electricity prices</b></li> </ul>
<b>Community newsletter Print and online Tasmania December 2022</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>
<b>Regional Development Australia Presentation Tasmania December 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Battery of the Nation, Hydro Tasmania and Marinus Link.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group Meeting #4 Victoria December 2022</b>	<b>14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Historic funding agreement and tender release</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Design and approvals phase</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Sustainability Framework</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Engagement update</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Working Timeline</b></li> <li>◇ <b>EES/EIS Approvals</b></li> <li>◇ <b>GSLG looking ahead</b></li> </ul>
<b>Marinus Link Aboriginal Advisory Group Meeting #2 December 2022</b>	<b>12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ <b>Terms of Reference</b></li> <li>◇ <b>EIS/EES studies</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Cultural Heritage</b></li> <li>◇ <b>Sustainability Framework</b></li> </ul>
<b>Total conversations - 2091</b>		

### Note:

- ◇ Regular meetings and briefings were provided to local, state and federal government authorities, including monthly updates to the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action).
- ◇ Works notifications were provided to local stakeholders and communities, to alert them to upcoming cultural heritage and environmental surveys or geotechnical investigations, as required.

# A summary of what we heard during this phase

**As outlined above, we engaged broadly across Tasmania and Victoria during this phase. Areas of conversation and interest varied, according to the state and location where the events were held.**

There were higher levels of interest in benefits, costs and the converter station in Tasmania, while in Victoria, there were higher levels of interest in the overall project, the route, construction and environmental impacts, along with interest in non-Marinus Link news, such as that associated with offshore wind and the energy sector as a whole.

## Key themes Tasmania/ Bass Strait

Key themes from engagement in Tasmania/ Bass Strait between February and December 2022 comprised:

- ◇ **Benefits**
  - For Tasmania and Tasmanians
  - Of the fibre optic cable and increased internet access
- ◇ **Project ownership and costs**
  - Who will own
  - Who will pay
  - Costs for Tasmanians
- ◇ **Employment**
  - Job opportunities
  - Skill pathways
  - Engaging with government to ensure a skilled workforce
- ◇ **Heybridge converter station**
  - Progress
  - Location
  - Visibility
  - Noise
- ◇ **Construction impacts**
  - Timelines and duration
  - Noise
  - Traffic hazards and impacts to road users
  - Impacts to short- term accommodation
- ◇ **Electricity**
  - Trading with Vic
  - Transfer and direction
  - Costs of electricity in Tasmania
  - ElectroMagnetic Fields
- ◇ **The Project**
  - Status
  - Timeline
  - Tender timeframes
  - Scope
  - Route location and alignment
- ◇ **Subsea Cable**
  - Location
  - Maintenance
  - Depth
  - Navigational safety
- ◇ **The North West Transmission Developments (NWTG)**
  - Route
  - Location
  - Environmental impacts
  - Timing

# Key themes Victoria

Key themes from engagement in Victoria between February and December 2022 focused on:

## ◇ **The Project**

- Project purpose
- Project timeline and stages
- Route alignment / location/ options
- Rationale and cost for undergrounding
- Technical questions about the cables, converter stations and the system
- Easement requirements (size, width etc) and compensation
- The type and location of above- ground infrastructure
- Hazelwood Converter station
- Use of the Mardan Farm purchased by Marinus Link
- Planning scheme amendments and environmental approvals
- Future engagement and the approach

## ◇ **Impacts**

- At Waratah Bay
- To future land use and property sales
- To local towns
- To native habitat
- To native wildlife
- To organic certification
- To residential electricity costs
- To neighbouring farms (when refining the route)

## ◇ **Construction**

- Impacts and their management
- Landowner and road access during construction
- Marine construction

## ◇ **Employment**

- Jobs, opportunities and procurement
- Early works and access for local businesses
- Skills pathways

## ◇ **Affiliations**

- Marinus Link not being affiliated with offshore wind proposals, projects or policy
- Marinus Link not being affiliated with Basslink

## ◇ **Benefits**

- Community benefits
- Community benefit sharing
- Of renewable energy

## ◇ **The fibre optic cable**

- Contracts with telecommunication providers

## ◇ **Project ownership and costs**

- Who will own
- Who will pay

## ◇ **Traffic and transport**

- Haulage routes

## ◇ **Electricity**

- EMF and distance from houses
- The NEM and firming power
- Timing of coal fired generation assets closure and ML's construction
- Assessing, mitigating and/ or offsetting emissions

## How we're using this feedback

During this phase of engagement, our activities sought to build our understanding of landowner and community concerns and issues to enable us to address these during the following phases of design and approvals.

Additionally, as in previous phases, we used feedback to respond to frequently asked questions in our written and digital materials, including our website, newsletters and fact sheets, along with presentations during webinars and engagement sessions. This included new key messages, presentation talking points and written or visual materials to make complex, technical information easier to understand.

The information gathered during Phase 3 engagement will be used to ensure engagement activities meet local needs and expectations in 2023.

We will look to provide access to subject matter experts in key areas of interest. For example, in areas where impacts to habitat or wildlife were raised as a key concern, we will bring an ecologist to detail management options and to answer specific questions the community may have.

A summary of community feedback including community values, areas of interest and concern will be provided to contractors to address/ consider within their tender response, and again upon award, to ensure consistency, continuity and so issues and concerns are mitigated during construction.

# Next steps

In 2023 we will be engaging landowners, stakeholders and communities across the project's geographic footprint to respond to these issues and concerns and outline how we have addressed them, prior to statutory exhibition of the Environmental Effects Statement and Environmental Impact Statements. As detailed previously, we will have subject matter experts available to provide information and answer questions about the project.

Engagement activities across 2023 will include (but not be limited to):

- ◇ Ongoing landowner engagement to ensure we understand landowner concerns and can mitigate them within the project's design;
- ◇ Ongoing engagement with the Marinus Link Gippsland Stakeholder Liaison Group to share information and issues, ensure the project aligns with key regional priorities and collaborate on our approach to economic development in the region;
- ◇ Drop-in information sessions in Tasmania and Victoria to provide project updates and respond to concerns outlined during previous phases. Technical experts will be available at these events;
- ◇ Participation in local events and markets so communities can talk with the project team in places they are already visiting to dispel myths and learn about construction and project's benefits;
- ◇ Targeted engagement with Traditional Owners and groups, co-designed and led by our Aboriginal Engagement Advisory Group, which has representation from the Cunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (CLaWAC), Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and the Boon Wurrung Land and Sea Council (BSLC);

- ◇ Ongoing engagement with stakeholders including local, state and federal governments, their agencies and departments, to understand the constraints and approvals required to deliver the project;
- ◇ Group and stakeholder briefings to ensure communities of interest have the opportunity to hear about the project and ask questions of subject matter experts, first hand;
- ◇ Targeted engagement with stakeholders and nearby and regional communities to communicate the outcomes of the Sustainability Framework and to inform the project's community benefits approach;
- ◇ Engagement to inform the project's Social Impact Assessment, which aims to understand the views and aspirations of communities and stakeholders across the project area, to minimise impacts and maximise economic opportunities;
- ◇ Participate in career and job expos to ensure students, graduates and early or mid career applicants have access to the skills pathways required to deliver the project;
- ◇ Engage with local contractors, work participation organisations and education providers to support local opportunities and jobs;
- ◇ To find out about future engagement activities.

To find out more about Marinus Link please go to the project page at [marinuslink.com.au](https://marinuslink.com.au).

You can sign up for project updates on the home page, or go to the [Engagement page](#) for information on future activities.

## 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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