



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Directors of the Joint Venture Participants of the Directlink Joint Venture

Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Information** of the Directlink Joint Venture (the **Joint Venture**).

In our opinion, the accompanying **Financial Information** of the Joint Venture as at and for the regulatory years ended 30 June 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Information Notice issued under Division 4 of Part 3 of the National Electricity (New South Wales) Law and National Electricity Law (Queensland) by the Australian Energy Regulator ("AER") on 11 October 2023 ("the Notice") and the Basis of Preparation attached to the Templates as required by the Notice.

The **Financial Information** comprises the Actual Historical Financial Information in the following Regulatory Reporting Statement – Reset Directlink 2025-2030 RIN Templates ("the Templates"):

- Workbook 1 - Tables 2.1, 2.3c, and 2.6 as at and for the regulatory years ended 30 June 2021, 2022 and 2023, and 8.2.7 as at and for the regulatory years ended 30 June 2019, 2020 and 2021;
- Workbook 2 – CESS as at and for the regulatory years ended 30 June 2021, 2022 and 2023;
- Workbook 3 – EBSS Table 7.5.1.2 as at and for the regulatory years ended 30 June 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Information* section of our report.

We are independent of the Joint Venture in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Information in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

We draw attention to the Basis of Preparation attached to the Templates which describes the methodologies, assumptions and judgements made by Management in interpreting the presentation requirements for Actual and Estimated Information and the definitions of Actual and Estimated Information in the Notice, in order to meet the requirements of the Notice.



The Financial Information has been prepared by the Directors of the Joint Venture Participants for the purpose of meeting Joint Venture's regulatory reporting obligations in accordance with the requirements of the Notice. As a result, the Financial Information and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our report is intended solely for the Directors of the Joint Venture Participants and the AER and should not be used by or distributed to any other party. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this Auditor's Report, or on the Financial Information to which it relates, to any person other than the Directors of the Joint Venture Participants and the AER. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in the Joint Venture's regulatory reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Information, the Basis of Preparation and the Auditor's Report. The Directors of the Joint Venture Participants are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Financial Information does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Information, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Information or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Information

Management is responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Information in accordance with the requirements of the Notice and the Basis of Preparation;
- determining that the Basis of Preparation attached to the Templates is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Notice. The Basis of Preparation is also appropriate to meet the needs of the Directors of the Joint Venture Participants and the AER;
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of Financial Information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- assessing the Joint Venture's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Joint Venture or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Information

Our objective is:

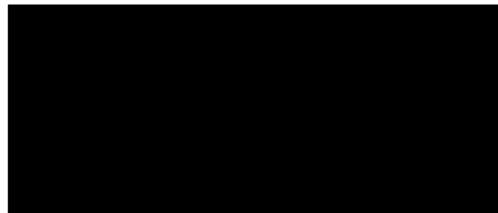
- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this Financial Information.

A further description of our responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG



Partner
Sydney
22 January 2024