

Scope for Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel – Independent Advisor

Overview

The Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel is seeking the services of an Independent Advisor to ensure consumer interests are considered in the major procurement processes of Marinus Link.

Introduction

Marinus Link intends to submit a revenue proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**) to set the amount of revenue Marinus Link can recover from electricity consumers.

The AER's revenue setting process calls for significant consumer engagement. Marinus Link has formed a Consumer Advisory Panel to ensure the interests of electricity consumers are adequately considered and reflected in the revenue proposal.

The Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel (**CAP**) has been established for this purpose. The CAP has been operational since May 2022. The CAP comprises members across sectors of energy consumers and a broad geographical base. There are currently 8 representatives on the panel intended to broadly represent National electricity Market (**NEM**) end-use customers. Its purpose is to:

- Provide consumers with a real opportunity to participate in the Marinus Link Revenue Proposal, especially on elements where consumer feedback can have the greatest impact.
- Provide a forum for participants to raise questions and concerns on behalf of the consumers they represent.
- Help Marinus Link to ensure that consumers' views and preferences are reflected in the revenue proposal.

To assist fulfil its role, the CAP has determined that it should be involved in the procurement processes of Marinus Link for major items of procurement being the High Voltage Direct Current (**HVDC**) Cable System and Converter Stations, and also the converter station building works tender.

The involvement is based on the CAP's interest in ensuring consumer interests are considered in the Marinus Link procurement process. The CAP is also keen to identify how it can be involved in shaping criteria for the building works tender to encourage local content and SME involvement.

The CAP has determined that it wishes appoint an Independent Advisor to assist the CAP. The CAP, jointly with Marinus Link, will make the appointment.

The CAP is seeking expressions of interest from experienced providers and/ or individuals to provide this service.

The following information provides details on the scope of the role.

1. Scope of Work

- Represent the Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel (**CAP**) in the evaluation process for major items of procurement being HVDC Cable System and Converter Stations.
- Provide the CAP with assurance advice on the procurement evaluation process.
- Ensure that the interests of CAP are heard and considered in the procurement evaluation process.
- Provide insight and assurance to the CAP that the Marinus Link evaluation process is being followed and consumer interests are being incorporated
- Liaise with the Marinus Link Probity Advisor and provide feedback to the Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel on probity.
- Engage with the Marinus Link Evaluation Team for each major procurement.
- Participate in the final meeting(s) of the Marinus Link procurement evaluation panel for each major procurement item. The final meeting(s) are where all the evaluation specialists come back together with their individual evaluations and discuss.
- Provide presentations and a written report to the Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel.

The Independent Advisor may also be asked to participate in shaping criteria for building works tenders to encourage local content and SME involvement on behalf of the CAP. The Converter Station Design & Construct (CSDC) tender will commence in 2024.

2. Deliverables

The key deliverables are

- Three presentation sessions of up to 1.5 hours each to the Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel.
- Provision of a written Summary Report to the Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel with copy to Marinus Link.

3. Timing/ Availability

Marinus Link has established expected timeframes of its procurement process and the Independent Advisor will need to be available during these periods:

- HVDC Cable System Tender evaluation phase: approx. between 24 May to 13 July 2023
- Attend final meeting(s) of Marinus Link HVDC Cable System procurement evaluation panel (approx. early July 2023)

- Converter Station Tender evaluation phase: approx. between August and September (dates to be advised)
- Attend final meeting(s) of Marinus Link Converter Station procurement evaluation panel (dates to be advised)

Marinus Link Consumer Advisory Panel 'roundtables' and 'deliberative sessions' are planned for:

- March 2023
- April 2023
- June 2023
- July 2023
- October 2023.

These meetings are conducted online and in-person, usually in Melbourne and Hobart.

4. Relevant Experience

To be successful in this engagement the service provider will require

- Demonstrated experience in procurement processes for large infrastructure projects
- Demonstrated experience in communicating, presenting and reporting back to a panel of people with varying levels of procurement experience using language accessible by the community
- Technical skills in the energy sector
- An understanding commercial contracts and large contract negotiation
- An understanding of the political and community environment that Marinus Link is operating in and balancing stakeholder interests
- An understanding of the trade-offs involved in a project like Marinus Link.

5. Selection Process agreed between the CAP and Marinus Link

- a) A scope of work is designed by Marinus Link, with review and approval by the CAP
- b) A broad Expression of Interest process is opened
- c) CAP members are appointed by the CAP to undertake a shortlisting process on the CAP's behalf
- d) Marinus Link prescribes parameters for appointing the independent advisor (e.g., cost)
- e) The CAP and Marinus Link determine a shortlist
- f) The CAP conducts interviews of the shortlist and recommends a preferred candidate to Marinus Link.

The independent advisor is not representative of jurisdiction and so does not need to be from a particular location (e.g. Tasmania or Victoria).

6. Confidentiality and conflicts of interest management

The successful service provider will be required to enter into confidentiality arrangements and declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

The successful service provider will be required to adhere to the TasNetworks gifts and benefits policy

7. Access to documents

Electronic access may be provided to certain documents relating the procurement process for the information of the successful service provider to enable them to fulfil their role for the CAP.

It is expected that most documentation will be classified as commercial in confidence and therefore not able to be shared.

8. Estimate of time/ Fees

The expression of interest submitted by the service provider should provide a schedule of fees and progress payments.

The schedule of fees can be provided on a time based rate with an estimate of the total time required to perform the role.

9. Contract administration, invoices and payment

A contract will be provided by Marinus Link and executed between the service provider and Marinus Link Pty Ltd.

Invoices from the service provider are to be submitted to, and paid by Marinus Link Pty Ltd.

10. Publically available information

[Marinus Link](#)

[Consumer Advisory Panel Marinus Link](#)

Contact

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