

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Veterans Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and Renewables

Lead role for Tasmania in advancing the nation's clean energy solution

Today I met with Energy Ministers from around the country to discuss key reforms to progress the nation's clean energy future.

I welcome agreement that Marinus will be one of the projects to be declared transmission of national significance.

Tasmania can be the cleanest, smartest and most innovative State in the nation. What this means is that through the development of more renewable energy, we will deliver jobs for future generations of Tasmanians and ensure the cheapest form of electricity, renewable energy, supports growing investment and new industries here on island, while also supporting our nation's move to cut emissions and tackle climate change.

Energy Ministers agreed that under the new National Energy Transformation Partnership, projects such as Marinus, along with VNI West and Humelink are to be declared transmission projects of national significance, to accelerate the timely delivery of these critical projects and ensure better community consultation.

This comes following our positive and constructive first Joint Ministerial Governance Committee meeting held in Canberra yesterday between myself and the Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen as we continue to progress Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation, including our Tarraleah redevelopment, and the immense opportunities they offer Tasmania.

Marinus Link will deliver a fundamental shift in our national journey to net zero with savings of at least 140 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2050, the equivalent of taking a million cars off the road.

Importantly, the Tasmanian Government has always maintained that Marinus Link will only go ahead if it is in the best interests of Tasmanians. We are working closely and strategically with the Federal Government as we advance this important project and acknowledge the continued and positive support of Minister Bowen for this nationally significant and urgently needed project.

At today's meeting, ministers agreed the vision, principles and key initial priority areas for a new National Energy Transformation Partnership. We welcome the inclusion of the emissions objective in the National Energy Objectives with Tasmania already leading the way having achieved the last seven years with zero net emissions.

All Energy Ministers have agreed that deeper action is needed to drive further stability and address price pressures in the national market and Tasmania stands ready to play its role in delivering new renewable energy projects that will provide affordable, reliable and clean energy.

We have already achieved 100 per cent renewable electricity status and we have a bold plan to reach 200 per cent by 2040 through new opportunities such as the Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and a Bell Bay Green Hydrogen Hub project.

The meeting acknowledged the work happening across the country to accelerate energy transformation, including the Tasmanian Government's Register of Interest (ROI) process to facilitate new opportunities such as green hydrogen and green manufacturing and identify a pipeline of job-creating renewable energy development opportunities across the State.

The ROI process has now been successfully run and the response has been extremely positive, demonstrating the growing interest in Tasmania for this sustainable and future-proofing industry.