Lessons Learnt

Lessons Learnt Report: RIT-T PSCR

Project Name: Tasmanian and Victorian Second Bass Strait Interconnector Feasibility Study (Project Marinus)

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<td>Knowledge Type</td>
<td>Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) Project Specification Consultation Report</td>
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<td>Technology Type</td>
<td>HVDC Interconnection</td>
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**Key learning**

The RIT-T is prepared under requirements of the National Electricity Rules to determine whether an investment should proceed as a regulated service to support National Electricity Market (NEM) outcomes. A key step in the RIT-T process is releasing the Project Specification Consultation Report (PSCR), which articulates the need to be addressed by possible investment and the proposed approach to determining the solution that maximises benefits to the NEM.

It is possible and desirable to articulate the identified need for an interconnector in terms of the opportunity the interconnector could capitalise on.

There are a range of stakeholders interested in the proposed Marinus Link, within and beyond the energy market. Some stakeholders are familiar with the NEM and RIT-T requirements and many more are not.

For an interconnector that spans geographical regions, there is value in running RIT-T consultation sessions in all impacted regions to ensure a broad range of stakeholders are given the opportunity to understand the consultation material.

Support from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) at public forums provides an independent assessment of the future of the NEM and the case for greater interconnection.

**Implications for future projects**

Being clear on the identified need of an investment will avoid needless confusion later in the project.

Running engagement sessions in all regions impacted by the interconnector is very valuable.

When organising RIT-T forums, seek to have AEMO senior management involvement.

Given the broad interest in Marinus Link, structure RIT-T forums to have general and more specialised content, and recognise that many stakeholders may choose to attend the full forum, even where they do not necessarily understand the energy market and RIT-T requirements.
Knowledge gap

A knowledge gap that will continue to be addressed relates to effective engagement with customers and their advocates in Victoria. It may be possible to better use the AusNet Services and AEMO channels and forums in Victoria in considering next steps of the RIT-T engagement process.

Background

Objectives or project requirements

The objective of the Project Specification Consultation report is to spell out the identified need driving the investment and potential options. Interconnectors are unusual in that generally the primary driver are market benefits; making it clear how and why these benefits could arise in the consultation report is very important. Effective engagement is also vital for this type of project particularly across regions.

Process undertaken

Careful consideration of the Australian Energy Regulator’s guidelines for the RIT-T and PSCRs published by other TNSPs were reviewed to identify the best wording for the identified need that clearly articulated the purpose of the evaluation.

The PSCR was published and information forums organised to provide an overview of the project and the RIT-T process and analysis to date. Engagement forums were organised in Melbourne, Hobart and Burnie – to capture key stakeholders expected to have interest in the project and RIT-T process. Questions were captured at the forum.

Submissions were received on the PSCR. These were published on the TasNetworks website and summarised in the Initial Feasibility Report, with reference to how the matters raised had been addressed, or may be addressed in future work.

Supporting information (optional)

Please see attached RIT-T PSCR