

RE: AER public consultation process in response to the Marinus Link Revenue Proposal.

Clean Energy Tasmania (CET) is the voice of the renewable energy sector in Tasmania and our members currently have over \$25B of projects in various stages of planning.

I will not attempt to address all the questions in the Issues Paper as a lot of it is outside my area of expertise. Instead, the main point I will address relates to stakeholder/consumer engagement.

Aside from my position with CET, for the last six years I have been President of Business Northwest (BNW), the regional chamber of commerce for the Burnie/Wynyard area. BNW provides support and advocacy for SMEs in the region. Additionally, for the last seven years BNW has hosted fortnightly breakfast session featuring a guest speaker providing a presentation.

In that time, we have had senior federal and state politicians including PM Morrison, Treasurer Frydenberg, Opposition leader Shorten, Deputy PM Marles and numerous Ministers, Shadows plus three Tasmanian Premiers.

Industry presentations are also popular with our members and guests and MLPL has presented project overviews and updates on four occasions featuring senior management involved in stakeholder liaison roles - the most recent being on Jan 31st inst.

CET has had regular contact with C Level executives of MLPL over the last 18 months as the project progressed through the tripartite agreement stage and towards FID. At all times the MLPL execs have been open and transparent with us and provided detailed responses to our enquiries.

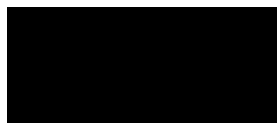
I am aware that MLPL has conducted extensive public consultation in the last two years having seen it represented at regional events such as AgFest, Burnie and Wynyard Shows, TulipFest and at drop-in sessions at the Renewable Energy Hub in Burnie plus at community centres in villages around the region such as Ridgley, Heybridge, Cuprona, Waratah, etc.

I have attended several of the public consultation sessions and observed the interactions to be open and informative even in the face of hostile and misinformed opinions from members of the public, with no topic "off the table". In mid-2024 MLPL appointed two locally based, community engagement representatives for the north west region and their presence has been well received by community and industry, especially as we approach FID.

MLPL engages on a breadth of subjects in its consultation. I believe the revenue opportunities for local businesses needs to be more heavily emphasised with local businesses plus the ability for the connector to provide a major energy export opportunity over a 40-year period.

I am available for further discussion if required.

Yours sincerely



Ian Jones

CHAIR

