

MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 20 February 2024

Location: MLPL Traralgon Office and online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting #10

Chair: Marinus Link

Member Attendees

Tony Flynn (TF), Latrobe Valley Auth – in person	Jeanie Hall (JH)- DJSIR– online
Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G – online	Nick Stephens (NS) - SGLN– online
David Roberts (DR), Vic Skills Authority - online	Nick Dudley (ND), GLaWAC – online
Shannon Egan (SE), TAFE Gippsland – online	Peter Mooney (PM), ETU - online
Graham Ross (GR), SGLN - online	Martin Fuller (MF), WGCMA - online

Marinus Link Attendees

Christina Young (CY), Marinus Link- online	Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link – in person
Holly Williamson (HW), Marinus Link – in person	Prajit Parameswar (PP)- Marinus Link - online
Ben Wagner (BW), Marinus Link – online	Ryan Atkinson (RA)- Marinus Link - Online
Brett McGennissen (BM), Marinus Link, online	

Apologies

Ian Gibson – Fed Uni	Glen McColl (GMc), Latrobe CC
Owen Chapman (OC), VSA – online	Ken Fraser (KF), South Gippsland SC
Uncle Lloyd (LH) - GLaWAC	Maddie Paraga - SGSC – online
Nicala Oakley, RDV - online	Mercedes Stewart – DJSIR - online
Pauline Ware (PW), Tafe Gippsland – online	

AC	Alternating current
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DC	Direct current
EIS	Environment Impact Statement
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 (ML)

- Welcome and Acknowledgement.
- Apologies, round table introductions and welcome to new attendees.
- Minutes from 21 November 2023 distributed to GSLG prior to meeting, discussed and accepted with no changes.
- Acknowledgement of Jane Leslie’s resignation as chair of GSLG, thanked her for her contribution to MLPL. Role of Chair to be confirmed at the May GSLG Meeting.

MLPL CCO Update – Change of Ownership (PP)

- PP recognised that MLPL will be undergoing a change of ownership from being a subsidiary of TasNetworks to being co-owned by the Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian governments. Change of ownership is expected to occur over the coming weeks.
- MLPL is seeking the services of a business partner with extensive project delivery experience, to take MLPL from the design and approvals phase into construction, then commissioning.
- PP reaffirmed that the final investment decision remains as late December 2024, with the stage one of MLPL expected to commence in mid-to-late 2025.

Questions:

What consequences does the change of ownership have on the project? (NS)

Response: Previously, MLPL was a wholly owned subsidiary of TasNetworks, which is a company owned by the Tasmanian Government. The change of ownership will provide MLPL greater

autonomy and set itself up as a sole entity, prior to delivering the project. It was always intended for MLPL to become a stand-alone business.

Update on 2024 Engagement Program / Environmental Approvals (ML)

- ML advised MLPL has developed a 2024 communications and engagement program, which includes the plans to place the EIS/ESS on public exhibition for six weeks in May/June. This is where submissions from members of the public can be received, with the option for them to be heard in front of a planning panel of subject matter experts.
- The full suite of EIS/EES engagement sessions will be provided to the GSLG and we hope members and their networks can attend.
- MLPL is continuing its engagement with Traditional Owners in Gippsland, including GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council. Focus of engagement is on Cultural Values Assessment, Native Title and Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Questions:

Does a focus now of only delivering Stage 1 make the procurement of supplies more difficult? (TC)

Response: The recent announcement continues to provide further confidence in the delivery of Stage 1. We have not experienced any challenges to date. The focus on Stage 1 only has not impacted our procurement planning.

The projects progress in Stage 1 presents a great opportunity to align the outcomes to those related in the Transition Plan for Gippsland? (JH)

Response: MLPL to reach out to JH to provide a project and tender update and seek opportunities to align outcomes to targets within the Transition Plan for Gippsland.

Landowner engagement update (BMc)

- MLPL has been granted its Electricity Transmission License. We will continue to work with landowners to seek voluntary access to their land for any MLPL surveys or construction.
- MLPL have access agreements with over 50% of landowners, with work continuing.
- An updated Landowner Information Pack is in development and will be provided to all landowners to ensure they have the most recent project information and details around the easement access process.
- Landowners are critical to the project and will be engaged in a lead into and during the upcoming EIS/EES public exhibition period, with exclusive interviews and drop-in sessions being made available.
- BMC reported that as the Victorian government have updated the GIS mapping of the land in South Gippsland, we have gained 3 new landowners, which brings the total number of freehold landowners to 104.
- Cultural heritage and geotechnical survey work continuing over the coming months.

Questions:

What compensation options are available to landowners? (NS)

Response: Agreements will include an easement plan setting out the anticipated location of the easement. An independent, licensed valuer will be appointed to carry out valuations and other calculations required to determine the payments for the easement.

The total easement payment within the agreement takes into consideration the impact of the easement on the market value of your property and other losses or expenses incurred, including business interruption. Payments are made on signing the agreement, then for the easement and leased areas at construction commencement and completion.

Additional landowner payments

In February 2023, the Victorian Government announced that transmission entities will need to make additional payments to landowners that host new electricity infrastructure, in recognition of the important role landowners play in hosting critical transmission infrastructure and connecting renewable energy into the grid.

These payments will be made by Marinus Link (or via the Victorian government) and will be in addition to the Option for Easement and Lease Agreement payments. The payments are expected to be made at a standard rate of \$8,000 per year per kilometre of transmission hosted for 25 years, indexed for inflation.

Questions:

What is an access agreement and what percentage of kilometres of the project does the over 50% of landowners represent? (GR)

Response: An Access Agreement is a legally binding contract between MLPL and landowners for the purposes of undertaking pre-construction surveys on private property. The over 50% of landowners' accounts for approximately 44 kilometres of the proposed 90 kilometres.

Cable Design and construction (RA)

- RA provided an overview of the proposed HVDC cables and construction methods
- The proposed converter site in Tasmania is on an old paint facility close to the coastline in Burnie. Hazelwood is the proposed location for the converter site for Gippsland.
- RA discussed the various cable laying vessels equipped to lay the cable within the Bass Strait. It was also reaffirmed that the length of the cable that is laid at one time is important, as this will reduce the number of joints to be made over the Bass Strait.
- At the landing site in Waratah Bay, RA reaffirmed that this will not impact the aesthetics or the beach beyond the construction period.
- Most of the civil works and infrastructure for stage two will be prepared during Stage 1, to assist with the timeliness and efficiency of the project.

Questions:

How Deep is the Bass Strait, and will the submersible vessel be manned? (ML)

Response: Jet trenching machines are unmanned but monitored from a lead from a vessel on the surface of the water. While the depth of the Bass Strait varies, it is typically anywhere from 80-100 meters in depth.

What is the approximate timeline for the subsea cable laying? (ND)

Response: This process will take approximately two years.

Community Benefits Sharing / Industry Participation Plan (ML)

- ML provided a brief update on community benefits sharing and that MLPL is awaiting advice from VicGrid, as they will propose a collaborative approach across the state.
- The Industry Participation Strategy that the GSLG played a key role in developing, continues to evolve and is assisting the development of project tenders and sets out key activities which will occur in 2024, including tender writing sessions for small to medium enterprises and industry sessions with the Industry Capability Network.

Consumer Advisory Panel Update (BW)

- BW provided an introduction and overview into the Consumer Advisory Panel. This panel is made up of 8 members with various experience who represent consumers interests.
- MLPL are working with the Consumer Advisory Panel to present a revenue proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator. Currently MLPL have submitted an approved proposal for the works in the program until December 2024.
- Marinus link will be a regulated asset and the Australian Energy Regulator will determine revenue modelling.
- MLPL and the Consumer Advisory Panel are currently working on the next revenue proposal for the construction phase.
- The GSLG participated in a joint workshop with the Consumer Advisory Panel back in 2022, with an option to repeat this in mid-2024.

Questions:

How will MLPL see a return on the costs associated with the project, and when? (ND)

Response: The overall costs of the project will be returned by consumers, over the lifespan of the project which is anticipated to be approximately 40-60 years.

Will MLPL offset any carbon being produced in the construction phase of the project? (GR)

Response: MLPL remain vigilant surrounding the embedded carbon and emitted carbon during the construction process of this project and have mitigations in place to reduce these issues.

Meeting close 11.07am

Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Provide meeting minutes and presentation to GSLG members and publish on MLPL website	ML	End of February	To be actioned
Next GSLG Meeting	RM	14 May	To be actioned
Notify of Chair role	ML	Next Meeting	To be actioned