

Protecting cultural heritage

Marinus Link acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Marinus Link is proposed in Victoria, across the Bass Strait and in Tasmania. We recognise First Peoples continuing connection to land, sea, waterways, sky and culture.

As part of the technical investigations for the Environmental Impact Statement/Environment Effect Statement (EIS/EES), independent specialists worked with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners to identify tangible and intangible cultural heritage on land and sea within the project area.

We recognise and respect the history, culture and stories that First Peoples bring to our communities, and acknowledge that they have a profound spiritual connection to the lands and waters on which the project is proposed to be built.

We will continue to engage with First Peoples on our findings, and seek to understand more deeply their history and connections, as the project progresses.



More information

For more information on how First Peoples cultural heritage will be managed by the project, view Chapter 4: Underwater Cultural Heritage in Volume 3 and Chapter 13: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Volume 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement/ Environment Effect Statement (EIS/ EES) via Marinus Link's website at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.



Cultural heritage surveys undertaken in October 2022

Working with First Peoples

We understand the importance of self-determination for First Peoples, and are committed to ensuring they have a voice in decisions which affect their community.

A key focus of our Sustainability Framework is to maximise First Peoples participation on the project.

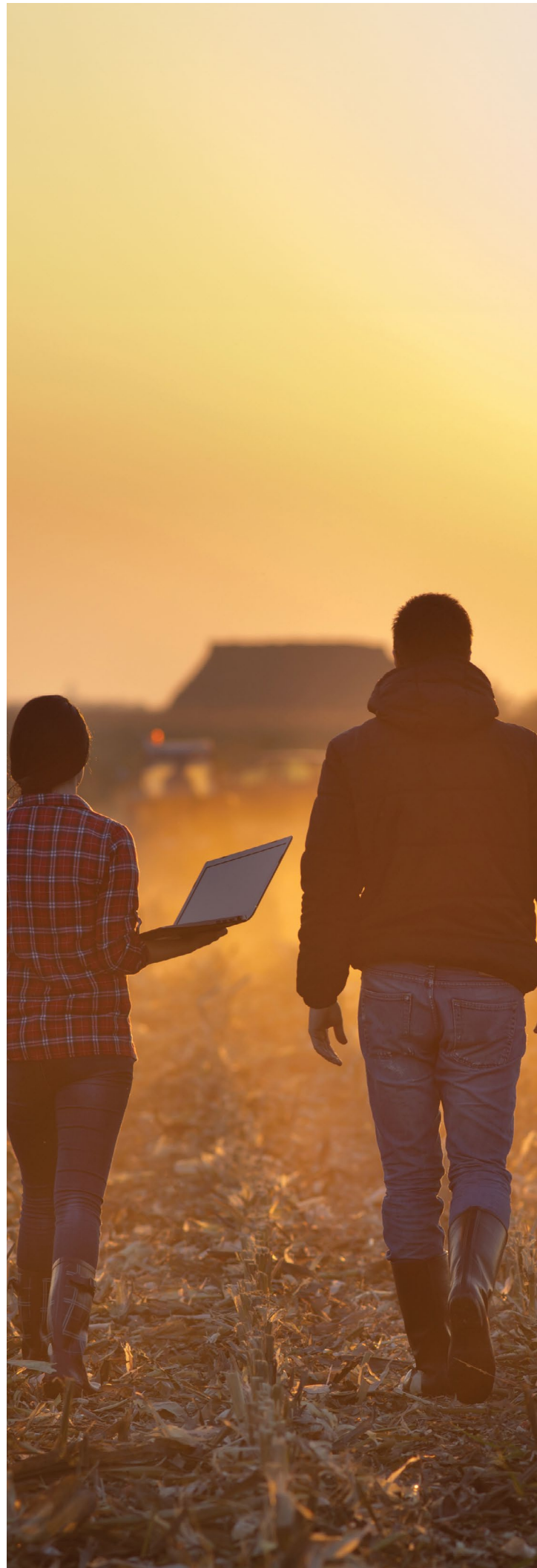
To ensure we deliver on these commitments, we are working with the following Victorian Traditional Owners:

- ◇ Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council
- ◇ Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- ◇ Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

First Peoples Advisory Group

We have established a First Peoples Advisory Group representative of Traditional Owners in Gippsland, including Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and GLaWAC. The forum facilitates ongoing conversations between Traditional Owners in Gippsland related to the impacts and opportunities of the project.

It provides Marinus Link with valuable information and advice on issues important to First Peoples living in Gippsland, including matters related to environmental approvals, community benefits, social licence and industry participation.



Cultural heritage protections

First Peoples cultural heritage is protected under the following Australian Government and State Government legislation:

| Victoria | Bass Strait | Tasmania |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 | Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 | Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 |

This legislation provides a framework for preserving and protecting cultural heritage objects, sites and places.

Identifying cultural heritage

We engaged industry leading experts and worked with Traditional Owners to undertake underwater and land based cultural heritage assessments.

The Maritime Heritage and Archaeology Assessment sought to identify First Peoples sites or areas of cultural behaviour, such as landforms that are now submerged.

Our underwater investigations found there are a number of potential submerged and buried landforms which may have archaeological sites associated with them. However, Marinus Link is unlikely to impact sites of underwater cultural heritage significance.

Our land assessments have identified some cultural heritage values (places and artefacts) that may be impacted by project activities.

These findings have been shared with Traditional Owners and will help progress our understanding of First Peoples history and connections to land and sea.

Marinus Link will also develop Cultural Heritage Management Plans to reduce the risk of disturbing cultural heritage.

Managing cultural heritage

Cultural Heritage Management Plans

Our cultural heritage specialists are working with working with landholders, Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders, to prepare two Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. This will help to assess and manage potential impacts to First Peoples cultural heritage.

If during field surveys, First Peoples cultural heritage is found, the following steps will be taken:

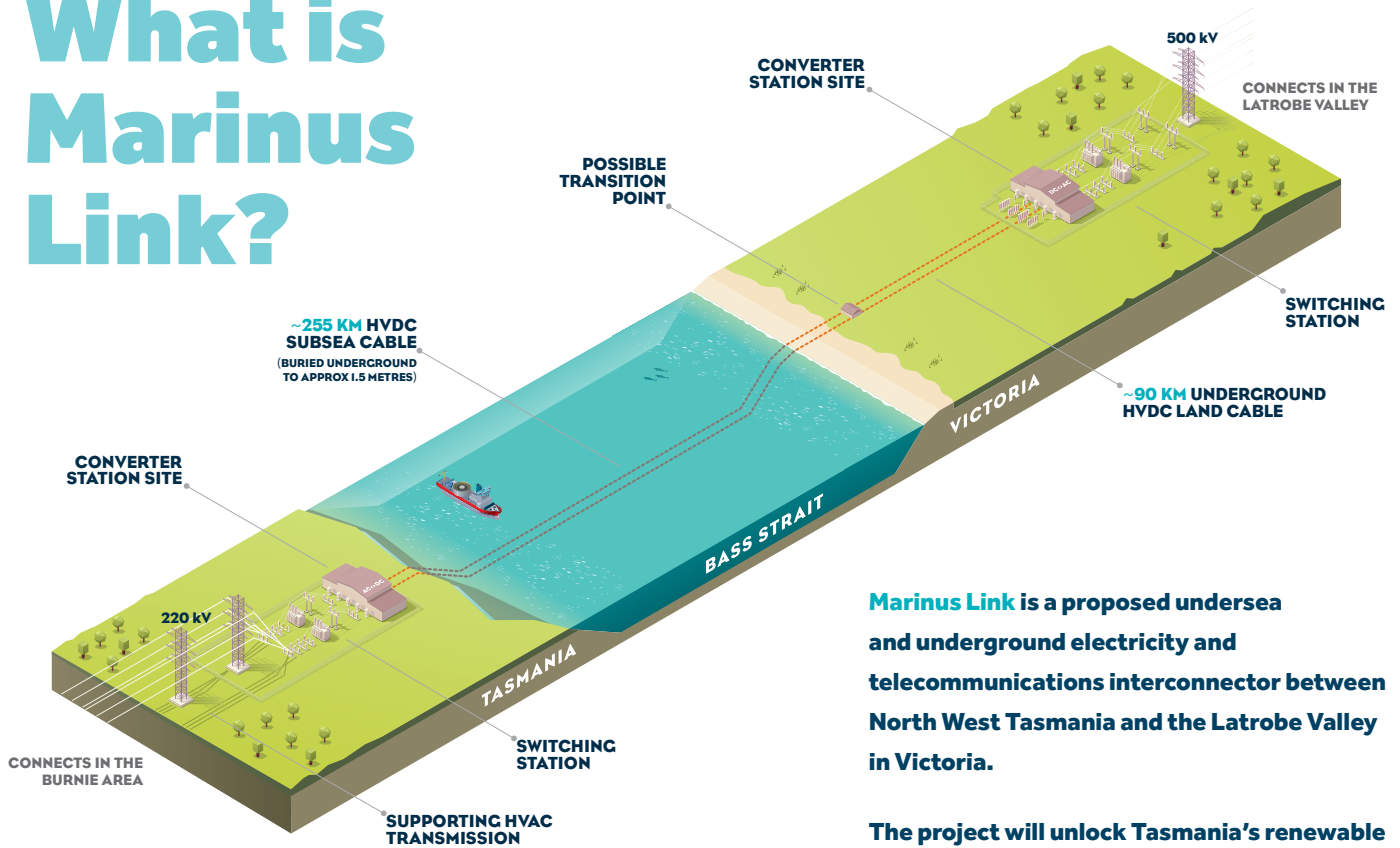
- ◇ Record the First Peoples cultural heritage with the Traditional Owners and/or Registered Aboriginal Party.
- ◇ Register the cultural heritage with First Peoples State Relations.
- ◇ Work with landholders, Traditional Owners and/or the Registered Aboriginal Party to develop management strategies to avoid and/or minimise impacts on the First Peoples cultural heritage via the CHMP.

Cultural Values Assessment

Cultural Values Assessments are being prepared with Traditional Owners in Victoria, to provide a holistic understanding of the nature and location of tangible and intangible cultural values, and how these may be impacted by the project. The Cultural Values Assessment will inform the preparation of the two CHMPs for the project.



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

- visit marinuslink.com.au
- email team@marinuslink.com.au
- call 1300 765 27