

3 July 2024

Our ref: E309788

Tetra-Tech Coffey
Level 11, 2 Riverside Quay,
Southbank, Victoria 3006

To whom it may concern,

**Marinus Link Supplementary Impact Assessment – revised timing of Stage 2
Heybridge Converter Station Ecology Assessment**

We have been requested by Tetra Tech Coffey on behalf of Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL) to provide a supplementary impact assessment relating to our ecological assessment of the Heybridge Converter Station, which forms part of the Marinus Link Project. The supplementary impact assessment relates to the change to the project made since the completion of our initial assessment (*Document no E309788-P518639_Final Report*).

The change being assessed is the revised timing of the project, specifically stage 2. The initially assessed project was that both stage 1 and stage 2 of the project would be constructed and commissioned by 2030. However, the change proposes now that stage 1 will be complete by 2030, and that stage 2 construction will follow after, with a potential pause between each stage. Stage 2 is now proposed to be completed and commissioned by 2033, three years later than initially proposed and assessed.

This letter forms our supplementary assessment of the revised timing of stage 2 of the Marinus Link Project. The preparation of this letter has considered MLPL Information update #1 available on the Marinus Link website ([Marinus Link Information Update #1 – timing of Stage 2 Marinus Link](#)) and the instructions provided for this supplementary assessment (Attachment 1). This letter must be read in conjunction with the Marinus Link Heybridge Converter Station Terrestrial Ecology baseline and impact assessment report (*Document no E309788-P518639_Final Report*) exhibited as technical appendix E of the Marinus link EIS/EES (May 2024).

Construction activities

The construction activities for the Heybridge Converter Station are assumed to be unchanged, with the only change being the timing relating to the construction of the second converter station and connection of the second cable at Heybridge.

Change in timing

The change in timing for the delivery of works for the completion of stage 1 and stage 2 in accordance with MLPL *Information Update #1* and the revised project description has no material implications for the Heybridge Ecology Assessment (*Document no. E309788-P518639_Final Report*). The change in timing does not impact there being any further impacts, changes to identified impacts assessed or changes to the conclusions of the report.

We own. We operate. We consult.

No additional mitigation measures or Environmental Performance Requirements are recommended in addition to those provided in the report. Additionally, no changes are recommended to mitigation measures or Environmental Performance Requirements provided in the report. None of the Environmental Performance Requirements documented in the Heybridge Ecology Assessment are limited by timing of project delivery, and all Environmental Performance Requirements specified in our report should be implemented in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the project.

Whilst no changes or additional measures are recommended, one Environmental Performance Requirement is highlighted when re-establishing the worksite at Heybridge for Stage 2; *EPR EC03: Implement measures to protect raptors*. This Environmental Performance Requirement requires the undertaking of a raptor nest survey within 12 months of the commencement of work and every year until the completion of the project, with mitigation of deferral of works during the nesting season if active nests identified within 500 m or 1 km line-of-sight. If there is a substantial period between the end of stage 1 and the commencement of stage 2 work on site, it will be necessary to ensure that raptor nest survey requirements have been undertaken prior to work commencement.

The highlighted Environmental Performance Requirement *EPR EC03 Tas: Implement measures to protect raptors* to be aware of from the report is as follows:

EPR EC03 Tas: Implement measures to protect raptors

Prior to commencement of project works confirm that there are no nests within a distance of 500 m of the site boundary, or within 1 km line-of-sight prior to construction using data collected within one year of construction commencing.

Undertake further nest survey if there is no current (within one year) survey of nest presence and to avoid impacts to raptors outside of the breeding season, as per the *Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan 2006-2010* and the Environment Protection Authority's *Guide to Eagle Nest Searching and Nest Activity Checks*.

If a nest is observed within a distance of 500 m of the site boundary, or within 1 km line-of-sight prior to construction the following will be required:

- Avoid project activities within a distance of 500 m, or within 1 km line-of-sight of active eagle nests during breeding season in accordance with guidelines outlined in the FPA Fauna Technical Note No. 1.
- Construction to be deferred until outside of the breeding season if a nest within a distance of 500 m, or within 1 km line-of-sight is determined to be active as per FPA Fauna Technical Note No. 1. All nests are to be treated as active during the breeding season until determined as inactive by a suitable qualified person.

Yours sincerely



Malcolm McCausland
Senior Environmental Consultant

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]