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27th August 2026

The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair, Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters
energymatters@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Forrest

Questions on Notice – 22 June 2026

Thank you for your letter dated 7 July 2026, requesting additional information by the Committee.

1. Could you provide what was included in ‘organic load growth’ assumptions for the future electricity demand base case in Tasmania? (see pp. 10-11 of the hearing transcript)

The organic load growth assumptions were based on the Australian Energy Market Operator’s 2024 Integrated System Plan (ISP) Progressive Change scenario for Tasmania, with adjustments made to isolate underlying demand growth from assumptions regarding changes in Tasmania’s large industrial load profile.

This was intended to provide a forecast of underlying demand growth from residential, commercial and industrial users in Tasmania, without assumptions relating to individual large industrial facilities impacting the modelling of the organic load growth base case.

Organic load growth therefore captured factors such as population and economic growth, changes in consumption by existing customers, electrification, energy efficiency improvements and consumer energy resources. Major new loads, such as new data centres, hydrogen projects or other large industrial developments, were modelled separately where applicable.

2. Does the current George Town transmission network have capacity to deliver the level of energy required for the Firmus Long Reach project? (see p. 26 of the hearing transcript)

TasNetworks has advised that detailed assessments are ongoing regarding Firmus’ load connection, including its proposed development at Long Reach. This work will determine what network augmentations, if any, will be required to support the project’s connection.

3. What is the financial exposure for Tasmania if Project Marinus, for whatever reason, cannot be progressed to completion? (see p. 35 of the hearing transcript)

Information on the State’s potential financial exposure should Project Marinus not proceed to completion has been provided to the Committee in full unredacted form in the Final Investment Decision (FID) Assessment Report (see for example page 106).

Financial exposure for the State is proportionate to our shareholdings, and may include any wind-up costs for the company, along with contract termination costs. The actual dollar amount would be dependent on the time at which the project ended.

Other Project Marinus Cost Estimates

The following table provides the latest Project Marinus cost estimates for the Committee's information.

Project Cost Estimates	Marinus Link	NWTD
Current	\$3.85 billion (P50, \$2023)	\$1.317 billion (P80, \$nominal)
Stage 1 – Early works	\$196.5 million (P50, \$nominal)	\$167.3 million (P50, \$2024)
Stage 1 – Construction cost	\$3.471 billion (P50, \$2023)	\$921.3 million (P50, \$2024)

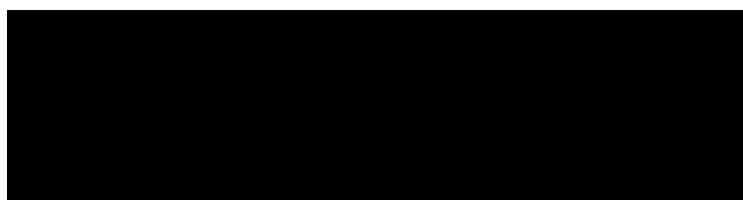
Notes: The current project estimates differ from the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) approved capital expenditure determinations.

In the case of the NWTD, this reflects the AER's regulatory assessment being undertaken on a P50 basis, whereas the TasNetworks Board-approved project estimate is expressed on a P80 basis and includes additional contingency and risk allowances. The Stage 1 – early works project costs for the NWTD includes a Commonwealth grant component not included in the AER approved capital expenditure determination.

In the case of Marinus Link, the AER-approved amount is lower than the business' cost estimate. The business estimate was developed as part of the project development process, whereas the AER determination reflects the regulator's assessment of prudent and efficient costs for the current regulatory period through to June 2030.

Following construction, both businesses may seek recovery of efficient costs above the approved P50 determination through future regulatory processes, subject to assessment and approval by the AER.

Yours sincerely



Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables