

Managing construction impacts



We are committed to minimising construction impacts on our communities, and leaving the environment in the same or better condition than what it was before Marinus Link commenced.

As part of the technical investigations for the Environmental Impact Statement/ Environment Effects Statement (EIS/EES), independent specialists identified potential impacts associated with the construction of Marinus Link, including traffic, noise, vibration, air quality, groundwater, soil and land stability impacts. This fact sheet provides information about how these potential impacts have been identified and considered.



More information

For more information on the project's Environmental Performance Requirements, view Chapter 2: Environmental Management Framework in Volume 5 of the EIS/ EES via Marinus Link's website at marinuslink.com.au/assessment.

Environmental Management Framework

As part of the EIS/EES, an Environmental Management Framework has been developed for Marinus Link. This provides an overarching framework to address all environmental requirements and manage environmental outcomes for Marinus Link.

The Framework provides clear accountabilities for the implementation of Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) during the development and delivery of the project.

EPRs have been recommended by specialists through the EIS/EES process.

Marinus Link and their contractors must comply with the relevant project approvals and EPRs throughout the project's design and construction.

Traffic

Construction will temporarily increase traffic on local roads and may impact the amenity of nearby residences. Traffic volumes will increase around converter station sites, laydown areas and access tracks during construction.

Some traffic and road conditions may change during construction in both Tasmania and Victoria. For example:

- ◇ Road and turning lanes may be closed or added.
- ◇ Limited access for local traffic at peak construction times.
- ◇ Traffic delays may happen during the movement of large project materials.
- ◇ Some roads, bridges, crossings, and culverts may require upgrading, remediation or resurfacing.

To keep traffic moving safely, we will develop and implement tailored transport management plans to ensure safety, allowing for different traffic levels and conditions, upgrading roads and crossings where required, and ensuring that pedestrian and vehicle access is reinstated in line with road design standards.

For more information on traffic view Chapter 7 Traffic and Transport in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

Air quality

Earthworks and trenching for the cable, as well as trucks travelling along access tracks or haul roads, may cause dust.

Most residents in the vicinity of the cable route are more than 300 m from the works area, so dust is not expected to present any risks to human health.

We will work with our contractors to minimise dust as much as possible by:

- ◇ Minimising exposure of any soil or other material, likely to generate dust.
- ◇ Using water carts on unmade roads in drier months, to reduce dust during dust generating construction activities.

For more information on Air Quality view Chapter 9 Air Quality in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

Noise and vibration

Most construction will take place during regular working hours however, some activities may need to take place 24/7 or overnight.

Out of hours works will be limited to unavoidable activities and those activities which cannot be stopped once they have started, such as horizontal directional drilling, cable jointing or pouring concrete.

We will manage construction noise and vibration through the development of a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan. This will include mitigation measures such as:

- ◇ Using equipment which uses mufflers, or produces the lowest amount of noise.
- ◇ Noise monitoring during out-of-hours works.
- ◇ Notification to nearby residents before any planned out-of-hours works.

For more information on Noise and Vibration view Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

Land stability

South Gippsland features dynamic landscapes that have changed significantly over time. The loss of topsoil and forest cover, along with numerous steep slopes and watercourses, makes the region susceptible to slope instability.

We've identified some areas in the project area that are prone to land slip. Further geotechnical investigations will be completed in these areas to help us understand what measures need to be put in place to prevent landslip.

Marinus Link will work closely with its contractors to ensure they adopt a construction approach that minimises the likelihood of landslips.

For more information on land stability view Chapter 2 Geomorphology and Geology in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

Soil and contamination

What are acid sulfate soils?

Acid sulfate soils contain iron sulphites, which occur naturally in soil that has been waterlogged over extended periods. When sulfate soils are disturbed, it can cause the iron sulphites to generate sulphuric acid, which can cause damage to the environment if not managed appropriately.

We've identified the following contamination risks which could impact the environment:

- ◇ Contaminated waste near the proposed cable route.
- ◇ Excavated soils.
- ◇ Waste created from construction and operational activities.
- ◇ Unexpected areas of contamination.
- ◇ Areas we believe are likely to contain acid sulfate soils, such as Waratah Bay beach area and near Eel Hole Creek.

We will minimise contamination by:

- ◇ Inspecting sites to identify areas of potential contamination and realigning our cable route, to avoid contamination.
- ◇ Managing waste, in line with Environment Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.
- ◇ Undertaking additional testing in areas where acid sulfate soils are likely to be found.
- ◇ Implementing a tailored plan for managing acid sulfate soils.

For more information on soil and contamination view Chapter 3 Contaminated Land and Acid Sulfate Soils in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.



Bushfire

Our independent assessments found that the risk of bushfire in the project area is minor. The greatest potential for bushfires is during the bushfire season.

We will minimise the risk of bushfires during construction and operation by maintaining onsite firefighting water capacity in high-risk areas, and developing a Bushfire Emergency Management Plan, with the aim of minimising harm in the event of a bushfire.

For more information on bushfires view Chapter 12 Bushfire in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

Groundwater

Groundwater is the underground water in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is an important water source for both people and the surrounding environment.

Where groundwater is intercepted, construction activities such as trenching and horizontal directional drilling have the potential to affect the levels or volume of groundwater.

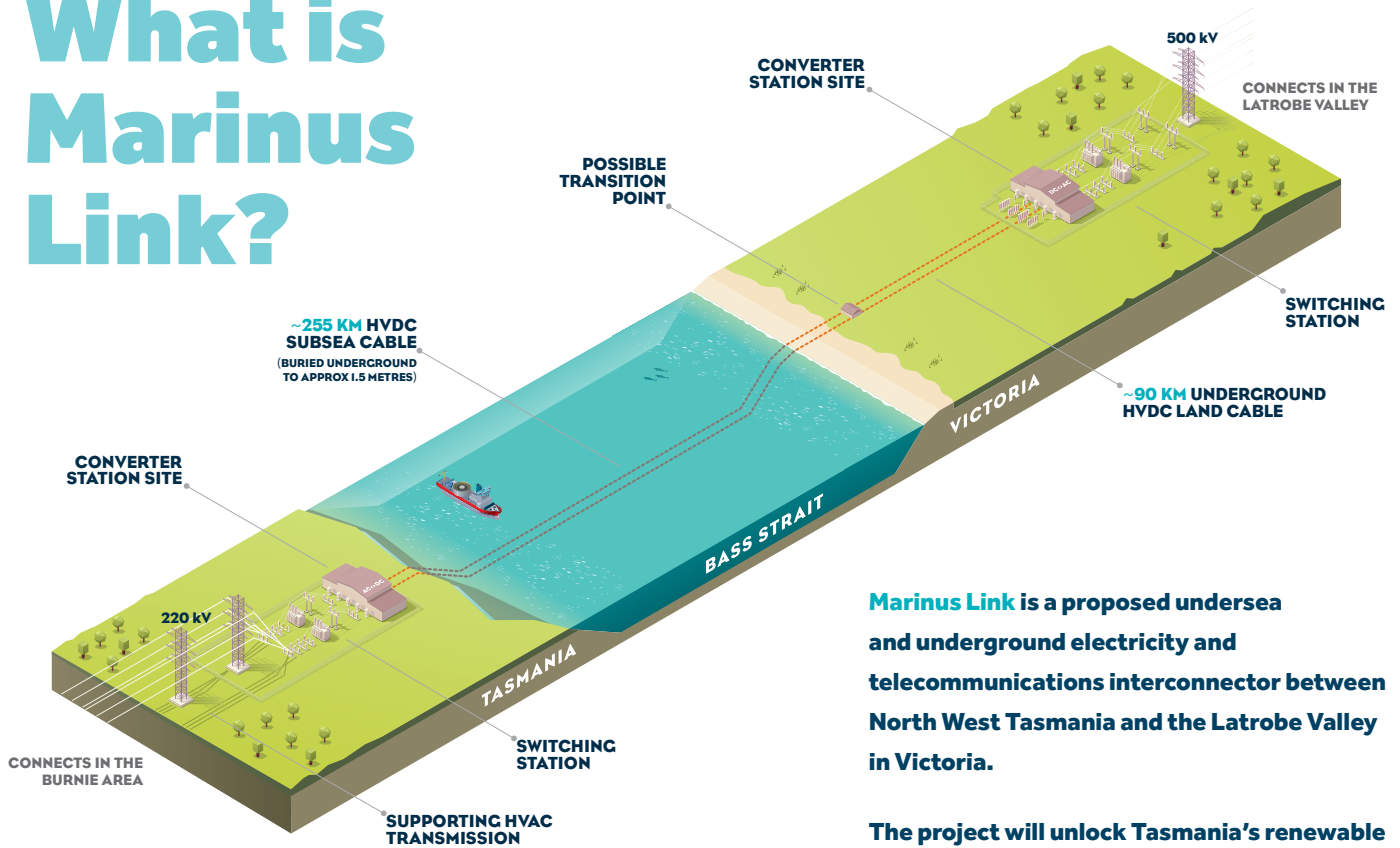
Too much groundwater in the construction area can affect the stability of the trench and structures, so dewatering is usually required.

During construction, there is also a small risk of accidental chemical spills from machinery, or fuel from vehicles, that could contaminate groundwater. We will minimise impacts to groundwater by:

- ◇ Implementing a tailored plan detailing how dewatering, accidental spills, and potential contamination, will be avoided and managed.
- ◇ Conducting further groundwater assessments to inform construction activities.
- ◇ Choosing appropriate construction methods and groundwater monitoring during construction activities.
- ◇ Measuring and monitoring impacts to groundwater.
- ◇ Implementing measures to maintain water supply to registered groundwater users.

For more information on groundwater view Chapter 4 Groundwater in Volume 4 of the EIS/EES at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

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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