

MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 14 May 2024

Location: MLPL Traralgon Office and online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting #11

Chair: Marinus Link

Member Attendees

Tony Flynn (TF), Latrobe Valley Auth – in person	Jeanie Hall (JH) - DJSIR– online
Martin Fuller (MF) – WGCMA - 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	Ian Gibson (IG), Fed Uni – in person
Glen McColl (GMc), Latrobe CC - online	Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G - online

Marinus Link Attendees

Christina Young (CY), Marinus Link- in person	Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link – in person
Holly Williamson (HW), Marinus Link – in person	Caroline Wykamp (CW), Marinus Link - online
Brett McGennissen (BM), Marinus Link, in person	Rochelle Reinhardt (RR), Marinus Link- in person

Apologies

Maddie Paraga (MP) - SGSC	Ken Fraser (KF), South Gippsland SC
Elise Erwin (EE), RDV	Owen Chapman (OC), RDV
Uncle Lloyd (LH), Marinus Link	

Guests

Mick O’Leary	Cos Coroneos
--------------	--------------

AC	Alternating current
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DC	Direct current
EES	Environment Effects Statement
FID	Final Investment Decision
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
GSLG	Gippsland Stakeholder Liasion Group
ISP	Integrated Service Plan

Minutes

Introduction (ML)

- Acknowledgement and welcome to attendees.
- Minutes from 20 February 2024 distributed to GSLG prior to meeting, discussed and accepted with no changes.

MLPL CEO Update (CW)

- On 22 March, Marinius Link was acquired by the Commonwealth, Tasmanian and Victorian governments. The Commonwealth Government holds 49% equity, with the Victorian Government having 33.3% and Tasmanian Government 17.7%.
- We have a new Board, with three representatives from the Commonwealth Government, two from the Victorian Government, one from the Tasmanian Government and an independent chair.
- MLPL will continue to prioritise Stage 1, with construction to begin in 2026. The timing of Stage 2 will be coordinated with the development of Tasmania's pumped hydro projects and recommendations from the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan (ISP).
- To minimise the disruption to landholders, most of the civil works required for Stage 2 are intended to be completed in Stage 1.

Questions:

How many people are on the board? (ND)

Response: Our current board has seven members, and this is based on shareholder percentage.

Has there been local businesses wanting to engage in the tender process, and what is MLPL doing to support them? (GMc)

Response: Many local businesses have recorded their interest in working on the project. We currently have an open EOI where businesses can register their information. MLPL are running four tender writing workshops in the local area in the next week, to support local businesses in preparing for Marinius Link. Further sessions and support may be available to businesses closer to tenders being released. Whilst these sessions are not aligned to open tenders, we hope it provides the knowledge to local small to medium enterprises to ready themselves for the new energy transition across Gippsland.

What is the location of the proposed converter site in Hazelwood? (PM)

Response: The proposed site is at 600 Tramway Road, adjacent to the Hazelwood switching yard.

What proposed work is MLPL doing towards the revegetation and landscaping for the converter site? (IG)

Response: Landscaping will be planned for the converter station in Hazelwood. Ideally, we will be establishing vegetation screening along the fence lines of the converter station, prior to the commencement of construction.

How will the balance of civil works on landholders' property be conducted to minimise impact? (GR)

Response: The current plan is to complete the majority of civil activities in Stage 1, minimising impacts to landholders. This includes the trenching and installation of conduits for Stage 2, during Stage 1.

Industry Update (CY & HW)

- MLPL have attended events such as Ag Fest in Tasmania, Farm World, the Energy Users Association of Australia National Conference, and the Committee for Economic Development of Australia 'Victoria Energy Market Outlook' to name a few.
- We are working with local students in collaboration with Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network on the NET program. This program connects local Year 9 and 10 high school students with industry professionals, working towards a solution on a presented challenge.
- Recently, one of our previous NET Program students, Imogen, completed work experience at Marinus Link. Imogen was able to connect with people across the business to learn about career development, engineering and project management.
- Opportunities for local businesses to engage with the project will become available as major tenders continue to develop. MLPL has defined local to the areas where the project is being developed, to ensure benefits are passed onto our local community. Contract negotiations will have clear KPI's, that will enable opportunities for local business, First Nations employment and social procurement.
- In collaboration with Latrobe City Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, ICN and Sedo Group, MLPL are conducting four tender writing workshops in the Gippsland area to prepare businesses ahead of major tenders being released.
- Upcoming activities include the Emerging Industries Career Expo, The South Gippsland Bass Coast Careers Expo, and the Job Skills Expo which is facilitated by the Baw Baw Local Learning and Employment Network.
- The MLPL Jobs Guide is nearing completion and will be distributed with the GSLG once finalised. This will further outline the types of roles MLPL anticipate being required for the project.

Questions:

Were you surprised by the types of businesses who have subscribed to the tender writing workshops? (TF)

Response: Yes, we have been. Some of the businesses registered have a long history within the Gippsland area but would like to expand on knowledge of Marinus Link and how to connect with the project. Registrations so far have been diverse, in terms of both size and scope.

Engagement Update (ML & BMc)

- MLPL currently have access agreements and licences with 54% of landholders. BMc acknowledged that this may not be a significant change since the last meeting, however the focus of MLPL has been on conducting surveys on the accessible land. MLPL have also gained access to critical properties in recent months.
- Property valuations commenced in November 2023 and 34% of landholders have had their property valued by Acumentis. These valuations allow MLPL to identify the appropriate levels of compensation for landholders.
- MLPL received a Transmission Licence December 2023 which allows them to compulsorily acquire land under Section 92 of The Act. Voluntary access remains a focus for the project, and the preferred method of access.
- The Transmission Licence and Land Access Code of Conduct information has been communicated to landholders via a mailout, and the website has been updated to reflect this information.

- MLPL’s environmental assessments will be going on public exhibition from May 31- July 12, to advise the public of the findings within our Environmental Impact Statement and Environment Effects Statement.
- As a part of this period, there are requirements surrounding public engagement. MLPL will be hosting several ‘drop in’ sessions for landholders and community members to discuss the project, and the process they may take to provide a submission to Planning Panels Victoria.
- Documents related to this period will be made available within community hubs and libraries across the project area, as well as online.
- A notice of the public exhibition will be released at both a national and local level, in various newspaper publications.
- MLPL has started planning for public hearings in Victoria, where community members can have their concerns heard, following their formal submission to Planning Panels Victoria. Further information on this process will be discussed closer to the expected time.
- Traditional Owners from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council recently attended a Yarning Circle with MLPL people. This was a positive experience, and many important topics were discussed including underwater cultural heritage, our continued cultural heritage work On Country, and the upcoming public exhibition period.

Questions:

How will MLPL decide when to open trench compared to HDD on a landholder’s property? (NS)

Response: Construction methods will be finalised at detailed design, but MLPL intends to use both open trenching and horizontal directional drilling to install conduits along the cable alignment.

Underwater Cultural Heritage

- Presentation on underwater cultural heritage assessments was provided by industry experts, Cos Coroneos and Mick O'Leary.
- Discussions centred around naming conventions and future engagement opportunities. Further work in this area will occur as the project progresses and importantly involve the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and Traditional Owners in Victoria.

Meeting closed 11.00am

Actions	Who	Due Date	Progress
Circulate the minutes	HW	May 2024	In Progress
Circulate the Victorian Community Update with engagement plan	HW	May 2024	In Progress