

## John Gallienne & Co Pty Ltd

ABN 95 892 995 255

### Agricultural Consultants

PO Box 408  
Warragul Vic 3820

Mobile 0407 863 493  
Email [gallienne@dcsi.net.au](mailto:gallienne@dcsi.net.au)  
09 July 2024

Tetra Tech Coffey Pty Ltd  
Level 11, 2 Riverside Quay,  
Southbank  
VIC 3006 Australia

**Attention:** Marinus Link Pty Ltd

Re: MLPL website update: <http://marinuslink.com.au/eis-ees-updates/> stage 2 update.

### **Agriculture and forestry technical report May 2024**

Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL) have proposed to change the timing of Stage 1 and 2 of the Marinus Link project that is different from the timing that has been assessed in the environmental impact statement (EIS) / environment effects statement (EES). The EIS/EES assumed the stage 2 cable would be installed immediately after the stage 1 cable was completed, and this would occur between 2025 and 2030. The EIS/EES and technical reports note that the timing of stage 2 will be subject to market demand.

This letter outlines the consideration of the revised timing of stage 2 and the assumed works that would be completed for each stage relative to agriculture and forestry properties along the alignment. This letter must be read in conjunction with the agriculture and forestry assessment prepared for the project and that is Technical Appendix K of the exhibited EIS/EES (May 2024). This letter has considered project Marinus Link information update #1 (May 20, 2024) (refer to MLPL website <https://marinuslink.com.au/eis-ees-updates/>) and the instructions provided to undertake this supplementation assessment (see Attachment 1).

### **Consideration of stage 2 works and revised timing**

The following assumptions about the works to be undertaken for stage 2 are based on the information provided within the technical report appended to the EIS/EES as well as assumptions based on my experience in the Gippsland area.

#### ***1. Removal of the haul road after stage 1***

A key consideration is the removal of the haul road at the completion of stage 1 and how access will be achieved in stage 2. Haul roads are commonly used for construction traffic and equipment to access the construction sites for this type of long linear project in a rural setting.

As is the case for stage 1, stage 2 will also involve heavy construction equipment accessing the laydown areas and cable joint pits. This includes transport of the heavy

cable drums, and cable pullers that will need to be able to access the joint pits along the alignment.

It cannot be assumed that access to joint pits could be via existing farm lanes or tracks within properties, or traversing grazing paddocks at any time of the year, will be acceptable. Therefore suitable access tracks need to be established to enable access to joint pits and laydown areas for stage 2. As the haul road will be removed at the end of stage 1, additional access tracks may therefore need to be constructed for stage 2.

If it was determined that stage 2 would not occur within 5 years of stage 1 then it is recommended that the complete removal of the haul road should occur. However with a shorter timeframe proposed between stage 1 and stage 2, it is suggested that in some locations it may be more practical and reduce impacts to farm land to retain the haul road rather than establish new access tracks.

It is recommended that consideration be given to retaining strategic sections of the haul road to provide access to lay down areas and jointing pit locations.

This would:

- Minimize the need for constructing new all-weather access tracks with the capacity to carry the heavy machinery, materials and workers required for stage 2 of the project.
- It is noted however that this proposal would result in the haul road remaining in place through the interim period between stage 1 and stage 2, for an undefined period of time. Retaining the haul road will cause extended disruption to farming activities.
- However, it would provide the opportunity for the permanent reinstatement of sections of farm land not required for stage 2, rather than an undefined period of temporary reinstatement works as the location for access for stage 2 would be more certain. In this situation the original property management plans (PMPs) would be the working document for locations where permanent reinstatement could occur.

## ***2. Temporary reinstatement***

The option of the temporary reinstatement is just that, it is temporary. The temporary works may be appropriate for 6- 12 months, beyond that it is my experience that the area of the works will require frequent, at least annual, reinstatement/repair of the original temporary reinstatement works.

Where a temporary reinstatement phase is required on a property where works are required for stage 2, existing PMPs would need to be updated to reflect this. The PMP would be updated to require a **hold point** prior to the commencement of temporary reinstatement works to consider the timing and nature of stage 2 works and to document the reinstatement works considering the rehabilitation strategy (EPR A03). At the conclusion of the stage 2 work another **hold point** will be required to review the PMP and plan for the permanent reinstatement requirements.

## Conclusion

From the consideration of the revised timing of stage 2 and the information provided, it is concluded that:

- There will be no additional impacts to those identified in the Report dated May 2024.
- There is no expectation that changes to the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) will be required, and no new EPRs are required. The existing EPRs however must be reapplied for Stage 2 works.
- It will be necessary to update Property Management Plans before stage 2 construction commences based on an understanding of the appropriate documentation for each landholding and the conditions existing at the time of the stage 2 works. It can be expected that by extending the construction time of the project there will be changes in land ownership, agricultural land use, farm management practices etc.
- The proposed changes to implement the project in two stages will not impact on the conclusions set out in the May 2024 report.



John Gallienne  
Managing Director  
John Gallienne & Co Pty Ltd

**Attachment 1: Marinus Link supplementary impact assessment - revised timing of stage 2**

# Marinus Link supplementary impact assessment - revised timing of stage 2

## 1. BACKGROUND

---

Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL) have proposed a change to the timing of the two stages of the Marinus Link project (the project) that is different to what has been assessed in the EIS/EES. Each stage would deliver one complete 750 MW HVDC circuit between Tasmania and Victoria.

The EIS/EES assumed the stage 2 cable would be installed immediately after the stage 1 cable was completed, and this would occur between 2025 and 2030. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The EIS/EES and technical reports note that the timing of stage 2 will be subject to market demand.

MLPL recently published on their website an information update regarding the timing of delivery of stage 1 and stage 2. A copy of this information update, titled *Marinus Link Information Update #1 – timing of Stage 2*, is available here: [EIS/EES updates Marinus Link](#). This information is summarised below, but all specialists are requested to read the information provided on the MLPL website.

MLPL is now seeking supplementary impact assessments from technical specialists to consider whether the change in staging timing presents any changes to the impact assessment/s completed to support the EIS/EES.

The purpose of this document is to:

- provide further description of the activities and timeframe associated with the revised timing of stage 2.
- outline the scope of the supplementary assessment required of potential impacts associated with the revised timing.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

---

The following section provides a summary of the *Information Update #1* provided on the MLPL website, with some further description of the works proposed to be completed in stage 1 and stage 2, and the timing of stage 2.

### 2.1 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

The type of equipment used, and the nature of the works would be same as those outlined in the Project Description which has informed your technical assessment for the EIS/EES.

## 2.1.1 Stage 1

Stage 1 will include the works as assessed in the EIS/EES:

- Earthworks and site preparation for:
  - the converter station site to address requirements for both converter stations for stage 1 and stage 2.
  - access tracks and construction laydown areas.
  - all HDD drilling for the shore crossings, road, rail, third party asset, vegetation and river crossings for both stages.
  - trenching works to install conduits and joint pits within the linear easements that will accommodate cables for both stages.
  - sea floor pre-lay grapnel run.
- Laying the cable for stage 1 across Bass Strait and along the land cable route.
- Construction of the stage 1 converter station at Hazelwood, communications building (and transition station, if required).
- Establishing major construction laydown areas and access tracks, which will remain in place through the interim period between stage 1 and stage 2.

Fences will be removed along the construction area after completion of temporary reinstatement following completion of stage 1 and land use would be able to resume. It is anticipated that the haul road along the construction corridor will also be removed at the completion of stage 1 [REDACTED].

Stage 1 works on each property will include temporary reinstatement works. This will include including temporary infrastructure necessary to comply with Property Management Plans and to facilitate efficient use of the land in the interim period prior to stage 2 works.

Stage 1 will be completed when temporary reinstatement works are completed on each property. Rehabilitation works will be done following completion of stage 1 works.

## 2.1.2 Stage 2

Stage 2 works will include:


- Accessing and opening joint pits (requires removing soil and storing topsoil to reinstate) to enable cable pulling between joint pits. It is assumed there will be no ground disturbance along the cable route between joint pits.
- Accessing and establishing construction areas either side of conduits (that were constructed by trenchless construction methods in stage 1) under road, rail, third party assets, vegetation, river crossings and the shore crossing.
- Delivering cable drums that will be stored at major laydown areas in stage 2, in the same manner as stage 1, then transporting drums to joint pits for installation.
- Preparing the seafloor for stage 2 with a pre-lay grapnel run, then laying the subsea cables in the same manner as stage 1.
- Laying the cable for stage 2 across Bass Strait and along the land cable route.
- Delivering the transformer to the converter station site.
- Installing (including below-ground foundations) and commissioning the second converter station.
- Final reinstatement work following completion of stage 2.

## 2.2 TIMING

Stage 1 will take place between 2025 and 2030. Consistent with the EIS/EES, properties along the cable alignment will host main construction works for a period of time within that overall 5 year period. The stage 1 circuit will be commissioned by 2030.

Stage 1 works will be completed in 2030 and stage 2 works will commence in 2031.

Stage 2 circuit will be laid and commissioned by 2033.



## 3. SCOPE OF SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT

---

Based on the above, Tetra Tech Coffey (on behalf of MLPL) is now seeking an assessment, supplementary to your technical impact assessment prepared to support the EIS/EES, to consider the changes in project staging.

Your assessment should address the following key questions:

1. Identify whether a change to the timing for delivery of the works for stage 1 and stage 2 in accordance with the MLPL *Information Update #1* and project description information in this document would have any material implications for the assessment or conclusions of your technical assessment report (report) published with the EIS/EES and result in:
  - a. any additional impacts to those identified in your report
  - b. any changes to impacts identified in your report
  - c. any changes to the conclusions set out in your report.
2. Identify whether, as a consequence of the changed timing for delivery of stage 2 and associated works there are:
  - a. Any mitigation measures or Environmental Performance Requirements would be recommended in addition to those set out in your report
  - b. Any changes to any mitigation measures and Environmental Performance Requirements set out in your Report would be recommended.

Your assessment must be documented in a short report/letter as a supplement to the report that you have already prepared and is published with the EIS/EES. The supplementary report/letter must be concise, document your assumptions and draw on the methods and information already documented in your report for the EIS/EES. If you make any additional assumptions to inform your supplementary report/letter these must be documented in the report/letter.

It is expected that the reports/letters will be quite short. The supplementary report/letter will be published as an information update to the EIS/EES and made available to the public on the Marinus Link website here:

[EIS/EES updates Marinus Link](#).



---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]