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Letter Report

PREPARED BY

Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd

PREPARED FOR Tetra Tech Coffey Pty Ltd.

RE: MARINUS LINK INFORMATION UPDATE #1 – TIMING OF STAGE 2

INTRODUCTION

Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL) has 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 that the Stage 2 cable would be installed immediately after the Stage 1 cable was completed, and that this would occur between 2025 and 2030, subject to market demand. MLPL now proposes a gap between completion of Stage 1 (by 2030) and construction of Stage 2 (between 2031 and 2033). Each stage would deliver one complete 750 MW HVDC circuit between Tasmania and Victoria.

This letter report considers implications of the change in timing of Stage 2 of the Marinus Link project for the geomorphology and geology impact assessment completed for the EIS/EES. The letter considers the information provided in the Marinus Link information update #1, presented here: https://marinuslink.com.au/eis-ees-updates/marinus-link-information-update-1-timing-of-stage-2/ and the instructions provided to undertake this supplementary assessment provided by Tetra Tech Coffey on 4th June 2024 (Attachment A).

EIS/EES Technical Report: *MARINUS LINK Terrestrial Geomorphology and Geology impact assessment.* May 2024

IMPLICATIONS OF REVISED STAGING

This letter report should be read in conjunction with the Technical Report *MARINUS LINK Terrestrial Geomorphology and Geology impact assessment (*Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd May 2024) prepared for the EIS/EES.

During the interval between Stage 1 and Stage 2, there is the potential for the ground conditions as described in the technical report (*Terrestrial Geomorphology and Geology impact assessment*) to have changed, to the extent that the assessment of outcomes and impact as addressed by the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) may also have changed. This applies to geomorphology but not geology.

The potential causes of change to ground conditions between the stages relate to:

1. Response of the ground to the engineering works of Stage 1.
2. Occurrence of climate/weather events and tectonic (earthquake) activity that may change the local geomorphology and geomorphic processes.

3. Human-induced change in geomorphic form and processes applying along parts of the cable route and converter station sites.

Changes may include:

a) Coastal

- Changes in sub-tidal, intertidal, shore and backshore morphology at the shore crossings
- Coastal erosion and shoreline recession at the shore crossing
- Activation of coastal dunes

b) Terrestrial surfaces

- Ground subsidence
- Slopewash, rill and gulley development
- Reactivation of former landslides and development of new landslides
- Changes in the configuration (plan and profile) of stream channels and banks.

Therefore, there would be potential for landform instability between the stages so the conclusion of the Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd Technical Report (2024) would need to change to reflect this however, the EPRs would still apply in their current form.

Further investigations must be undertaken to comply with EPR GM01 prior to Stage 2 works to determine if the geomorphological conditions have changed, and if necessary, develop measures to comply with EPRs to manage impacts. Investigations must cover weather and tectonic events over the interval between the Stages to identify (potential) changed ground conditions. This would entail visual—ground and aerial—inspection of the route to establish if the (then) existing conditions need to be further assessed and managed and the relevant EPR modified.

The conclusion about the location of the 13 high residual impact trench sectors would not change with the revised timing of stage 2.

CONCLUSION

1. The revised staging may have material implications for the contents, conclusions and recommendations of Technical Report *MARINUS LINK Terrestrial Geomorphology and Geology impact assessment (*Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd May 2024). There is the potential for high energy weather or tectonic events between the stages to cause instability of landform of some trench sectors that currently do not display instability, and this has not been addressed in the report. Investigation pre-construction to review if events have occurred over the extended staging is recommended followed by field investigation if deemed warranted. Landform stability changes thus identified will require changes to the assessment of impacts.

2. Any significant alteration in landform instability identified over the period of changed timing for the stages will require location specific mitigation measures to be developed to comply with the EPRs as set out in the present technical report.

Neville Rosengren

Director: Environmental GeoSurveys Pty Ltd.

Attachment A:

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] 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.

[redacted]

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]