



**ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY ACT 2000  
APPLICATION FOR ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION LICENCE**

**Marinus Link Pty Ltd (ACN 630 194 562)**

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**20 December 2023**

## **SUMMARY**

Pursuant to section 19(1) of the Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic) (Industry Act) the Essential Services Commission (the commission) has granted Marinus Link Pty Ltd (ACN 630 194 562) (MLPL) a licence to transmit electricity through parts of a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria that are located within the Victorian jurisdiction.

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 16(1) of the Industry Act relevantly provides that a person must not engage in the transmission of electricity unless the person:

- (a) is the holder of a licence authorising the activity;
- (b) is exempted from the requirement to obtain a licence in respect of the activity; or
- (c) is the holder of a trial waiver in respect of the activity.

Section 18(1) of the Industry Act relevantly provides that a person may apply to the commission for a licence authorising the person to transmit electricity (subsection (1)(b)).

On 12 December 2022, MLPL submitted an application to the commission for a licence authorising it to transmit electricity.

Consistent with the requirements of the commission's electricity transmission licence application form and the commission's 'Guideline: Applications for electricity and gas industry licences', MLPL provided the commission with necessary documentation supporting the application.

On 20 June 2023, the commission published a copy of the application, and invited interested parties to make submissions in respect of the application. The commission received ten submissions.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION**

Section 19(1) of the Industry Act provides that the commission may grant or refuse the application for any reason it considers appropriate, having regard to the objectives of the commission under the provisions of the Industry Act and the Essential Services Commission Act 2001 (Vic) (Commission Act).

## **DECISION**

The commission is satisfied that MLPL is a fit and proper person to hold a licence to transmit electricity in Victoria.

In accordance with section 19(1) of the Industry Act, and having regard to its objectives under the Commission Act and the Industry Act, the commission has decided to grant MLPL a licence to transmit electricity. The authorisation granted by the licence is limited to the transmission of electricity through the following transmission assets:

- two bundled HVDC undersea cables operating at a nominal voltage of either +/-320kV from the 3 nautical mile line in the Bass Strait, along with equipment and infrastructure that is directly related to and necessary for the transmission of electricity using those cables. The cables come ashore at Waratah Bay, Victoria, continuing underground to a transition point.
- underground cables that extend from the transition point that span a distance of approximately 88 km to reach a converter station, along with equipment and infrastructure that is directly related to and necessary for the transmission of electricity using those cables.
- a converter station adjacent to the existing Hazelwood Terminal Station located near Churchill, Victoria, which will connect to Ausnet Services' transmission system at 500 kV to the existing Hazelwood Terminal Station.

**THE COMMON SEAL**  
**of the ESSENTIAL**  
**SERVICES COMMISSION**  
was affixed pursuant to the  
authority of the commission  
on 20 December 2023

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Kate Symons  
**Chairperson**