

Flora and Fauna

Victoria and Bass Strait



As part of our Sustainability Framework, we have made a commitment to deliver on our objective of “Healthy Planet” by promoting biodiversity and minimising our environmental footprint.

Our cable route in Victoria runs through some sections of native vegetation, particularly in places like Waratah Bay and the Strzelecki Ranges. These patches of native vegetation provide crucial habitats for various plant and animal species.

We are committed to protecting these vital habitats and promoting biodiversity in the region.

This fact sheet provides information on the potential impacts to identified flora and fauna arising from the project.



More information

For more information on how flora and fauna will be managed by the project, view Chapter 11: Terrestrial Ecology in Volume 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement/ Environment Effects Statement (EIS/ EES) via Marinius Link’s website at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.



Assessing impacts to flora and fauna

As part of the EIS/EES, we completed independent impact assessments by reviewing databases, available literature and completing field surveys.

Potential impacts on flora and fauna by the project are assessed under legislation and studies which:

- ◇ **Identify flora and fauna native to the project area through field surveys undertaken by an ecologist.**
- ◇ **Assess the impacts of clearing on threatened species, native vegetation and fauna habitat.**
- ◇ **Identify risks associated with weed and pest species to offset flora and fauna habitat clearing.**

Due to land access constraints, we couldn't assess some habitat areas within the survey area. However, our assessments assume that certain species might be present in the impacted habitat. Additional surveys will be carried out in these locations prior to construction to confirm our assumptions.

Impacts during construction

Through our independent assessments, a number of potential impacts to ecological values were identified:

- ◇ **Clearing of vegetation for open trenching and for the construction of the converter station and transition station.**
- ◇ **Indirect impacts such as the disturbance of animals from construction equipment, introduction of pests, erosion from exposed ground, changes in water quality due to pollution and disturbance from dust, noise, vibration and light.**



Pictured: Threatened fauna species recorded in the study area include the Growling Grass Frog.



Pictured: Threatened eucalyptus species recorded in the study area include the Bog Gum.

Flora and Fauna in the Bass Strait

Construction activities required to lay cables across Bass Strait have the potential to impact marine species or habitats that support them.

To minimise impacts we will avoid threatened marine fauna and flora species, where possible. Measures will also be implemented to minimise lighting and maintain distance between construction activities and marine species.

More information

For more information on marine flora and fauna view Chapter 2 Marine Ecology in Volume 3 of the EIS/EES via Marinius Link's website at mariniuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

How we will manage impacts

Marinius Link is committed to minimising impacts on flora and fauna through the design, construction and operation of the project.

The proposed cable route has been selected to avoid and minimise impacts to native plants and species through minor route changes, or by using less-invasive construction techniques. Other mitigation measures include:



Minimising impacts on native vegetation removal, threatened species and their habitats during the detailed design.



Conducting further field surveys before construction to confirm species in the area and the potential impacts from construction. These assessments may lead to changes in the construction methodology.



Working with our delivery contractors to develop and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan, which outlines all areas requiring vegetation removal and potential habitat disturbance during construction. The Plan will provide details on mitigation measures, such as:

- ◇ **Pre-clearing inspection by a qualified ecologist to confirm locations of flora and fauna.**
- ◇ **Defining project boundaries and identifying the 'no go' zones where areas with significant vegetation or habitats will be fenced off.**
- ◇ **Weed and pest management controls.**
- ◇ **Reducing light pollution.**
- ◇ **Reinstatement and rehabilitation.**

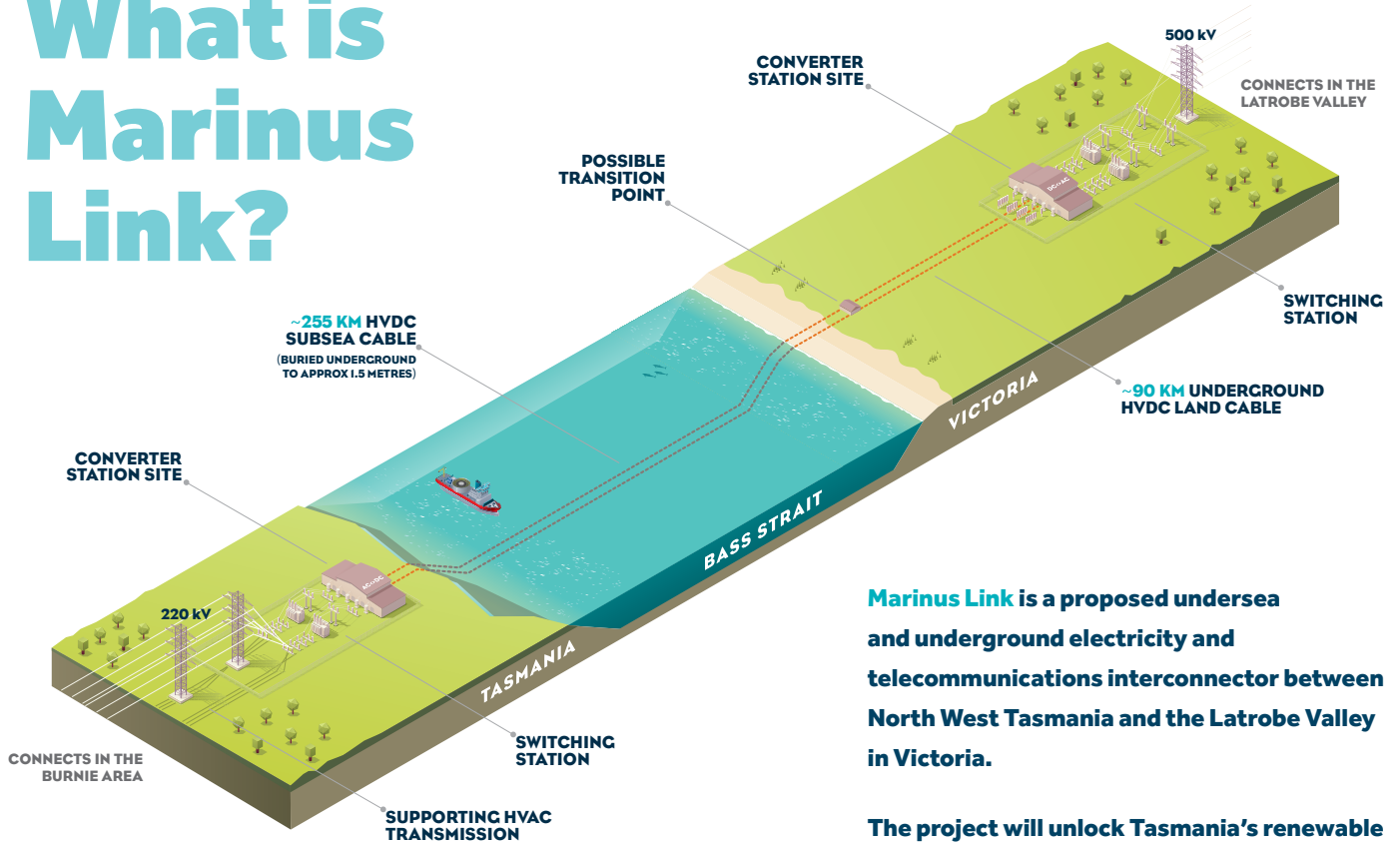


Adopting less-invasive construction techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), to minimise impacts to native vegetation, threatened species and their habitats.



Offsetting vegetation removal by sourcing biodiversity offsets per the Victorian Government's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*.

What is Marinus Link?



Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and telecommunications interconnector between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

The project will unlock Tasmania's renewable energy and storage resources to deliver reliable and clean energy for customers in the National Electricity Market.



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More information

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