

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(Referral 2022-R06)

Title of project: Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone project

Proponent: AusNet Asset Services Pty Ltd

Description

The proposed Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone Project (G-REZ) consists of transmission line infrastructure in Gippsland, traversing the Ninety Mile Beach coastal plain, Merriman Creek Valley, Flynn's Creek Valley, Traralgon Creek Valley and the Latrobe River Valley south of the Latrobe River. If approved, the project will construct:

- an 85km 500kV double-circuit overhead transmission line (OHTL), supported by lattice towers (approx. 208) and monopoles (with partial undergrounding to be investigated), and
- a new terminal station near Giffard.

The proposed transmission line will connect the proposed new terminal station near Giffard to either the existing Hazelwood Terminal Station or the existing switchyard at the Loy Yang Power Station.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is required for the project, as described in the referral accepted on 16 September 2022.

Reasons for decision


The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require integrated assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on:

- threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage
- soil, water and catchment values
- land-uses
- visual amenity and landscape values, and
- human health and amenity.

There are other existing and proposed energy projects within the vicinity of this proposed project, which could contribute to significant cumulative environmental impacts.

An environment effects statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the project's effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and offsetting measures, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

Date of decision:


7/4/2023