

MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 20 December 2022

Location: Online via Teams

Meeting Number: 5

Chair: Jane Leslie (JL)

Attendees

Tony Flynn (TF), LVA	Mikaela Power (MP), TAFE Gippsland
Mercedes J Stewart (MS) RDV	Jeanie Hall (JH), LVA
Nick Dudley (ND), GLaWAC	Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G
Ken Griffiths (KG), SGSC	Owen Chapman, TAFE Gippsland
Nick Stephens (NS), SGLN	Adam Dunn (AD), WGCMA
Jillian Staton (JS) SGLN	Michelle Dowsett (MD), RDA
Tina Bradshaw (TB), TAFE Gippsland	Raelene Hanratty (RH), LVA
Benjamin White (BW), Marinus Link	Kate Lancaster (KL), Marinus Link
Mahalia White-McColl (MW-M), Marinus Link	Erin Littlewood (EL), Marinus Link
Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link	

Apologies

Leigh Kennedy (LK), Federation University	Martin Fuller (MF), WGCMA
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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 Liaison Group
ISP	Integrated Service Plan
NEM	National Electricity Market

Minutes

Introduction (Jane Leslie)

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- Apologies, introduction to new representatives including South Gippsland Landcare Network

Historic funding agreement and tender release (Ben White)

- Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian governments to contribute equally to a combined 20% equity share in Marinus Link
- Remaining 80% funded via an Australian Government 'Rewiring the Nation' concessional loan.
- NEM customers from other states will also contribute to the cost of the project.
- Preparation for release of HVDC equipment pre-qualified tenderers
- Cable tender proposed to be released December 2022 or January 2023
- Converter station tender proposed to be released January 2023

Questions: None received

Design and approvals phase (Mahalia White-McColl)

- Approvals timeline displayed and current status discussed
- Marinus Link is to be assessed under Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) / Victorian Environmental Effects Act 1978 (EE Act) and Tasmanian Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA) and Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)
- The project has been designed to reduce environmental impact using the hierarchy of avoid, mitigate and offset
- Field surveys and technical studies (22) continue to be conducted and developed with a conclusion of these activities set for end of 2024

Questions:

What is the distance that the HDDs will extend under the dunes from the HDD drill pads? (ND)

Response: From the drill pad (located behind the dunes), a drill will bore into the ground at an angle, working towards the water.

The HDD will extend from the bore hole under the dunes from the HDD drill pads for a distance of approx 900m to 1000m out to sea. The bore hole will be approximately 5-10m below ground level. This is subject to detailed design.

Landcare noted that the statement on our slide (extract below) read in such a way that our offsets could be interpreted as leading to a conservation gain, which conflicts with the ESG environment goal of minimising impacts on the environment.

Extract: Offset – measures to offset impacts on the environment following the implementation of avoidance and mitigation measures. Offsets must provide a conservation gain.

Response: "Offsets must provide a conservation gain for the impacted value", which has a different meaning. This full statement (which is part of our hierarchy provided to all governments) is a common and standard requirement. Our hierarchy places Offsets last – and they will be used as a last resort where we haven't been able to avoid or mitigate impacts.

Will the project be assessed under the new EPBC Act? (NS)

Response: In short, no. While there are proposed reforms to the EPBC Act, these have not come into effect. The project is currently under assessment under existing legislation. It is unlikely that any of the major legislative reforms will happen within our timeframe however if they do, it is not anticipated that any changes to the act will apply to our assessments owing to 'savings and transitional provisions'. [EPBC Act reform - DCCEEW](#)

Sustainability Framework (Erin Littlewood)

- GSLG participated in a sustainability framework workshop activity with Marinus Link's Consumer Advisory Panel in September
- Pre-meeting information following the workshop and further consultation was provided to the GSLG
- Further internal (working group) and external consultation (key stakeholders) has been undertaken
- Marinus Link's draft framework has developed ten outcome statements under four overarching themes: environment, social, economic and governance

Questions:

Will the Sustainability Framework include a Marinus Link community benefits sharing program? (JL)

Response: Short answer is no, but Marinus Link will be developing its own community benefits sharing program and will consult with the GSLG through its progress.

Where within the draft outcome statements does it recognise Marinus Link's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions? (NS)

Response: Marinus Link's commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission is contained within the draft outcome statement of 'Strengthening our actions on climate change.'

Where within the draft outcomes statements does it recognise the role Marinus Link will play in addressing Gippsland issues including education, training and jobs? (MP)

Response: Marinus Link recognises the role it will play within the draft outcome statement 'Facilitating pathways to inclusive employment that support the transition to renewable energy in the region.'

Is there an opportunity to strengthen the draft outcomes statement 'Working with Traditional Owners to achieve self-determination and setting a new benchmark for Aboriginal engagement'? (ND)

Response: Draft outcome statement is currently under review to consider a deeper involvement of Traditional Owners.

Engagement Update (Mark Lindsay)

- Report overview provided with more detailed engagement information contained within slide pack
- Back end of 2022 included a number of Gippsland local activities, along with a focus in NW Tasmania
- 2023 Program under development to align to the EES/EIS approvals pathway
- Variety of engagement to be offered including drop in sessions, pop up stalls, stakeholder meetings and online options
- Consultation report will be made available on the Marinus Link website to outline the engagement undertaken and planned

Questions: None received

Working Timeline (Ben White)

- Project timeline provided with milestone dates discussed
- Major milestones including tender release, preliminary and final investment decision leading to anticipated construction commencement in early 2025

Questions:

Did Marinus Link consider working closely with offshore wind proponents to potentially limit community impacts? (NS)

Response: Marinus Link is further developed than many other proposals for the area, but a consideration for working and planning more closely for future projects should be considered.

Are there milestones attached to the funding agreement between the Commonwealth, Tasmanian and Victorian Governments? (RH)

Response: Marinus Link has been fortunate to have received government funding to plan and progress the project to date. As a condition of this funding, Marinus Link is required to provide milestone reports. It is anticipated that following the recent funding announcement, a heads of agreement with all three governments will outline Marinus Link’s milestone reporting requirements.

Why is Marinus Link going to tender at this early stage of the projects development? (NS)

Response: Going to tender now is driven by the growing renewable energy market, the competitive and technical nature of supply chain and to gain a deeper understanding of the cost estimates for the project.

EES/EIS Approvals (JL)

- Outlined opportunities for the GSLG to participate at various stages of the EES/EIS approvals process throughout 2023 – technical report updates, supporting engagement and key submission activities and timeframes

Questions: None received

GSLG looking ahead (Jane Leslie)

- Outlined from 2023 the GSLG will meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month @ 9.30am
- Meetings to be added to calendars in early 2023 for February, May, September and December
- February will be a full day route drive, starting and finishing in Traralgon
- Both online and in person meetings will be considered

Meeting close 12.15pm

Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Send 2023 meeting invitations to GSLG members	Mark	25/01/23	Completed
Confirm plans for GSLG route drive on Tuesday 14 February	Mark	15/02/23	Completed
Provide meeting minutes and presentation to GSLG members	Mark	13/01/23	Completed (06/04/23)