

# MINUTES MARINUS LINK GIPPSLAND STAKEHOLDER LIAISON GROUP

Date: 13 August 2024

Location: MLPL Traralgon Office and online via Microsoft Teams

Meeting #12

Chair: Marinus Link

## Member Attendees

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Ken Fraser (KF), South Gippsland SC - online	Jeanie Hall (JH) - DJSIR- online
David Roberts (DR), RDV- in person	Elise Erwin (EE), RDV - online
Shannon Egan (SE), TAFE Gippsland – online	Maddie Paraga (MP) - SGSC - online
Graham Ross (GR), SGLN - online	Tony Cantwell (TC), C4G - online
Glen McColl (GMc), Latrobe CC - online	

## Marinus Link Attendees

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Holly Williamson (HW), Marinus Link	Mark Lindsay (ML), Marinus Link
Uncle Lloyd (LH), Marinus Link	Kate Guard (KG), Marinus Link
Brett McGennisken (BM), Marinus Link	Rochelle Reinhardt (RR), Marinus Link

## Guests

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Helen O'Brien (HOB), VicGrid	Suzanne Conlan (SC), VicGrid
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## Apologies

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Nick Dudley (NF), GLAWAC	Caroline Wykamp (CW), Marinus Link
Christina Young (CY), Marinus Link	Ian Gibson (IG), Fed Uni – online
Martin Fuller (MF) – WGCMA - online	Nick Stephens (NS) - SGLN- online
Peter Mooney (PM), ETU - online	Owen Chapman (OC), RDV

## **Minutes**

### **Introduction (ML)**

- Acknowledgement, welcome and introduction with attendees.
- Introduction to guests from VicGrid, Helen O'Brien and Suzanne Conlan
- Minutes from 14 May 2024 distributed to GSLG prior to meeting, discussed and accepted with no changes.

### **MLPL Update (ML)**

- MLPL has executed a contract for the supply of converter equipment (Hitachi) and cable supply (Prysmian).
- The project's Final Investment Decision (FID) has been rescheduled to May 2025, with construction anticipated to commence in 2026.
- MLPL the business, continues to grow, with locations in Burnie and Hobart in Tasmania and Melbourne and Traralgon in Victoria.
- Further construction tenders are expected to be released later this year, with local opportunities expected to be known in the early parts of 2025.

#### **Question: How robust are the current contracts if there were to be a change in government direction? (GR)**

**Response:** The current supply contracts have been supported by the Commonwealth Government, ensuring essential equipment is available at the time of our expected project construction.

Prior to project construction the project must successfully pass through its environmental approvals gateway and Final Investment Decision.

#### **Question: What guidelines are in place for local procurement? (EE)**

**Response:** Given the project's ownership structure, which includes three levels of government, we are actively working through the definition and implementation of local procurement strategies to ensure compliance and support for the local economy. Further advice on this will be available as future tenders are progressed.

### **Environmental Approvals Update (KG)**

- A combined Environmental Impact Statement and Environment Effects Statement has been developed to meet both Commonwealth and Victorian requirements.
- The MLPL Public Exhibition Period ran from Friday, 31 May through to Friday, 12 July.
- 27 submissions were received, comprising responses from 2 renewable energy companies, 3 directly affected landholders, 4 regulatory agencies, 9 interest groups, and 9 other stakeholders.
- A Directions Hearing was held last Tuesday in Melbourne, with the Panel Hearing set to commence on 19 September, running for 3-4 weeks. The Panel Hearing includes 8 submitters who have expressed an interest to be heard during the Panel Hearing.
- The Committee's report is expected to be finalised in approximately December, with the Minister's assessment due in March of the following year.

- Two Cultural Heritage Management Plans are in development, covering the cable alignment and state waters. One plan is for the area of the cable alignment on Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) Country and the other for the area of the cable alignment on non-RAP Country. These plans are expected to be finalised by February next year and approved by June 2025
- A Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) is also underway with all Traditional Owners (TO) in Victoria, ensuring that cultural considerations are comprehensively addressed.

### **Traditional Owner (TO) Update – (LH & ML)**

- MLPL met with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation recently to finalise its CVA and associated findings. The importance of integrating cultural heritage, spiritual connections, and song lines was emphasised.
- We continue to connect in on many activities with GLAWAC including its CVA.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community (TAC) continues to be a priority.
- A Yarning Circle was conducted at the MLPL Mardan property in May with all three TOs to foster open dialogue and collaboration.
- As sites of significance are identified during On Country surveys, each are managed and where required registered, in line with regulations.

**Questions: MLPL should consider the development of a case study on their engagement with TOs in Victoria. (DR)**

**Response:** We will explore the possibility of documenting a process based on our engagement experience with TOs.

### **Engagement Update (HW)**

- MLPL continues to participate at many education and industry events, following a recent successful public exhibition period – Careers Expos, Transition Days, Open Days etc.

### **Landholder Update (BM)**

- Approximately 60% of land access agreements are in place, allowing critical pre-construction surveys to occur.
- Valuations are being conducted by an independent valuer, with on-site assessments continuing.
- Easement and Lease Option Deeds have started being presented to directly impacted landholders. This is a major project milestone. For details on this process, you can learn more by reading the Landholder Information Pack on the MLPL website.
- Survey work is ongoing including Geotech and cultural heritage investigations taking place on both private and public land, including Waratah Bay Beach.

**Questions: How will MLPL identify who among the landholders will seek legal advice?**

**Response:** We will maintain regular follow-ups with landholders and work directly with their solicitors where applicable.

## General Business (ML)

- We appreciate the timely distribution of works notifications, which play a crucial role in keeping the community informed. Thank you to both LCC and SGSC on their support.
- MLPL is in the final stages of developing its Community Grants and Sponsorship Program, which will support community groups before a broader Community Benefits Sharing Program is implemented.
- MLPL has finalised its Jobs Guide and will share this with members of the GSLG. The Guide outlines the types of jobs that may become available on a project like MLPL.
- MLPL is planning for the establishment of its Biodiversity Working Group and will be seeking involvement for relevant organisations in Latrobe City and South Gippsland.
- MLPL remain excited to attend upcoming industry events, such as the Gippsland New Energy Conference and Youth Summit. MLPL CEO Caroline Wykamp will be presenting on day 2 of the conference, and we extend an invitation to all to attend.
- A feedback survey will be distributed to all GSLG members, requesting their feedback on meeting format, levels of engagement etc.
- MLPL will consider external guests for our final meeting in November and potentially seeking a cable supply representative to present.

## Meeting closed 10.45am

Actions	Due Date	Progress
Circulate the minutes	August 2024	In Progress
Distribute the MLPL Jobs Guide	August 2024	In Progress
GSLG member survey	September 2024	