

Adam Moller



2 Feb. 24

Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters in Tasmania
Parliament House,
HOBART, TAS, 7000

By email: energymatters@parliament.tas.gov.au

Subject: Opposition to Marinus Link and NWTD in Tasmania

Dear Committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Marinus Link project and the associated NWTD in Tasmania.

My major concern is the fact the proposed line runs 300m from my property and it will significantly devalue my property and ruin the visual amenity of where I live. Some will say I suffer from NIMBYism but firstly I could accept the transmission line if they fairly compensated me for my loss of property value even though I would prefer to not have it or for it to be underground. Secondly if they could properly prove it is the best option for the State. I can see it being the best option for a few big foreign owned wind farm operators but not for consumers who have to pay for the transmission. Effectively they expect me to subsidize power for city consumers and the mainland by accepting a loss to my property value without any compensation. It is basically theft. They wouldn't subsidize getting power to my property so it was cheaper for me to set up an offgrid system.

I also think there is existing capacity in the current grid where smaller developments could happen that could create extra supply to keep up with expected demand and keep jobs and growth happening in the State. The Connorville Solar farm is a good example of this, close to a substation, 288MW of generation plus a battery and minimal disruption and ugly new powerlines ruining the views across the State. And with an Independent Planner I'm sure other opportunities could be found as people inside Tasnetworks have told me there is existing capacity in current lines.

As for a major green Hydrogen industry happening in Tasmania I think it unlikely given that it is far from currently economic viable and the energy it takes to cool it for transport and all the other inefficiencies with Hydrogen means that it will never be a major industry in the renewable space with experts predicting that it will make up less than 2% of the renewable industry. And even if it does happen the headline sums of money sound great for the State but how much of that money will stay in the State??? It makes more sense to go for smaller power consuming industry of higher value so get better higher paying jobs and growth per unit of energy input.

I also think that Marinus coming ashore and putting the converter station at Heybridge is the wrong location, it should be closer to the demand so there is less disruption to farmers and landholders. There will be a major bottleneck when power is coming into the State between Heybridge and Sheffield and that is why stage 2 of the NWTG is proposed. It would make more sense to come underground to Sheffield and put the converter station there, they did say they looked at it but the 2 locations to come ashore were too rocky and therefore expensive, they never got back to me with how much more expensive when I asked. There are also other places it could come ashore but I don't think they did the study properly and didn't want to backtrack as they advanced Heybridge studies. But given the current funding arrangements for Marinus Link and the NWTG it is important that this is looked at as the NWTG is costing Tasmanians more than the actual Link now and if the mainland wants Tassie power I would think that Tasmania should be trying to get a better deal for Tasmania not a \$1.5B transmission project that barely benefits us that Tasmanians have to 100% pay for.

The economic viability of the Marinus Link project is questionable. Before proceeding, a comprehensive, independent and transparent cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to ensure that the project is financially responsible and truly beneficial for the Tasmanian community. The cost has basically doubled but Tasnetworks are still saying the benefits to consumers are positive. And talk about reports by EY and FTI Consulting. Well the EY report has 2 pages of disclaimers that basically say all figures were supplied by Tasnetworks and they take no responsibility for the outcomes and as for the FTI Consulting report even though I have requested a copy 3 times they still haven't sent it yet.

Given the current costings of Marinus and the NWTG power bills will need to rise by approx. \$500 to the average consumer to cover the Tasmanian share of Marinus and the NWTG. This may be partly offset thru cheaper power coming from Victoria but I doubt it will make up the difference as Tasnetworks claim and was why I have repeatedly asked for the FTI Consulting report before submitting this submission.

As a priority, given that Tasnetworks stand to benefit by gold plating the transmission grid, an Independent study needs to be commissioned into the best way forward for the Tasmanian energy sector by some consultants such as Amplitude and or Prof Bruce Mountain to make sure we are not committing the same mistakes as happened with Basslink or appears to be happening with Snowy 2.0.

There are also environmental and biodiversity issues that need considering but I will leave those to people more green than me.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will give careful consideration to the concerns raised by the community. It is our responsibility to protect Tasmania's natural heritage and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come without being saddled with great debt and a white elephant of an asset.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Moller

