

MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 21 November 2023

Location: MLPL Traralgon Office and online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting #9

Chair: Jane Leslie (JL) – in person

Member Attendees	Marinus Link Attendees
Tony Flynn (TF), Latrobe Valley Auth – online	Caroline Wykamp (CW), Marinus Link – online
Mikayla Power (MP), Federation Uni – in person	Rochelle MacDonald (RM), Marinus Link – in person
Glen McColl (GMc), Latrobe CC - in person	Christina Young (CY), Marinus Link – in person
Shannon Egan (SE), TAFE Gippsland – online	Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link – in person
Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G – in person	Brett McGennissen (BMc), Marinus Link - online
Owen Chapman (OC), VSA – in person	Uncle Lloyd Hood (LH), GLaWAC – in person
Ken Fraser (KF), South Gippsland SC - online	
David Roberts (DR), Vic Skills Authority - online	
Kate Gaffney (KG), Federation Uni - online	
Nick Dudley, GLaWAC – online	
Guests	
Chris Newman (CN), ArcBlue - online	Petra McLoughlin (PMc), ArcBlue - online
Mark Osafa (MO), ArcBlue - online	
Apologies	
Mark Matthews - SGLN	Nick Stephens - SGLN
Ian Gibson – Fed Uni	Peter Mooney, ETU
Jeanie Hall - DJSIR	Martin Fuller - WGCMA
Maddie Paraga - SGSC	Mercedes Stewart - DJSIR
Nicala Oakley – Fed Uni	

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 Liasion Group
ISP	Integrated Service Plan
NEM	National Electricity Market

Minutes

Introduction (JL)

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Apologies, round table introductions and welcome to new attendees
- Welcome guests from ArcBlue including Chris Newman, Mark Osafo and Petra McLoughlin
- Minutes from 15 August 2023 distributed to GSLG prior to meeting, discussed and accepted with no changes

MLPL CEO Update - included Q&A (CW)

- CW provided a general project overview and update on progress of MLPL's Design & Approvals phase.
- Marinus Link continues to work through its design and approvals plans, with Final Investment Decision (FID) expected 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 2025.
- Planning discussions are continuing to ensure a seamless transition of change in ownership with Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian governments.
- Tasmania are an integral part of our networks transition to renewable energy, with current future predicted storage and generation capacity.
- General discussion regarding the location and size of the Hazelwood converter station and cable specifications
- CW shared her interest in spending more time in Gippsland in 2024.

Questions:

Tell us a about the battery capacity in Tasmania and preference for direct current transmission? (ND)

Response: CW explained how the existing hydro system operates in Tasmania, supporting local supply and exporting via Bass Link and that the proposed investment to hydro in Tasmania is expected to provide approximately 30k the capacity of Victoria's Big Battery project. MLPL has chosen to use high voltage

direct current cable due to the length of the transmission and ability to retain as much energy transmission capacity required over the approx. 350km distance.

Are there expected to be long term environmental issues with the use of hydro dams? (GMc)

Response: Any advances in hydro in Tasmania will be required to undergo similar environmental investigations to that which our colleagues working on the North West Transmission development project are required to do. Tasmania has a proud history of hydro, with current development of existing and construction of new supply expected in line with MLPL.

What are the impacts of the recent announcement around delivering MLPL Stage 1 only? (SE)

Response: The recent announcement gives us great confidence in the delivery of Stage 1, by the time our supply is required. We are continuing to develop both Stage 1 and Stage 2 through our design and approvals and working towards FID at the end of 2024, which should provide further clarity on staging the project. Throughout the construction of Stage 1, we are expecting to be delivering many early preparation works for Stage 2, to minimise impacts to landowners.

What can Victoria learn from Tasmania, as it moves through this transition? (MP)

Response: Victoria, like Tasmania, is moving at such a pace to ensure our energy security meets the requirements of consumers, whilst retirement of coal continues. Our young people are critical to this transition and their views and entrepreneurialism is required – there are so many jobs that we just don't know exist, that will benefit us all as work through this transition. We need to look at how we have done things in the past, yes learn, but think and do differently.

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

- ML provided a general project engagement update.
- The project continues to develop its package of works and investigations / technical reports (24) in preparation for its public exhibition and planning panel periods in the early parts of 2024.
- Engagement activities including conferences, stakeholder meetings, market pop ups and community organisation presentations have taken place since the last GSLG meeting, with project awareness and positive sentiment continuing to increase.
- Our work is continuing with Traditional Owners with a site visit planned with GLaWAC in late November, engagement on Cultural Values (intangible), Cultural Heritage (tangible), Native Title and underwater cultural heritage. We are very fortunate to have two experienced and well-respected advisors working on our project.
- The MLPL community benefits program is continuing to develop, and we thank the GSLG for their contribution to this important work. Since workshopping this with the GSLG in 2023, we have progressed socialised the engagement concept and benchmarked values of benefits across projects within and outside of Australia. Until the community benefits program is implemented in 2025, we are developing a smaller, quick response community grant and sponsorship program for Victoria. This is aimed to be launched in early 2024.

Questions:

Has MLPL considered the value in collaborating with other major projects for community benefits? (JL)

Response: As the community benefits framework is developed with the Peoples Panel and direct engagement with key stakeholders, opportunities for collaboration will be sought. Discussions continue to happen across Gippsland with industry, government and projects. Working together to create long term legacy is certainly an opportunity to investigate in more detail in 2024.

Update on Landowner Engagement (BMc)

- BMc provided an update on landowner engagement, including the focus on progressing relationships with landowners who have previously not engaged on the project.
- MLPL has over 100 individual landowners and we currently have access to approx. 60% of these properties to undertake pre-construction investigations.
- Valuations have taken place with a number of landowners, with more to come in early 2024.
- Our approach has and will continue to be that voluntarily access is our preferred outcome for landowners and the project.
- We would like to gain further access to ensure we have the detail we need through our design and approvals phase.

Should a landowner have a complaint we have a process in place to manage this, which also identifies the regulatory bodies can assist in managing concerns and issuing these to the project.

Questions:

What are the main objections received from landowners? (MP)

Response: (BM) The main objections received are from landowners who undertake horticultural farming and believe there will be a significant impact to their operations. We are continuing to discuss best cable alignment locations and will work with each individual landowner through an agreed property management plan, to minimise as best as possible, the impacts to productivity.

Do you expect to see project time delays, should you have objections from landowners? (JL)

Response: We have established a land strategy which outlines the regulated periods for our engagement with landowners. We have time, but we need to continue to make steady progress, applying as much effort into working with landowners as is possible, in order to meet our goal of construction in 2025.

Industry Participation Plan (CY)

- (CY) provided an introduction to members of the ArcBlue Team, who have been working with MLPL to develop its Industry Participation Strategy (IPS).
- CY also provided a short introduction on the function of an IPS and how this relates to the project.

Industry Participation Strategy - ArcBlue

- ArcBlue led an IPS update session with the GSLG, following a workshop at the early stages of its development around mid-2023.
- Members shared insights on what the community and industry may expect, what we should be prepared for and examples of best practice, to ensure MLPL success.
- 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 are finalising the IPS over the coming months and will be presented to the GSLG in 2024.

Questions:

Who did we engage with throughout the IPS’ development? (MP)

Response: ArcBlue interviewed both Tasmanian and Victorian industry and education stakeholders, including several GSLG members. A full report is included within the IPS and will be available once completed.

What is the MLPL tender position and is MLPL setting targets for First Peoples, supply local etc? (ND)

Response: MLPL is currently in tender space and has issued cable tenders in 2023 (under assessment) and developing tenders for civils and converters in 2024. These latest tenders will present the greatest opportunity for local supply chain in Gippsland. As part of this important work, MLPL is developing targets to ensure First Peoples and local opportunities are realised throughout the delivery of the project. We expect to share further information on this at the completion of the IPS.

What can we all do to ensure we have the skills in the region to be ready for this transition? This includes future workforce participants and trainers. (OC)

Response: MLPL is connecting across the education and skills areas to provide information on project need, locations and approximate numbers. In development is a MLPL jobs guide, which we will use to create readiness within the area for prospective workforce participants. Further, we need to connect early with institutions to ensure the needs of the project are considered, when creating programs and training for the expected workforce.

The meeting was warmly concluded with a sharing of thanks for the ongoing enthusiasm and commitment from members of the GSLG for the Marinus Link project.

We wish all the best for the coming season and look forward to continuing these great connections in 2024, as MLPL continues to build toward major project milestones.

Meeting close 11.00am

Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Provide meeting minutes and presentation to GSLG members	ML	End of December	Completed
Calendar of 2024 GSLG Meetings – 9.00am to 11.00am: Tuesday 13 Feb Tuesday 14 May Tuesday 13 August Tuesday 12 November	RM	End of December	Completed
Next GSLG Meeting – Tuesday 13 Feb 2024	All	13 Feb 2024	To be actioned