

# MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 15 August 2023

Location: MLPL Traralgon Office and online via Teams

Meeting Number: 8

Chair: Jane Leslie (JL) – in person

## Attendees

Tony Flynn (TF), LVA – in person	Shannon Egan (SE), TAFE Gippsland – online
Jeanie Hall (JH), LVA – online	Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G – in person
Nicala Oakley (NO), RDV - online	Owen Chapman (OC), VSA – in person
Nick Dudley (ND), GLaWAC - online	Barb McGregor (BMc), Marinus Link - online
Maddie Paraga (MP), SGSC	Lynn Feldman (LF), Marinus Link - online
Martin Fuller (MF), WGCMA	Jacqueline Collis (JC), Marinus Link - online
Nick Stephens (NS), SGLN - online	Christina Young (CY), Marinus Link – in person
Peter Mooney (PM), ETU - online	Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link – in person
Chris Newman (CN), ArcBlue - online	Petra McLoughlin (PMc), ArcBlue - online
Mark Osafo (MO), ArcBlue - online	

## Apologies

Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G	Ian Gibson (IG), Federation University
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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 (JL)**

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- Apologies, introduction to new representatives including *Maddie Paraga from South Gippsland Shire Council*
- Welcome Marinus Link people including Barb McGregor, Jacqueline Collis and Lynn Feldman
- Welcome ArcBlue people including Chris Newman, Mark Osafa and Petra McLoughlin
- Minutes from 20 June 2023 distributed to GSLG prior to meeting, discussed and accepted with no changes
- Reminder for members to sign the reviewed Code of Conduct and send to ML. Thank you to those who have actioned this to date.

### **MLPL Government Relations / Project Milestones – includes Q&A (BMc)**

BMc provided a general project overview, including current discussions between Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian Governments.

- Marinus Link continues to work through its design and approvals plans, with Final Investment Decision (FID) in late 2024.
- The project requires a commitment at this stage of the project in order to progress the supply of key, specialised equipment including cables and converter stations, in a lead into anticipated project commencement in early 2025.
- There is global demand for equipment supply, due to the steady progress of renewable energy and transmission projects.
- Negotiations will continue to take place with all government stakeholders, with project clarity expected to be provided over the coming weeks.
- As soon as further detail on project funding is available, Marinus Link will inform the GSLG as a priority.

#### **Questions:**

#### **Does Marinus Link expect cost increases, given recent major construction experiences? (PM)**

**Response:** Marinus Link, is no different from other major projects. We are awaiting the outcomes of current tenders, which with costs at this stage unavailable to share. Our original cost estimates were provided in the early planning stages of Marinus Link.

### **Update on Approvals, Engagement, Community Benefits, First Peoples (ML)**

ML provided a general engagement update, highlighted by the following activities in June and July:

- The Energy Charter: Social Licence Roundtable: benchmarking best practice on community engagement
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner: Multiple facilitated meetings with directly impacted landowners who have raised concerns with the Commissioner. Positive outcomes from each.
- Essential Services Commission: Draft Landowner Engagement Code of Practice – fed in to consultation process

- Job Skills Expo: Trade stand / approximately 480 interactions with students
- VicGrid Meetings: Marinus Link relationship to other Gippsland project proponents
- Latrobe City Council / South Gippsland Shire Council: Workforce accommodation and community benefits
- Gippsland Technical School: Teacher and Career Advisor presentation
- GROW Gippsland: Industry workshop
- Transmission Network Services Platform: Forum / Transmission options – underground v overhead

ML shared an update on First Peoples engagement, which included:

- Recent walkover activity with GLaWAC
- Current engagement approach in Victoria with Traditional Owner Groups, in respect to recent Native Title hearings
- Continued focus on Traditional Owner's participation through Marinus Link's Cultural Values Assessment
- Upcoming discussions and presentations related to Marinus Link's Underwater Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Broad reference to continued discussions with First Peoples in Tasmania
- Marinus Link is developing the cultural capability of project staff and creating its own cultural education program

JC provided an update on Marinus Link's Community Benefits Sharing Scheme (CBSS), which included:

- Marinus Link has engaged RPS to support the development of its CBSS
- An engagement program is currently in development, with further opportunities for the GSLG to provide input to be provided over the coming months
- Marinus Link has not committed to a financial contribution at this early stage of its development, but will provide information on this, as it becomes available
- ML added that for the short term, Marinus Link is investigating a Community Grant and Sponsorship Grant Program. This is expected to be launched in late 2023 and bridge community support, until the CBSS is established and aligned to project commencement, expected in early 2025.

**Questions:**

**Please confirm methodology for the Victorian construction of Marinus Link (NS)**

**Response:** Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground transmission project. The undergrounding of cables will be conducted by open trenching and in horizontal directional drilling in areas including, but not limited to waterways, significant vegetation, roadways and steep terrain.

**What does RPS stand for? (ND)**

**Response:** RPS stands for Rural Planning Services. Founded in 1970, RPS is now part of Tetra Tech, a leading provider of consulting and engineering services worldwide.

**Will the CBSS be aligned to Marinus Link’s Sustainability Strategy? (NS)**

**Response:** Yes, the Sustainability Strategy will be closely aligned and will assist in informing the development of the CBSS.

**Who is Marinus Link connecting with for the development of the CBSS? (CN)**

**Response:** A requirement of RPS is to develop with Marinus Link a project engagement plan, which will identify key stakeholders to engage with on the CBSS. Early engagement with the GSLG has taken place, with a workshop at the 20 June 2023 GSLG Meeting.

**Industry Participation Plan (CY)**

CY provided an introduction to members of the ArcBlue Team, who have been engaged to support Marinus Link in the development of its Industry Participation Plan. CY also provided a short introduction on the function of an IPP and how this relates to the project.

**Industry Participation Plan Workshop (All)**

- ArcBlue led a brainstorming workshop with the GSLG to support the development of the Industry Participation Plan (IPP).
- Attendees shared insights on what the community and industry may expect, what needs to be in place to ensure success and any examples of plans or programs that have worked well.
- Feedback was provided by the GSLG and featured insights around the Industry Capability Network, key industry and education stakeholders, workforce availability, required training, transitioning workforce and the impacts/opportunities for the Gippsland region.
- Marinus Link will continue developing the IPP e over the coming months and the GSLG will have further opportunity to provide feedback
- A summary report on the workshop will be provided by ArcBlue, to Marinus Link. This will be shared with the GSLG.

**Meeting close 11.00am**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Progress</b>
GSLG members to sign and return Code of Conduct	GSLG	End of August	CoC sent
Replace 21 November meeting invitation	ML	End of August	Completed
Provide meeting minutes and presentation to GSLG members	ML	Mid September	Completed
Provide summary of IPP Workshop with meeting minutes	ArcBlue / ML	Mid September	Completed
Next GSLG Meeting – Tuesday 21 November	All	21/11/2023	