

## Department of State Growth

Salamanca Building, Parliament Square  
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart TAS 7000  
GPO Box 536, Hobart TAS 7001 Australia  
Phone 1800 030 688 Fax (03) 6173 0287  
Email [info@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) Web [www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au)  
Your Ref: / Our Ref: D26/110554/1



Ms Tabatha Badger MP  
Chair  
Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

[caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:caretaker@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Badger

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2026, inviting Renewables, Climate and Future Industries (ReCFIT) to provide a submission to the House of Assembly Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions.

This submission addresses section (1)(a) of the Committee's Terms of Reference, being consideration by the Committee of the decisions and activities relating to the Project Marinus.

The Tasmanian Government commenced planning during 2024 for the State to take a Final Investment Decision (FID) on Project Marinus Stage 1, with Government Ministers formally endorsing a Tasmanian FID Plan in May 2025.

With a state election called for 19 July 2025, the Tasmanian Government moved into caretaker mode. To support critical decision-making for Project Marinus during the caretaker period, the Energy Executive Steering Committee (Heads of Agency for Treasury, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of State Growth and the CEO of ReCFIT) developed an approach that aligned with Caretaker Conventions<sup>1</sup> while ensuring the project remained on its critical path.

In accordance with these conventions, any major decision or commitment during the caretaker period had to be made by the relevant portfolio Minister (the Minister for Energy and Renewables in this case) following agreement with the Premier and in consultation with the relevant Opposition spokesperson(s).

Project Marinus was a major strategic and financial decision for the State and attracted significant public interest. The decision-making approach was developed with appropriate reference to Tasmania's Caretaker Conventions (Sections 2 and 4

---

<sup>1</sup> *Guidelines on the Caretaker Conventions and the Operations of Government During Caretaker Period* – Tasmanian State Election 2025 – refer Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

of the Caretaker Guidelines), which provided guidance on major policy decisions and major contracts and agreements.

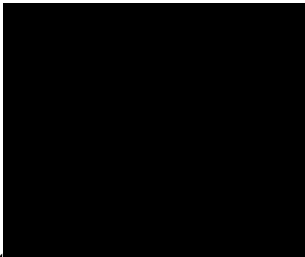
Following the caretaker period commencing, the EESC continued to progress advice to Government on the basis that a FID had to be taken within the caretaker period. In particular, it was noted that a deferral of any decision would likely be a decision not to proceed with the project, which would have significant consequences for a future Government.

The attached timeline sets out the process followed by the EESC and the Project Marinus Taskforce as it prepared advice for government through the caretaker period. While I am comfortable with the public release of this information, the release of any additional detail would need to be considered having regard to confidentiality obligations.

I would also draw the Committee's attention to the ReCFIT website, [https://www.recfit.tas.gov.au/what\\_is\\_recfit/major\\_investment\\_projects/project\\_marinus](https://www.recfit.tas.gov.au/what_is_recfit/major_investment_projects/project_marinus), which provides documentation relating to Project Marinus and the Government's FID. This includes the Project Marinus Stage 1 Final Investment Decision Assessment Report, which details the decision-making process and governance arrangements for the State's FID.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gregory

**Acting Secretary  
Department of State Growth**

## Project Marinus Final Investment Decision – Timeline

Date	Item
Mid-April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Whole of State Business (WOSBC) Case was provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance to the Treasurer</li> </ul>
5 May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government met formally to endorse the Tasmanian FID Plan and noted that it was intended for the Tasmanian Government FID to be taken in July 2025.</li> </ul>
Mid-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Treasurer provided the WoSBC to Government</li> </ul>
9 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government decision point.</li> </ul>
<b>12 June 2025</b>	<b>The State election was called and caretaker period commenced.</b>
13 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretary of the Department of State Growth wrote to the Australian and Victorian Governments requesting advice on the consequences of any delay to the Tasmanian FID and to Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL), seeking advice on the need to take a Shareholder FID by 15 July.</li> </ul>
13 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Executive Steering Committee (EESC) met and discussed process, timeline, caretaker period, caretaker advice and renegotiation strategy with the Commonwealth.</li> </ul>
16 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance wrote to the Chair of TasNetworks seeking advice on the impacts and consequences of any delay to the Tasmanian Government FID on NWTD</li> </ul>
18 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence was received from the Australian Government (DCCEEW) advising that it considered any delay of a shareholder FID beyond 15 July 2025 to be unviable.</li> <li>Correspondence was received from MLPL, which advised that it has not discussed with international suppliers the possibility of further extensions to the 31 August 2025 contract.</li> <li>Correspondence was received from TasNetworks, which provided clarification on what work could continue to progress on NWTD if a delay to FID were to occur.</li> </ul>

18 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EESC determined that the State would progress arrangements for potential Commonwealth funding of Tasmania's MLPL equity contribution in case a government was not formed by the time an equity contribution was required.</li> </ul>
19 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Duigan wrote to Minister Bowen on Tasmania's renegotiation proposal</li> </ul>
20 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Bowen wrote to Minister Duigan in response to the Tasmanian proposal of 19 June.</li> </ul>
25 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further advice sought from DPAC on decision making for Project Marinus during the Caretaker Period.</li> </ul>
25 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Duigan wrote to Minister Bowen on renegotiation matters.</li> </ul>
25 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EESC met to consider the Expert Advisory Panel Report, Draft FID Assessment, decision making process given there were multiple decision options for Government and consultation recommendation.</li> </ul>
27 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretary of the Department of State Growth provided a Minute to Minister for Energy and Renewables seeking endorsement of the proposed timeline and approach to Project Marinus FID decision making during caretaker.</li> </ul>
1 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Bowen provided a response to Minister Duigan's Letter of 25 June letter 2025 outlining the Commonwealth's negotiation offer.</li> </ul>
3 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister for Energy and Renewables asked for matter to be given consideration by Government on 9 July</li> </ul>
4 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESSC discussed timing of decision making, consultation process under caretaker and communication strategy taking into consideration caretaker requirements.</li> </ul>
7 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESSC met and endorsed the renegotiation outcome, FID Assessment and communication approach (being the department would provide factual and redacted information only) in accordance with the 'Communications' section of the caretaker guidelines<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul>

<b>10 July 2025</b>	<b>Government in caretaker decision point.</b>
11 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commonwealth (DCCEEW) emailed the Secretary of the Department of State Growth, advising that Victoria was unable to take a FID until 18 July 2025 (day before Tas Election)</li> </ul>
11 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretary of DEECA (Victoria) emailed relevant stakeholder entities including the Tasmanian Government, advising that Victoria was unable to take FID between 15 – 18 July 2025.</li> </ul>
14 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretary of State Growth provided a Joint Minute for the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Energy and Renewables on the Project Marinus Final Investment Decision advising of this new information.</li> </ul>
17 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet wrote to the Department of Premier and Cabinet requesting Tasmania's commitment to consider FID on 21 July 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>19 July 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>State Election (results unclear)</b></li> </ul>
<b>21 July 2025</b>	<b>Government in caretaker decision point.</b>
21 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister, advising that subject to Cabinet decision and pending finalisation of the Tasmanian State Election results, Tasmania's intention to take a positive FID, and seeking to defer FID until a known election result.</li> </ul>
21 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues Brief to the Minister for Energy and Renewables, noting that the Department had prepared a briefing pack in preparation for potential consultation briefing sessions with Members of Parliament.</li> </ul>
25 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EESC discussed the process for departmental briefings to Members of Parliament.</li> </ul>
25 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPAC advised that following consultation with the Premier's office, the plan for briefing Members of Parliament was to occur on Tuesday 29 July, with two sessions on offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morning session 9:00am – 12:00pm</li> <li>Afternoon session 1:00pm – 4:00pm</li> <li>The Premier's Office were responsible for issuing invitations for these sessions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
28 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EESC discussed that sworn MPs and MLCs are already required to maintain confidentiality, but Members-elect and advisors would be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.</li> </ul>

28 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minute to the Minister for Energy and Renewables, seeking approval to provide a suite of documents in full and unredacted form for viewing during the departmental briefings for Parliamentarians</li> </ul>
29 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister for Energy and Renewables signed and returned the Minute provided on 28 July 2025</li> </ul>
29 to 30 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departmental briefings to Members of Parliament and future members</li> <li>Full suite of unredacted documents provided for viewing during the briefings.</li> <li>Briefings were <b>conducted</b> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Acting Secretary of Department of State Growth</li> <li>the Crown Solicitor</li> <li>the Acting Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance</li> <li>the Acting CEO of Renewables Climate Future Industries Tasmania, Department of State Growth</li> <li>the Executive Director Project Marinus Whole Of State Business Case</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>29 July 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Government in caretaker decision point.</b></li> </ul>
29-30 July 2025	DSG and the Office of the Crown Solicitor reviewed FID Assessment documents to consider information that may need to be redacted prior to their public release.
30 July 2025	Full unredacted suite of documents, which were made available during Parliamentary and crossbench briefings, were made available for the shadow minister for Energy and Renewables (Labor Member for Bass) and the shadow Treasurer (Labor Member for Franklin) at the Department of Public Prosecutions Offices in Launceston.
31 July 2025	<p>Appropriate consultation was undertaken with TasNetworks, Marinus Link Pty Ltd, Hydro Tasmania, Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Australian Government<sup>2</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSG and Office of the Crown Solicitor met with TasNetworks, Hydro Tasmania and MLPL to consult on proposed redactions to the FID assessment documentation prior to public release.</li> <li>DSG officials consulted via email with the Australian Government (DCCEEW, and also on behalf of the Clean Energy Finance Company) on issues requiring redaction from FID Assessment documentation for public release.</li> </ul>
1 August 2025	<p>Shareholder FID for MLPL executed. Documents executed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amended Shareholder Agreement</li> <li>Resolution to amend company constitution</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Refer Page 2 of the *Project Marinus Stage 1 Final Investment Decision Assessment Report*, July 2025 on the ReCFIT website at [www.recfit.tas.gov.au](http://www.recfit.tas.gov.au).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intergovernmental Project Marinus MoU</li> <li>• Amended Federation Funding Agreement to include \$346 million grant and incidental matters.</li> </ul>
1 August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redacted FID Assessment, summary documents and WOSBC all released on State Growth and Treasury Websites</li> </ul>
1 August 2025	Full unredacted suite of documents, which were made available during Parliamentary and cross-bench briefings, were made available for the Independent Member for Murchison to review in person, at State Growth offices in Burnie.
1 August 2025	Full unredacted suite of documents, which were made available during Parliamentary and cross-bench briefings, were made available for the Deputy Leader of the Tasmanian Greens (Greens Member for Clark) at the ReCFIT offices, Hobart; and same said documents were made available for members and advisers as appropriate from the Parliament House conference facilities.
18 Aug 2025	<p><b>10.30am</b> Energy Executive Steering Committee met to consider Financial Close matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed that no material adverse changes to the State's position had occurred since FID, including conditions in final form of CEFC Syndicated Finance Agreement.</li> </ul>
18 Aug 2025	<b>11.00am</b> Minister briefed on Financial Close
18 Aug 2025	Government in caretaker briefed on Financial Close.
18 Aug 2025	<p>Minister executed the following documents to enable Financial Close for Marinus Link Pty Ltd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity Contribution Deed</li> <li>• Interconnector Cost Allocation Agreement</li> </ul>
19 August 2025	<b>The Head of the State Service advised that the caretaker period had ended.</b>
19 Aug 2025	Financial Close documentation exchanged with MLPL and other jurisdictions.

29 Aug 2025

MLPL achieved Financial Close and issued NTPs for cable and converter station contracts