

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Marinus Link**

Proponent: **Marinus Link Pty Ltd**

Description of Project:

The project comprises a 1500 MW capacity underground and subsea electricity connector between Tasmania and Victoria, comprising 2 x 750 MW cables (constructed in two stages). The scope of the EES referral covers the Victorian section of the project from the 3 nautical mile (NM) limit of Victorian coastal waters to the greater Hazelwood area in the Latrobe Valley.

The key project components proposed within Victoria include:

- subsea cables from the 3 NM limit to a shore crossing at Waratah Bay
- a transition station near the coast at Waratah Bay
- underground cables continuing approximately 90 km northwards to the Latrobe Valley
- a converter station in the greater Hazelwood area. Two sites are being investigated for the converter station:
 - Driffield (within a forestry plantation), and
 - Hazelwood (adjacent to the existing Hazelwood terminal station).

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is required for the Marinus Link, specifically the project as proposed within the Victorian jurisdiction as described in the referral accepted on 1 October 2021.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on native vegetation, habitat of threatened terrestrial and aquatic species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, water environments, Aboriginal cultural heritage, the local and regional socioeconomic environment and landscape values.
- 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: 12 / 12 / 2021