



EnviroGulf Consulting
C/- Scarborough Business Centre
Level 1, Unit 4
91 Landsborough Avenue
Scarborough QLD 4020
Australia.

Telephone : +61 (0)7 3880 1787
Facsimile : <please scan and email>
Email : office@envirogulf.com
Web : www.envirogulf.com

Ref : ML Update #1 Stage 2 timing

26 June 2024.

Tetra Tech Coffey
Level 11, 2 Riverside Quay
Southbank
VIC 3008.

Attention: Marinus Link Pty Ltd

To whom it may concern,

**Marinus Link supplementary impact assessment - revised timing of stage 2
Letter Report prepared by EnviroGulf Consulting**

The Marinus Link Environment Effects Statement under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) and the draft Environmental Impact Statement under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (the EIS/EES) has been prepared assuming that the construction period to deliver both stages will be from 2025-2030.

A. Marinus Link Information Update #1

Since EES/EIS publication, Marinus Link Proprietary Limited (MLPL) has issued an update about the timing of Stage 2. The project update titled “Marinus Link Information Update #1 (Timing of Stage 2)” was published on 20th May 2024 on the MLPL website (<https://marinuslink.com.au/eis-ees-updates/>) and is attached as Appendix 1 of this letter report.

MLPL is seeking approvals for both Stages, but timing for delivery of Stage 2 will be subject to market demand. MLPL is now considering the following likely timing scenario for individual stages 1 and 2:

- Stage 1 works would take place in the period 2025 – 2030, which represents a 5-year construction phase prior to commissioning of Stage 1 in 2030.
- Stage 2 construction period would take place between 2031 – 2033, which represents a 3-year construction phase with commissioning of Stage 2 in 2033.

The above scenario indicates that all Stage 1 works would be completed, and the Stage 1 circuit commissioned by 2030 as anticipated, followed by a potential gap in construction so that the Stage 2 circuit is laid and commissioned by 2033.

B. Marinus Link supplementary impact assessment - revised timing of stage 2

This letter considers the information provided in the Marinus Link information update #1 (Appendix 1) and the instructions provided to undertake this supplementary assessment provided by Tetra Tech Coffey on 4th June 2024 (Appendix 2).

The implications of the proposed revised timing of Stage 2 on the environmental impact assessment carried out for the Marine Ecology and Resource Use (MERU) report (Technical Appendix H of the Marinus Link EES/EIS) are assessed below.

The MERU impact assessment report published in the EES/EIS (Technical Appendix H) has already considered that there would be a gap in time between commissioning of the stage 1 western monopole (i.e., ML1) and the start of construction for the stage 2 eastern monopole (i.e., ML2) across Bass Strait. If there is potentially a longer between the stages, due to the changed timing of Stage 2, this does not affect or change the impact assessments, conclusions or recommendations presented in the MERU impact assessment report.

Overall, the marine components of Stages 1 and 2 are physically separate and do not coincide in time (i.e., 2 to 3-years or longer apart) and cumulative impacts are not predicted in the published MERU impact assessment report (Technical Appendix H of the EES/EIS). Furthermore, no changes to the thirteen Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) and their specifically proposed avoidance, mitigation and management measures presented in the published EES/EIS (Technical Appendix H) are envisaged as a consequence of the changed timing of Stage 2.

Yours sincerely,



David Balloch,
Director.
EnviroGulf Consulting

APPENDIX 1

Marinus Link

**MARINUS LINK SUPPLEMENTARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
REVISED TIMING OF STAGE 2**

**Prepared by
Marinus Link Pty Limited**

<https://marinuslink.com.au/eis-ees-updates/marinus-link-information-update-1-timing-of-stage-2/>

20 May 2024

MARINUS LINK INFORMATION UPDATE #1 – TIMING OF STAGE 2

The Marinus Link project (subject to approvals) is proposed to be implemented as two stages, with each stage consisting of one 750 MW HVDC circuit link between Tasmania and Victoria. Permission to develop in stages would be reflected in the planning permission and other approvals as relevant.

- Stage 1 will include earthworks and site preparation of the converter station site to address requirements for both converter stations, access tracks and construction laydown areas, and all HDD drilling for the shore crossings, road and river crossings for both Stages, and trenching works to install conduits and joint pits within the linear easements that will accommodate cables for both Stages. Stage 1 also includes laying the cables for the Stage 1 cable circuit (including across Bass Strait), and construction of the Stage 1 converter station at each of Hazelwood and Heybridge (and transition station, if required). Rehabilitation works would be implemented following Stage 1 works; and.
- Stage 2 will include installing the cables for the Stage 2 cable circuit (including across Bass Strait) and construction of the Stage 2 converter stations at each of Hazelwood and Heybridge. Final reinstatement would occur following completion of Stage 2 activities.

The Marinus Link Environment Effects Statement under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) and the draft Environmental Impact Statement under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (the EIS/EES) has been prepared assuming that the construction period to deliver both stages will be from 2025-2030.

MLPL is seeking approvals for both Stages, but timing for delivery of Stage 2 will be subject to market demand.

MLPL considers a likely scenario is that Stage 1 (including all the above Stage 1 works) would be completed, and the Stage 1 circuit commissioned by 2030 as anticipated, followed by a potential gap in construction so that the Stage 2 circuit is laid and commissioned by 2033.

- Stage 1 works would take place in the period 2025 – 2030. Consistent with the assumptions made in the EIS/EES, when land cabling construction and installation works are taking place in Victoria, each property affected by the transmission easement would host main construction works for a period of time within that overall 5 year construction period;
- Stage 1 works on each property would include temporary reinstatement works and temporary infrastructure necessary to comply with Property Management Plans and facilitate efficient use of the land in the interim period prior to Stage 2 works. Access tracks would remain in place through the interim period; and
- The Stage 2 construction period would take place between 2031 – 2033 with commissioning in 2033. Stage 2 would include any necessary removal of temporary works, as well as the final reinstatement and rehabilitation of infrastructure and rehabilitation of access tracks and construction laydown areas as required.

MLPL presents the above by way of information update. Further detail will be made available on the Marinus link website through the course of public consultation and decision making on approvals for the Marinus Link project.

APPENDIX 2

Marinus Link

**MARINUS LINK SUPPLEMENTARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT:
REVISED TIMING OF STAGE 2**

Scope of Supplementary Assessment

**Prepared by
Tetra Tech Coffey Pty Ltd**

4 June 2024

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]