

Agriculture and Forestry

We know the Gippsland region has a large agricultural and forestry industry, contributing over \$2 billion to the economy each year.

Marinus Link travels through agricultural land supporting a range of practices such as dairy, cropping, mixed grazing, horses, forestry and some organic farms.

We've worked with landholders and undertaken studies to understand the existing and planned agricultural and forestry activities within the project area, so we can manage the impacts on current land uses.

We'll be working with landholders to prepare a Property Management Plan for each property to ensure impacts are minimised and individual needs are addressed. The Property Management Plan may include details on easement fencing, access points, continuation of water supply across the working area, biosecurity requirements, storage of surplus soil and rehabilitation requirements.



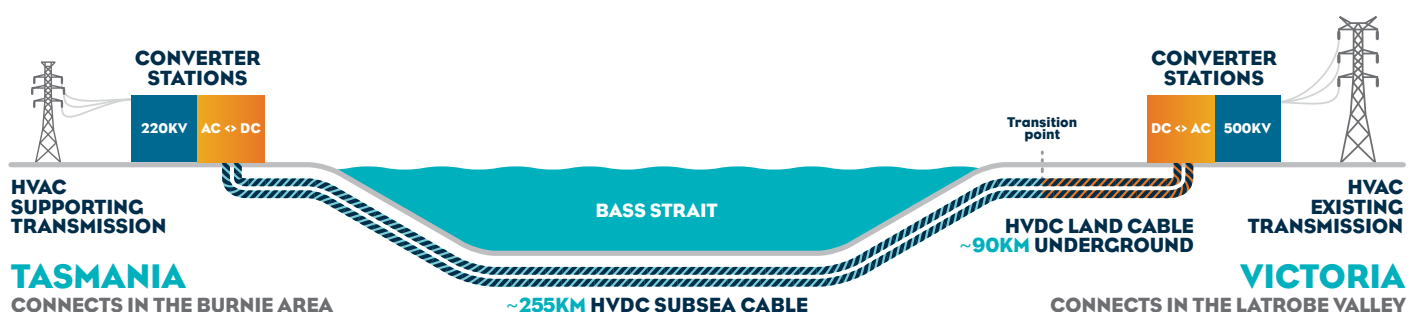
More information

For more information on how agriculture and forestry will be managed by the project, view Chapter 6: Agriculture and Forestry in Volume 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement/ Environment Effect Statement (EIS/EES) via Marinus Link's website at marinuslink.com.au/assessment/eis-ees.

What is Marinus Link?

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

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



Assessing agricultural and forestry impacts

As part of the EIS/EES, we carried out an independent assessment of agriculture and forestry in the Gippsland region to ensure we understood the potential impacts on agricultural operations, livestock and machinery movements, crop production activities, irrigation and biosecurity risks from the project. Impacts identified from field surveys and investigations for other technical reports have been considered in this assessment, including air quality, surface water, social and land use and planning impacts.

As part of the assessment, we consulted with landholders along the project route and industry stakeholders, including Agriculture Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

A number of agricultural properties along the route were selected for interviews and property inspections, to inform the independent assessment. Key issues raised by landholders have been considered in the assessment. These issues include:

- ◇ Biosecurity risks.
- ◇ Impacts on agricultural practices (including aerial operations).
- ◇ Impacts on agricultural land capability and productivity.
- ◇ Restrictions to access and movement.

Impacts during construction

The impacts to agricultural land during the construction of Marinus Link will be temporary and mostly limited to a small section of each impacted property.

Our assessments identified the following potential impacts during construction:

- ◇ Disruption to agricultural and forestry land use in and around the project footprint.
- ◇ Potential decline in soil quality.
- ◇ Short-term impacts to visual amenity for landholders and nearby properties.
- ◇ Potential disruptions to utilities and services.

While some changes may be required to the way that agricultural businesses use their land during construction, most existing land uses are expected to be able to continue during the construction phase.

Impacts after construction

After construction and the land has been reinstated, landholders will generally be able to use their land as before. Some restrictions will apply to the 20 m easement during operation, including no planting of deep-rooted trees and no construction of infrastructure, such as sheds, houses or dams. Routine maintenance is generally only required every five years at joint pits where sections of cable are joined together underground.

How we will manage impacts

We recognise community concerns about the potential impacts to the agricultural and forestry sectors. We will help minimise impacts by:



Consulting with landholders through dedicated Land Access Agents at each stage of the project to ensure impacts to their agricultural operations are minimised.



Working with forest organisations to understand harvesting activities and minimise impacts to operations at each stage of the project.



Before construction, Marinus Link will develop a Rehabilitation Strategy for the restoration of areas impacted by construction. Land rehabilitation ensures that land can be used as it was prior to construction by meeting an agreed criteria, including soil capacity and pasture or crop health requirements.



Working with landholders to develop and implement Property Management Plans for each impacted property and include information on the proposed biosecurity controls, management of soil and rehabilitation of land. Specific controls will also be required for organic farming to avoid impacts to organic farming certification.



Developing protocols for easement access and maintenance that avoid or minimise impacts on agricultural and forestry properties during operation.

More information

- visit marinuslink.com.au
- email team@marinuslink.com.au
- call **1300 765 27**