



LANDHOLDER INFORMATION PACK

July 2025



MARINUS
LINK



This updated Landholder Information Pack provides information for landholders related to project planning and the easement acquisition process.

For the purposes of this document, the use of the term 'landholder' represents registered proprietors, land managers and land tenants.

Marinus Link is committed to working with impacted landholders who will have the proposed Marinus Link electricity interconnector on their properties.

We recognise the vital role of landholders in enabling transmission projects that support our transition to renewable energy and thank you for your ongoing cooperation.


This pack provides general project information and details around land access, easements and payments to landholders affected by Marinus Link.

For this pack's purposes, most of the details contained are related to Victoria and information of interest to landholders.

For further project information, please visit Marinus Link or contact us by email team@marinuslink.com.au or call **1300 765 275**.

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What is Marinus Link?

Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and data interconnector between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

The project includes high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables, fibre optic cables, a communications station, and converter stations at each end. The converter stations will connect Marinus Link directly into the transmission networks in both Tasmania and Victoria.

The project's cables span 345 kilometres (km). This includes 255 km of undersea cables across Bass Strait and 90 km of underground cables in Gippsland, Victoria.

Marinus Link will be supported by more than 240 kilometres of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) network developments in Tasmania, called the North West Transmission Developments.

Marinus Link will be delivered in two stages. Initially as a 750 megawatt (MW) project (Stage 1) with a second 750 MW link to follow at a later date (Stage 2).

Marinus Link will improve the connection between Tasmania and the national grid.

The project will unlock Tasmania's renewable energy and storage resources to deliver reliable and clean energy for customers in the National Electricity Market (NEM).

Marinus Link's 1500 MW capacity is equal to the power supply for 1.5 million Australian homes and approximately three times the capacity of the existing Tasmania to Victoria interconnector, Basslink.

Why is Marinus Link important?

As coal energy generators retire, Australia needs access to 'on-demand' electricity and the ability to store energy for long periods.

Australia's transition from coal-fired power to renewable energy resources is occurring quickly, and while wind and solar farms produce clean power, there are fluctuations in supply, depending on the weather conditions.

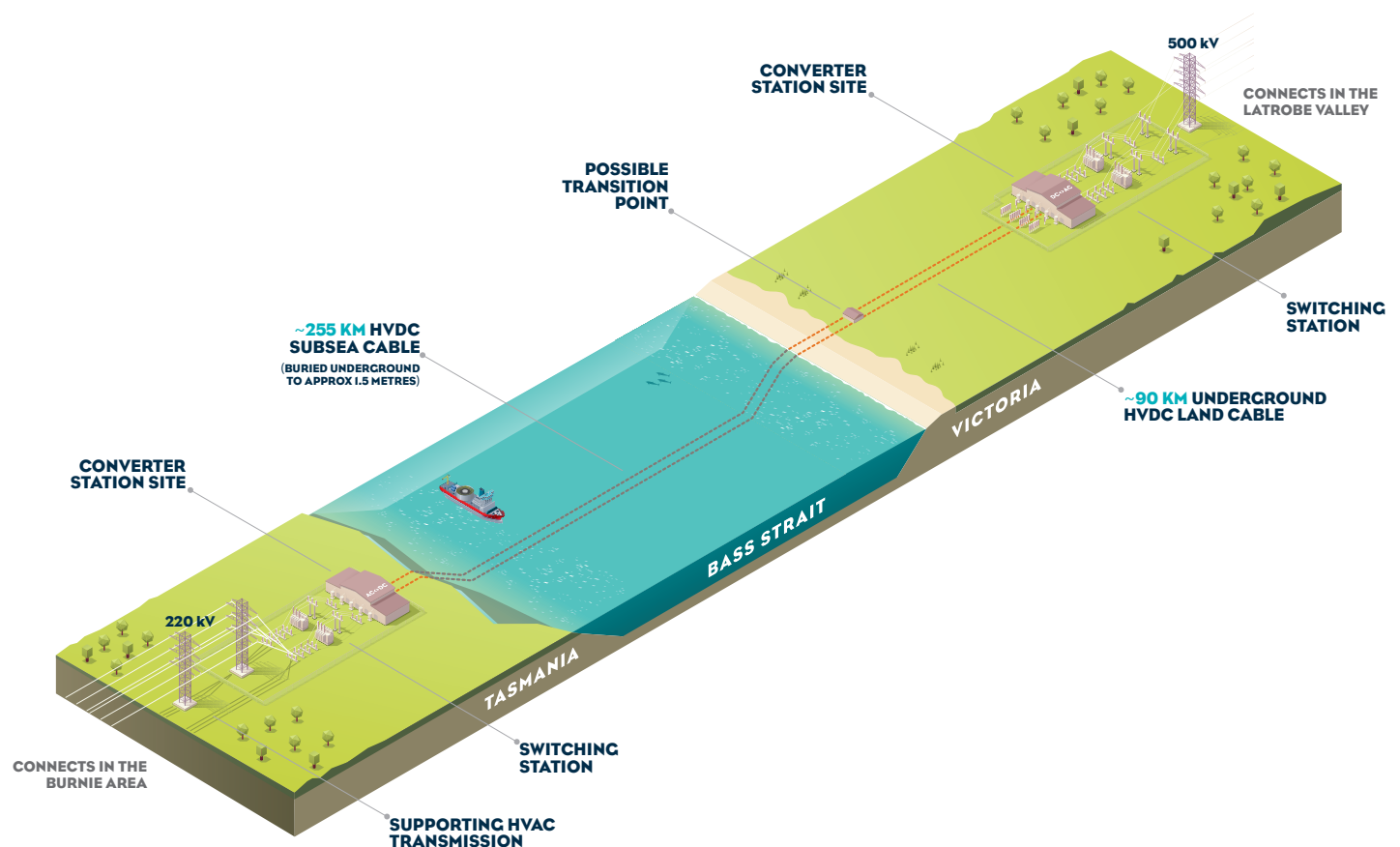
Marinus Link will allow the two-way transmission of energy between Tasmania and Victoria. It will use excess energy to move water in Tasmania's hydro system and store it to generate power for all customers in the NEM, when local supply is not meeting demand. Marinus Link will contribute to maintaining a reliable supply of electricity through the transition to renewable energy.

This generation and storage capability can last for long periods, acting like a big battery for the nation. This is essential because current battery technology has limited capacity and significantly higher long-term costs.

Marinus Link is a project of national significance that will contribute to Australia's emission reduction targets, critical to addressing increasing risks of climate change.

Who is behind the project?

Marinus Link is jointly owned by the Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian governments.





The proposed cable route

Marinus Link will cross Bass Strait, connecting into electricity transmission networks near Burnie in North West Tasmania and Hazelwood in the Latrobe Valley, Victoria.

The proposed location of Marinus Link in North West Tasmania will enable connection into some of Australia's best renewable energy and storage resources.

The proposed cable route connects to Tasmania's North West Transmission Network at the proposed Heybridge converter station, on the coast just east of Burnie.

From Heybridge, the cable will cross Bass Strait for approximately 255 km, buried beneath the seabed.

Marinus Link will be underground in Victoria, crossing the shore at Waratah Bay about 3 km west of Sandy Point, running north for approximately 90km, through South Gippsland and into the Latrobe Valley.

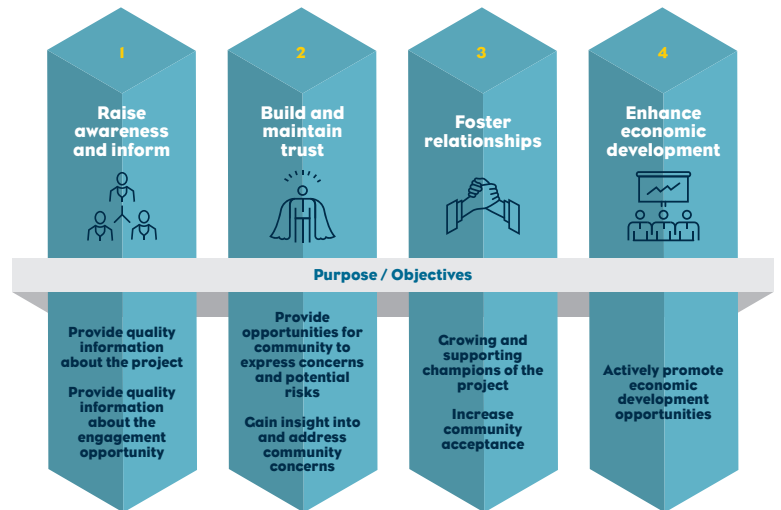
It will connect to the national electricity grid at Hazelwood in the Latrobe Valley.

Our engagement approach

Marinus Link understands the importance of respectful engagement with landholders throughout the project's lifecycle.

Developing strong working relationships with landholders is critical to the success of the project.

There are four key pillars that guide how we engage with landholders and all project stakeholders.



The key principles and objectives for landholder engagement during the design and approvals phase are to:

- ◇ Establish and/or strengthen relationships with potentially impacted landholders.
- ◇ Proactively support and regularly communicate with landholders.
- ◇ Recognise the key role landholders have with the project.
- ◇ Meet with landholders to discuss the project design and potential impacts.
- ◇ Provide an indication of project timeframes including the formal planning process, land access and acquisition processes and update accordingly.
- ◇ Gain a deep understanding of land use on each property so that potential impacts can be mitigated.
- ◇ Adhere to principles and obligations under the Essential Services Commission's Land Access Code of Practice.
- ◇ Work cooperatively with landholders to agree to voluntary Access Licences and Easement and Lease Option Deeds, over statutory options.

Marinus Link Land Access Agents

Marinus Link has a dedicated Land Team who are committed to communicating clearly, effectively, and collaboratively with landholders.

All landholders are allocated an experienced Marinus Link Land Access Agent as a direct conduit to the project.



Easements

Easements will be used in Victoria to host the transmission infrastructure that will run underground between Waratah Bay in South Gippsland through to Hazelwood in the Latrobe Valley.

An easement is a formal agreement covering a specific area of land and is registered on a property title.

It provides a legal right to access and use that area, which will allow Marinus Link to construct, operate and maintain the transmission infrastructure within the agreed area on your land.

Key principles for an easement



Ownership doesn't change

You will still own the land that contains the easement. We will have a formal interest in the area of your land that holds the easement.



Agreed payment

A fair payment amount will be agreed with you, including a contribution to reasonable professional expenses.



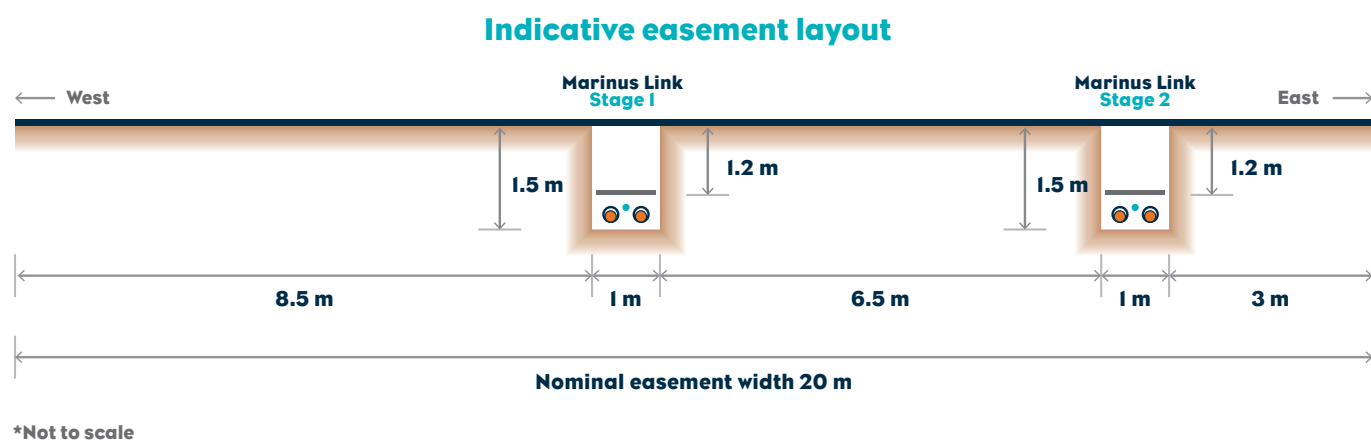
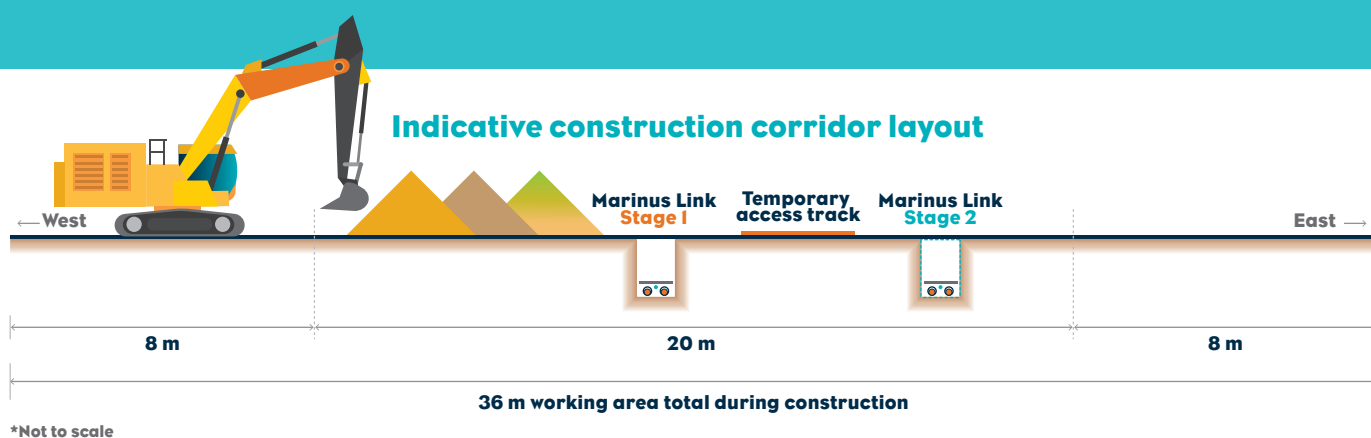
Access is shared

You may continue to access and use your land, subject to the terms of the easement. We will also be able to use and access the land for agreed purposes.



Operating safely

We will work with you to ensure that the land is used safely, both for you and the project, and in a way that avoids damage to assets.



— Concrete / PVC slab • Optical fibre ● Cables in conduit, minimum 500mm separation

Information for Landholders: Access to private land

A licence is required to generate, transmit, supply, or sell electricity in Victoria.

On 20 December 2023, the Essential Services Commission (ESC) granted Marinus Link an electricity transmission licence to transmit electricity between Tasmania and Victoria and connect the project infrastructure into the existing transmission network in Victoria.

The transmission licence will also enable Marinus Link to access land and seek compulsory acquisition of easements that are required over land for the project under the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* (the Act). Compulsory acquisition will only be sought in the event that the project is not able to negotiate an Easement and Lease Option Deed with a landholder. Marinus Link is committed to negotiating voluntary agreements with all landholders.

What is the ESC?

- ◇ The ESC is an independent regulator promoting the long-term interests of Victorian consumers regarding the price, quality, and reliability of essential services, including energy.
- ◇ The ESC is the authority which grants electricity transmission licences in Victoria.

ESC Land Access Code of Practice

The ESC Land Access Code of Practice (the Code) sets obligations and regulates the engagement approach and information that licensed electricity transmission companies must provide to affected parties (and other parties interested in land) prior to:

- ◇ entering into access agreements;
- ◇ accessing private land; or
- ◇ using statutory powers under the Act.

The Code sets out the following objectives:

- (a)** Balance the statutory right of electricity transmission companies to access private land to provide essential services, and the rights of those interested in the land who are affected by that exercise of power.
- (b)** Regulate how electricity transmission companies access private land using powers derived from section 93 of the Act, where attempts to enter into an access agreement have been unsuccessful.
- (c)** Establish conditions for electricity transmission companies when exercising powers under section 93 of the Act, including consultation and notice requirements.
- (d)** Regulate information electricity transmission companies must provide to persons interested in the land prior to entering access agreements as

an alternative to the use of access powers under section 93 of the Act.

- (e)** Regulate ongoing reporting obligations of electricity transmission companies when accessing private land.
- (f)** Promote the long-term interests of Victorian electricity consumers.

The Code came into effect on 1 March 2024. See the ESC's website for more information and to locate the Land Access Code of Practice: [Developing a Land Access Code of Practice | Essential Services Commission](#).

The Code uses the term 'affected party' to refer to a 'landowner' or 'occupier' in respect of 'private land' that is accessed, or proposed to be accessed, by an electricity transmission company' such as Marinus Link (with words in quotation marks defined in the Code).

The Code also uses the term 'other parties interested in land' to refer to people who are not 'affected parties' but have other listed rights or interests in private land that is accessed, or proposed to be accessed, by an electricity transmission company (see definition in the Code).

In the following section, when we use the terms 'affected party' and 'other parties interested in land' we adopt the the definitions in the Code.

What does section 93 of the Act say?

Marinus Link's preference is to enter into voluntary access agreements with affected parties. However, under section 93 of the Act, Marinus Link has the power to enter onto land, along with its authorised persons, to undertake surveys and conduct works related to the development of Marinus Link. The full text of section 93 can be found in on page 227 of the Act.

When accessing land under section 93, Marinus Link must do as little damage as possible, and must make full compensation for any damage sustained by affected parties while exercising its powers under section 93.

Importantly, Marinus Link must comply with the Land Access Code of Practice, as required under section 93 (5)(d) of the *Electricity Industry Act 2000*.

Consulting with affected parties and other parties interested in land

We identify affected parties and other parties interested in land by undertaking title searches to notify us of the registered proprietor of the land and of other parties with interests noted on the title. We also search the Australian Securities and Investments Commission register for company details, including contact details. To make sure we have up to date information, we periodically re-do these searches. On occasions, we may also visit the property to make contact with landholders, land managers and land tenants directly.

Why we engage

In meeting the obligations of the Code, we engage with affected parties and other parties interested in land about our proposed access, to discuss how you can provide your insights into Marinus Link, and to understand your specific needs and concerns. This includes seeking to understand the biosecurity, fire, health or cultural heritage requirements relating to an affected party's property.

We are committed to providing relevant and up to date information, and considering the feedback provided by affected parties and our stakeholders.

Subject to privacy, confidentiality or commercial sensitivity matters, upon written request from an affected party, we will provide the outcomes of the surveys or investigations carried out on the affected party's land.

What are Marinus Link's obligations when accessing land?

Under the Code, Marinus Link has obligations before, during, and after accessing land. Some of our obligations are different depending on whether we are accessing land under an access agreement, or under section 93 of the Act.

Information on access rights and obligations

Clause 6.1 of the Code requires that, prior to giving a notice of access in accordance with clause 7.1.1 of the Code or entering into an access agreement, Marinus Link must provide notice, information or other documents to all affected parties that clearly explains the items set out below.

This Landholder Pack contains the following information in accordance with clause 6.1:

- ◇ The affected party's rights under section 93 and the Code ('What are Marinus Link's obligations when accessing land?' pages 10-12)
- ◇ Our rights and obligations under section 93 and the Code ('What are Marinus Link's obligations when accessing land?' pages 10-12)
- ◇ Mitigation and compensation protections under section 93 ('Access under section 93' - page 11)
- ◇ Differences between our access to land under an access agreement and under section 93 ('Access under an access agreement' and 'Access under section 93' - page 11)
- ◇ The effect of entering into an access agreement, including payments that we make under an access agreement;
- ◇ The affected party's right to refer complaints to the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV);

Information on proposed access

In accordance with Clause 6.2 of the Code, Marinus Link will also provide all affected parties with property-specific information prior to giving a notice of access when proposing to enter land using powers under section 93 of the Act. This includes:

- ◇ How the land access interacts with our environmental, planning, and other approvals processes and what stage of the project the access relates to;
- ◇ Proposed dates and durations for access;
- ◇ What activities we will be doing on the land (e.g., environmental and/or geotechnical surveys);
- ◇ How we will manage equipment, chemicals, biosecurity requirements and other land management obligations including the disclosure of any chemicals used;
- ◇ The proposed terms of our access agreement;
- ◇ How affected parties can comment on any of the information we provide, or request changes to access dates or details; and
- ◇ Rights of affected parties to refer complaints about access under section 93, or our compliance with the Code, to EWOV.

Access under an access agreement

Negotiating a voluntary agreement to access land with landholders is extremely important to Marinus Link. Voluntary access may be sought via an Access Licence and/or an Easement and Lease Option Deed.

At the time of entering into an access

agreement, we will consult with affected parties about:

- ◇ The requirements for accessing your land, including notice periods;
- ◇ Access routes;
- ◇ The types of activities we will undertake when we are on the land;
- ◇ Biosecurity requirements; and
- ◇ Other requirements the affected parties might have.

We will work with affected parties to address your requirements in the access agreement.

Should we need to change our plans, we will notify all parties in accordance with the agreed access agreement, which we propose would be a minimum of 48 hours prior to the planned date and outline the purpose of these changes.

We will access the land in accordance with the access agreements with each affected party.

Affected parties may contact us if the proposed time does not work, and our team will endeavour to work with landholders to ensure that all requests are taken into consideration.

The Electricity Services Commission's factsheet 'What to expect when a transmission company proposes access to private land: Information for landowners' explains the following:

- ◇ 'Access agreements typically offer greater flexibility for landowners [than access under section 93] and can be tailored to the specific needs of each landowner. They also allow landowners to negotiate the terms of access.'
- ◇ 'The code of practice does not regulate land access under an access agreement or the contents of these agreements.'

The Code places some different obligations on Marinus Link depending on whether land is accessed under section 93 or under an access agreement. For example, when accessing land under section 93, Marinus Link must provide a notice of access that meets the requirements of clause 7 of the Code, whereas for access under an access agreement, terms of access including notice periods will be negotiated.

As the terms of a land access agreement are negotiated, the purpose and effect of any payments made may differ depending on the negotiated terms. We will access the land in accordance with the access agreements with each affected party.

Access under section 93

Where attempts to enter into an access agreement have been unsuccessful, under section 93 of the Act, we may access land following the sending of a notice of access. The Code contains specific obligations for us to comply with when we are accessing land under section 93 of the Act. While we are accessing land using our powers under section 93, Marinus Link must do as little damage as possible to the land and minimise the impact of the land access on affected parties. Some of the surveys that we undertake may cause ground disturbance, which we will reinstate and remediate along with any other damage caused during the access.

The notice of access will be provided to affected parties at least 20 business days following the delivery of information about access rights and obligations to the affected parties and at least 10 business days prior to the proposed start of the access period.

The notice of access will advise of the access period, planned dates and times of access, details of access, and the affected parties' rights to refer complaints to EWOV. We will also contact the affected parties at least 48 hours before the proposed access as a reminder.

We will make sure that individuals accessing private land on behalf of Marinus Link will have appropriate skills and training, will comply with our obligations under this Code and the Act, and will show respect for the affected parties' privacy, private assets, and existing infrastructure on the land. Our aim is to minimize harm, inconvenience, and damage, and we will remove all materials brought onto the property once the works have been completed unless we agree otherwise, or which are required for the purpose of the access.

During the land access period, we will provide all affected parties with our biosecurity, fire risk, and health risk policies and procedures upon request, and we must communicate incidents and how they have been managed to affected parties immediately.

Under the Land Access Code of Practice, an access period must not exceed six months. This can be reviewed by following the process set out in The Code.

After the land access, we will give a report to the affected parties within 15 business days. The report will have specific details including how many people went onto the land on each access date, what they were doing, any materials or chemicals they used, and all activities related to managing fire risks, health risks and biosecurity controls. If an environmental, biosecurity, fire or health incident occurs, we will provide information about our access upon reasonable

request by an affected party, to assist with a response to that incident.

If we cause damage to the land during our access and the damage cannot be reinstated or remediated, we will provide full compensation to the landholder or other parties interested in the land as required under the Act. We will seek to agree the amount of compensation with you and if we cannot reach agreement, the compensation will be determined in the manner provided in the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986* (Vic).

What if Marinus Link or affected parties need to change the notified access?

If we need to change the dates or times of access, we will notify all parties either:

- ◇ In accordance with the agreed access agreement, which we propose would be a minimum of 48 hours prior to the planned date.
- ◇ Or under section 93, at least 48 hours prior to the planned date, advising of the change and reasons.

Should this proposed time not work for the affected parties, our team will work with the affected parties and endeavour to find a time which suits all. We will advise affected parties of the amended dates and times for access.

Emergency situations

In an emergency situation, we may access the land without notice in accordance with the Code. If this occurs, affected parties will be notified as soon as possible following the event.

Record Keeping

We store land access details for seven years, as required by the Code. This includes all verbal conversations with affected parties regarding private land access.

If we are speaking with affected parties, we will confirm our communications in writing after each conversation, unless affected parties choose to opt out of this.

Marinus Link will also share an affected party's communication records with that affected party upon request.

Reporting

Electricity transmission companies are required to submit monthly performance reports to the ESC. These reports must include information on land access activities and engagements conducted and complaints made during the month. The reports must be provided in writing and in a specified format. They should be submitted by the tenth business day of the following month. Additionally, Marinus Link will report to the ESC on any breaches throughout the reporting period.

We will ensure that no confidential or personal information is made publicly available through this reporting obligation.

Field surveys and investigations

Developments like Marinus Link require pre-construction field surveys to help inform the projects planning, design and approvals.

Through our dedicated Land Access Agents, we continue to work directly with landholders to gain access to properties to undertake the required field surveys in locations which are likely to be impacted by the proposed route, in order to inform the projects detailed design and environmental performance requirements.

We will be conducting surveys on private properties and crown land. For private property, we seek consent from the landholder in the form of an Access Licence and in circumstances where we are unable to reach mutual agreement, we may (after every effort has been made to reach agreement) resort to compulsory access in accordance with the Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic) as outlined on page 18 of this document.

We are very appreciative of the time given by landholders in discussing the project with us and providing access to conduct this important work.

Field surveys and investigations will support applications to State and Commonwealth environmental, planning and cultural heritage impact assessment and approvals processes.

Ecological surveys

To understand the potential ecological impacts of the proposed transmission developments, Marinus Link needs field information on the existing ecological values.

Experienced, expert ecologists conduct the ecology surveys on behalf of Marinus Link. These consultants are highly qualified in assessing the potential environmental impacts of a project of this scale.

Deeper information on existing ecological values is identified through these surveys. Ecologists will record native plants and animals that exist along the proposed route and identify those that are protected under State and Commonwealth law.

Target areas within the survey corridor will be identified and surveyed to record native plant species encountered and also targeting habitats and vegetation communities that are likely to hold threatened plants and animals. Collection of plant specimens may be required, for which the necessary permits are held by the ecologists engaged to conduct the survey. No trapping or invasive survey techniques are planned for this survey.

Cultural heritage surveys

Field investigations to survey cultural heritage are undertaken by archaeologists and in some situations, representatives of Traditional Owner Groups may be in attendance to assist. They will investigate the area for the presence or absence of Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values and provide advice on the ongoing management of these values, if found.

The aim of the cultural heritage field surveys is to identify Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage sites and areas of potential archaeological sensitivity that may be present within a survey corridor. These surveys will contribute to an overall assessment of the Aboriginal and archaeological values and sensitivity of the area potentially impacted by the proposed development.

The surveys will involve walking a series of survey transects along the proposed route and any other areas that have been identified for potential use or disturbance, such as access tracks.

Geotechnical investigations

Marinus Link is undertaking geotechnical investigations to inform the design and construction requirements of the project. These investigations are undertaken by qualified geotechnical specialists to verify soil, rock and other ground conditions in order to determine site suitability for construction. This allows us to progress with more detailed designs and greater accuracy on estimated project costs. Importantly, geotechnical investigations help us minimise the project's impact on the environment, community, heritage, and existing infrastructure.

Voluntary land access and easement acquisition process

There are three key steps relating to the voluntary land access and easement acquisition process:

1. **Obtain an Access Licence**
2. **Negotiate an Easement and Lease Option Deed**
3. **Exercise the Easement and Lease Option Deed**

STEP 1: Obtain an Access Licence

- ◇ Access Licences provide agreed access to land to undertake pre-construction surveys.
- ◇ Marinus Link recognises that surveys may temporarily interrupt the use of your land.
- ◇ Our Land Access Agents will work with you to discuss the project survey requirements and document all relevant land access, survey, biosecurity, safety, and rehabilitation requirements. This information will form the basis of your Access Licence, which allows access for surveys.
- ◇ Generally, a once off amount of \$5,000 will be paid upon entering an Access Licence for a two-year period.
- ◇ If an Access Licence for a period of less than two years is agreed, the payment will be pro-rated. Similarly, should an existing Access Licence need to be extended, the associated payment will also be pro-rated.
- ◇ The payment under the Access Licence is separate and not related to your Easement and Lease Option Deed payment, which is agreed at Step 2 if your land is found to be suitable.
- ◇ We recognise that you may wish to obtain legal advice to ensure your concerns are addressed in the Access Licence. To assist with this, Marinus Link will reimburse up to \$1,000 for professional services if you enter an Access Licence with us, as supported by appropriate tax invoices.

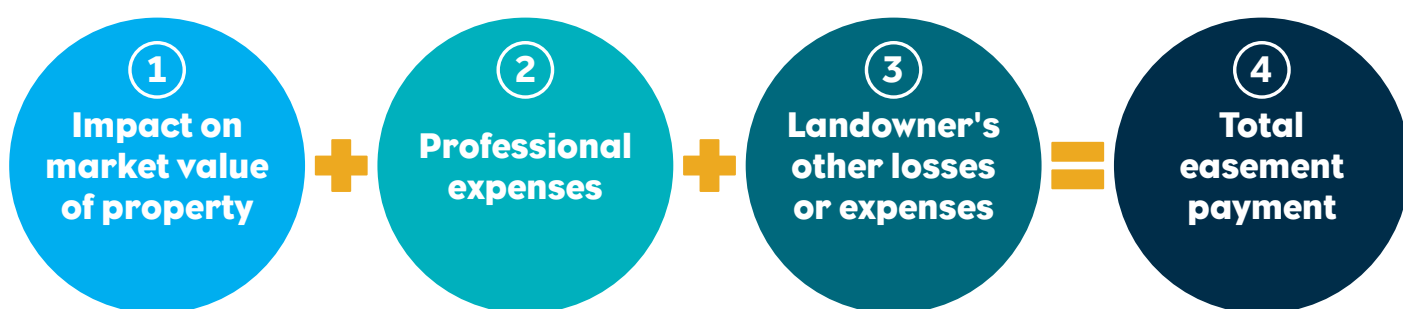
STEP 2: Negotiate an Easement and Lease Option Deed

- ◇ An Easement and Lease Option Deed allows Marinus Link to acquire a lease for the initial construction phase and an easement across your land to enable the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission infrastructure if the project is approved.
- ◇ The Option Deed will include an easement plan which sets out the expected easement location.
- ◇ The Option Deed will generally reflect a 20-metre-wide easement which will be registered on your title after the completion of construction. The payment related to this easement is known as the 'Easement Payment' and is made in two instalments as described below.
- ◇ The Option Deed will also allow Marinus Link to lease an additional area of up to 16 metres wide (generally 8 metres on either side of the proposed easement) from you during the construction phase, to assist with site access activities. The payment related to the construction lease is known as the 'Construction Lease Payment'.
- ◇ Payments at the signing of the Option Deed are fixed amounts and are in addition to an Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment.
- ◇ An initial upfront payment of \$10,000 will be made upon signing the Option Deed. This is known as the 'Option Payment'.
- ◇ A further upfront payment of \$10,000 will be paid if the Option Deed is signed within 60 business days of the offer being made to you. This is known as the 'Early Sign-on Payment'.
- ◇ We understand you may wish to obtain legal advice or other professional advice regarding the Option Deed, and/or seek your own property valuation. To assist with this, Marinus Link will make an upfront payment of \$10,000 for Contribution to Professional Fees.
- ◇ The payments made to landholders for signing the Option Deed and for professional expenses are non-refundable to Marinus Link, should the project not go ahead (and the option is not exercised).

Calculating the payment for an Easement and Lease Option Deed

- ◇ The Option Deed considers the easement's impact on the market value of your property and other losses or expenses incurred, including business interruption.
- ◇ An independent, licensed valuer will be appointed to carry out property valuations and determine the amounts for:
 - » Easement Payment
 - » Construction Lease Payment

The following diagram outlines how an easement payment is determined



1. Impact on the market value of the property

The impact on the market value of your property will be determined through an assessment of the value of the land undertaken by an independent, appropriately qualified, licensed, and experienced valuer. The valuer will look at the value of the property with and without the easement and assets, with the difference in value being the impact on the market value of the property.

2. Professional expenses

In addition to considering the reduction in the market value of your property, as described in Step 2 above, we will make payment of \$10,000 for professional expenses such as legal and/or valuation costs incurred in negotiating the Option Deed.

3. Landholder's other losses or expenses

You may also be eligible to claim payment for other losses or expenses incurred because of the easement, including payment for business interruption. Valuers will discuss with you the potential impacts of the easement and construction works on your use of the property and factor this into the payments offered where applicable.

4. Total Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment

Following the above, an Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment offer will be determined and presented to you. If you do not agree with our proposed offer, you will be given the opportunity to obtain your own valuation from an appropriately qualified, licensed, and experienced valuer. We will seek good faith negotiations with you to reach an agreed easement and construction lease payment amount.

Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment example

Landholder A owns a parcel of land used for grazing cattle. The preferred route of the Marinus Link cable passes through the landholder's property and an easement width of 20 metres is required.

A valuation of the market impact on the land is done by Marinus Link's independent valuer, who assesses the impact of the easement on the market value to be \$X.

Through discussions with Landholder A, it is identified that the construction of the cable will impact on the grazing activities of Landowner A.

Less cattle will be able to use the land during construction due to the 20-metre-wide easement and additional 16 metre construction area being leased not being available for grazing purposes for the identified construction period.

This will cost Landholder A an additional \$Y to either lease other land or pay for additional feed for the livestock for the estimated construction period.

Landholder A obtains professional services relating to the Option Deed and these expenses total \$Z. Marinus Link will make a payment of \$10,000 toward these costs.

Total payment offered to Landholder A under the Option Deed = \$X + \$Y + \$Z

STEP 3: Exercise the Easement and Lease Option Deed

- ◇ Once the decision is made to proceed to project construction, Marinus Link will exercise the option set out in the Option Deed.
- ◇ Exercising the Option Deed will enable Marinus Link to commence pre-construction and construction activities and trigger 80% of the Easement Payment and the entire Construction Lease Payment.
- ◇ Periodic payments throughout the construction lease period (instead of a single Construction Lease Payment) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- ◇ At the completion of construction and following a final survey of the easement area, the easement will be registered on your property title.
- ◇ Once the easement has been registered on your property title, the remaining 20% of the Easement Payment will be made.
- ◇ Should Marinus Link not receive approval or decide not to proceed with the project, the Option Deed will not be exercised, and the Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment will not be paid.
- ◇ Marinus Link's payment offer to each landholder will be fair and will consider the principles for assessment of payment set out in the *Victorian Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*.



Access Licence and Easement and Lease Option Deed payment schedule:



Property Management Plans

During negotiations for the Option Deed, Marinus Link representatives will discuss with you the potential impacts of Marinus Link throughout both the construction and operation phases of the project, on your property.

Such inputs may include confirming easement fencing, access points, continuation of water supply across the working area, biosecurity requirements, storage of surplus soil and rehabilitation requirements.

This detail will be recorded in a Property Management Plan to be developed by Marinus Link in agreement with you, and will form part of the Option Deed.

The Property Management Plan is a key document used to inform the management of construction activities on your property.

Additional landholder payments

In May 2024, the Victorian Government legislated a new scheme for payments from the Victorian Government to eligible landholders that host new electricity infrastructure, in recognition of the significant role landholders play in Victoria's transition to renewable energy.

The payment scheme will begin by 5 March 2025. The scheme is as set out in the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid) Act 2024 which inserts a new Part 7 into the National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005). Under the scheme:

- ◇ Private landholders that host new transmission infrastructure may apply to the CEO VicGrid to be recognised as a person eligible for payments.
- ◇ If VicGrid determines the person is eligible under the scheme, the person will be paid an annual payment initially of \$8,000 per kilometre of transmission easement (where the widest part of the easement is 100m wide or less) or \$16,000 per kilometre (where the widest part of the easement is more than 100m wide), for 25 years, indexed by CPI. These payments will be made by Marinus Link (or via the Victorian Government) and will be in addition to the Easement Payment and Construction Lease Payment, outlined in the Easement and Lease Option Deed.



Compulsory Acquisition Process

When negotiation and agreement around an Option Deed cannot be reached, there is a statutory process which sets out how Marinus Link may compulsorily acquire private land for the required easement. The following steps set out the statutory process for compulsory acquisition as outlined in the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* (Vic) and the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986* (Vic).

Project approvals

All key Victorian environment and planning approvals must be obtained by Marinus Link prior to commencing the compulsory acquisition process.

Governor in Council approval and planning conditions

Approval from the Governor in Council to compulsorily acquire the easement must be obtained, pursuant to the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* and the requirements under section 5 of the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986* must be satisfied.

Notice of Intention to Acquire

If approval is granted and planning conditions are satisfied, a Notice of Intention to Acquire (NOITA) must be served in writing by Marinus Link as the holder of the transmission licence, on each person with an interest in the land, e.g. landholders, land managers and land tenants.

NOTE: Marinus Link may continue to seek voluntary agreement during this time as this may represent the best outcome for landholders.

Notice of Acquisition

Between two (minimum) and six (maximum) months after serving the NOITA, a Notice of Acquisition will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette and a copy sent to all registered owners and tenants within 14 days of publication. The Notice will also be published in a newspaper circulated in the general vicinity of the subject land.

Compensation

An offer of compensation will be made to registered owners and tenants within 14 days of the Notice of Acquisition being published. This offer will include the certificate of valuation prepared by the appointed valuer in accordance with the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. Registered owners and tenants must then respond to Marinus Link by providing a notice of acceptance or a notice of claim within three months of the offer being made. If a claim is served, Marinus Link has two months to reply. This response may include a revised offer, which will remain open for acceptance for a further two months. If agreement regarding compensation cannot be reached, the matter may be referred to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Supreme Court of Victoria for determination.

Possession

Marinus Link will give seven days' notice prior to entering into possession of the land. If the land is used as a principal place of business or residence, and must not take possession at any time earlier than three months after the date of acquisition (unless an agreement with the occupier which allows Marinus Link to do so is reached).

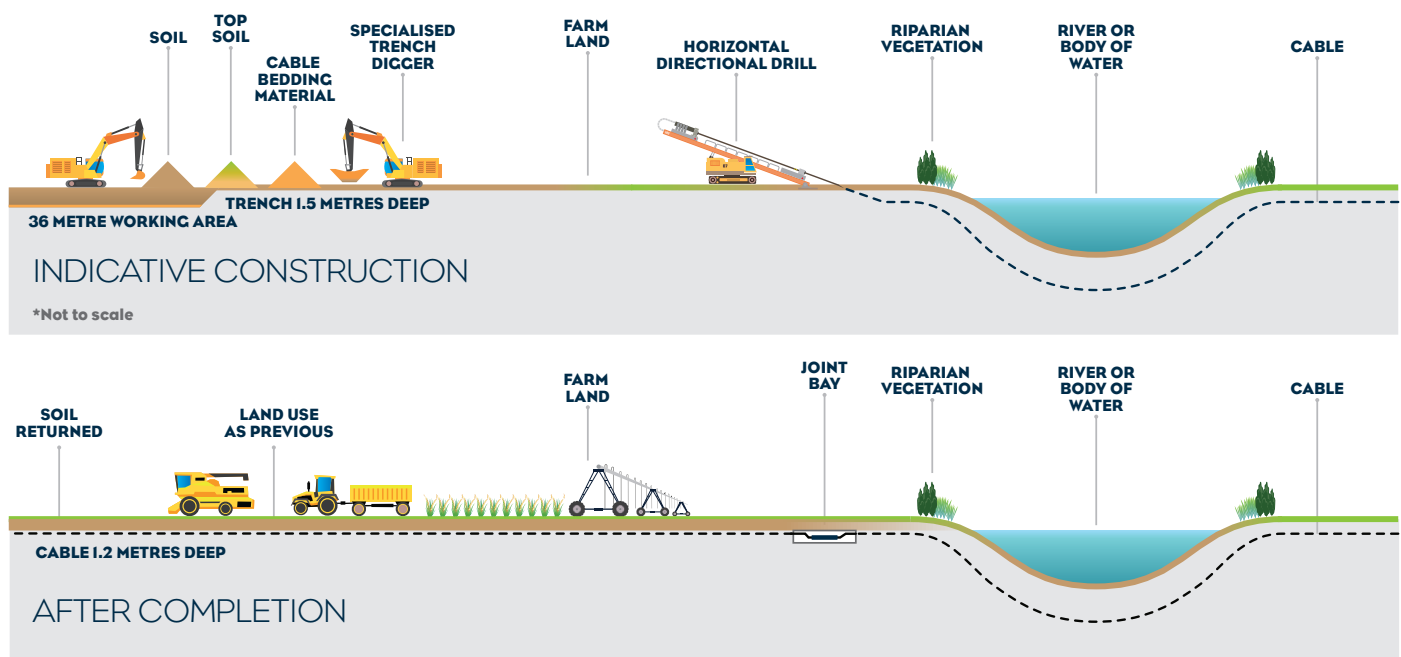
Construction information for landholders

Marinus Link is proposed to be built in two 750 MW stages, with each stage comprising three cables bundled together - two HVDC cables, plus one optic fibre cable.

The land cables for Marinus Link will be installed using open trenching wherever possible. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be used when the cable route needs to cross rivers, environmentally sensitive areas, railways, roads or utility services.

For the land cables, the trenches, HDD and installation of the conduits for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be completed during Stage 1. This is to minimise disturbance to landholders and your properties, land use and farming activities.

See below images of typical on land trenching and HDD methods.



The site establishment and working areas for proposed construction areas including converter stations, switching stations and communications building for both stages will be constructed during the first stage.

The approximate construction footprint will include:

- ◇ 16 hectares for the Victorian converter station site.
- ◇ 100 m by 100 m for HDD drill pads at the shore crossings.
- ◇ 15 m by 4.5 m for the Victorian telecommunications building.

- ◇ 10 m for each subsea cable bundle.
- ◇ Up to 36 m for the land cable construction corridor, including joint bays approximately every 1200 m (being the 20 m easement area plus the 16 m construction lease area described above).
- ◇ Up to 7 m for access tracks, with rehabilitation or retainment negotiated with landholders.
- ◇ Between 40 m by 40 m and 60 m by 60 m for HDD drill pads when crossing major watercourses, roads or railways, to avoid vegetation or to cross over major third-party infrastructure.

Land cables

Land cables will be joined at concrete joint bays, approximately 1200 m apart, with the joint bays buried at least 0.5 m below the surface.

The joint bays measure about 13 m long, 2.5 m wide and 2.5 m deep.

Joint bays will be located side by side or staggered along the alignment and be adjacent to boundary fences or other features where practicable.

Key construction activities include:

- ◇ Establishing laydown areas, site offices and amenities.
- ◇ Establishing the site including entries and gates, access roads and tracks, wash-down facilities, and stock-proof fencing where required and agreed with the landholder.
- ◇ Other specific activities as agreed with landholders e.g. cross-overs for stock movement or temporary drinking receptacles.
- ◇ Top-soil stripping and stockpiling.
- ◇ Building haul roads along the construction corridor.
- ◇ HDD and trench excavation.
- ◇ Installing ducts and thermal backfill, sometimes required to dissipate heat.
- ◇ Backfilling trenches with subsoil and topsoil.
- ◇ Building or installing cable joint pits.
- ◇ Pulling land cables through conduits between adjacent cable joint pits.
- ◇ Rehabilitating the impacted land.

It is expected that crews will work on one section at a time, completing construction before moving on to the next section.

Living with an easement on your property

We will work to reduce the potential impacts of Marinus Link during operations and have taken this into account in the design of the infrastructure (e.g. depth of trenches, location of access tracks).

Marinus Link is proposed to be implemented as two stages, with each stage consisting of one 750 MW HVDC circuit link between Tasmania and Victoria.

Stage 1 will include earthworks for access tracks and the construction of laydown areas, 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 easements that will accommodate cables for both Stages. It will also include laying the underground and subsea cables for Stage 1, and rehabilitation works.

Stage 2 will include installing the Stage 2 underground and subsea cables and the final reinstatement at the completion of Stage 2 activities.

Many farming practices can continue following completion of construction. However, some activities may be restricted or prohibited within the easement due to safety reasons due to the cables' technical requirements.'

Easement conditions will be specific to each property and will outline any activity restrictions on the easement. Many farming and cropping activities can continue, however no buildings or trees will be allowed on easements. Typically, landholders should seek written permission from Marinus Link before undertaking a conditional activity.

Decommissioning

Marinus Link's operational lifespan is expected to be a **minimum of 40 years**. At the end of this period it will either be decommissioned or upgraded.

If Marinus Link is decommissioned, all above-ground infrastructure will be removed, and any associated land returned to the previous land use or as agreed with the landholder.

All underground infrastructure will be decommissioned in accordance with the requirements at the time. This may include removing the infrastructure and leaving some components underground – where it is safe to do so. It is generally considered less impactful to leave underground and submarine infrastructure in place rather than remove it.

Permitted ✓	Conditional ~	Prohibited ✗
Cropping (ploughing/tilling to a depth of 0.5 metres)	Cropping (ploughing/tilling to a depth of 0.7 metres)	Cropping (ploughing/tilling greater than depth of 0.7 metres)
Grazing	Boring for groundwater or fence posts	Planting deep-rooted trees (greater than 0.5 metres)
Irrigation	Fixed centre pivot irrigation infrastructure	Building a dam
Most domestic recreational activities e.g. horse riding, cricket	Installing driveways	Reducing or increasing ground level
Minor structures e.g. washing lines or play equipment (subject to depth limits for objects inserted into the ground)	Building temporary/light structures e.g. shelters	Constructing houses or substantial structures
Planting a garden (access may be required in the unlikely event of a cable fault)	Planning subdivisions	Storing or using explosives
Parking vehicles (height/ weight restrictions may apply)	Using electric fences	Installing fixed plant or equipment e.g. galvanised sheds or swimming pools
Driving vehicles	Excavation or earthworks	Placing or storing garbage, hay, silage or fallen timber
Electronic ear tags on stock	Constructing utility services, whether overhead, buried or on the surface e.g. electricity, telephone, data and water	Storing or using flammable materials. Lighting fires.

Easement access and maintenance

Marinus Link will access easements for routine inspection and maintenance in accordance with the negotiated Option Deed. Where an Option Deed is not reached with a landholder, access to the easement will be in accordance with the terms of the easement reached through the compulsory acquisition process under the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* (Vic).

Marinus Link is responsible for maintaining the electrical and associated infrastructure within easements.

Except as otherwise set out in an Option Deed, or the terms of an easement, landholders are responsible for maintaining the land within the easement the same way you maintain the rest of your property.

What else should I be aware of?

Once constructed, the location of the Marinus Link infrastructure will be placed on the Before You Dig Australia database. Marker posts will be placed at field boundaries indicating the centre line of the easement.

We recommend checking the presence and location of underground infrastructure before doing earthworks of any kind by obtaining plans from Before You Dig Australia. Plans can be obtained free of charge at www.byda.com.au.



Our commitment to you

Marinus Link will continue to offer a range of formal and informal opportunities to learn about the project and speak with the project team. Your feedback informs the project's environmental, cultural heritage, social and economic impact considerations, which in turn informs the project's design and construction.

Find out more about our upcoming engagement opportunities and read our project updates on our Community Engagement webpage at marinuslink.com.au/engagement.

Complaint Handling Policy

Marinus Link takes complaints against the project seriously and has a process to address land access complaints in a timely manner. For more information, visit our landholder engagement page at marinuslink.com.au/landholder-engagement.

Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria

If you are not satisfied with the outcome once you have made a complaint to Marinus Link, you may pursue dispute resolution through the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria, which is an independent and impartial dispute resolution service that is free to Victorian electricity customers.

Phone: **1800 500 509**

Email: ewovinfo@ewov.com.au

Website: www.ewov.com.au

Australian Electricity Infrastructure Commissioner

The Australian Electricity Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC) is an independent role which receives and refers complaints from concerned community residents about wind farms, large-scale solar farms, energy storage facilities and new major transmission projects.

Phone: **1800 656 395**

Email: aeic@aeic.gov.au

Website: www.aeic.gov.au

Landholder Support Services

Marinus Link offers a service to landholders who are directly impacted by the Marinus Link project and who may be experiencing genuine distress regarding the project and its impact, whether personal or business related. For information on this service, please access the [Community Support Services Brochure \(.pdf\)](#).

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Contact us

Visit: marinuslink.com.au

Email: team@marinuslink.com.au

Call: **1300 765 275**

Interpreter

If you require an interpreter, contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Marinus Link.

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