



Appendix One – Op ed drafted by Marinus Link for authorship of TCCI

Op ed by Michael Bailey, CEO of Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI).

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The value of Marinus Link can easily be seen by truly understanding what Tasmania needs to prosper. For industry to grow, more energy is needed and Marinus Link enables this.

Currently in Tasmania, energy supply generated by hydro and wind is on par with the amount consumed by homes, businesses and industry.

Tasmania does however have capacity to store more water in dams, but we can't make it rain more. What Marinus Link will do is unlock the potential in Tasmania's substantial hydropower system, to boost its capacity and add pumped hydro storage.

Once further 'interconnection' between Tasmania and the mainland enters the equation, it suddenly starts to add up. The bigger two-way flow of electricity boosts Tasmania's role as producer and exporter of energy, but also tapping into the potential for energy storage. This increased capacity will inspire investment in wind generation and in turn Tasmania becomes more attractive to new industry, including manufacturing.

Imagine hydro storage as a big water battery to support renewables when the sun is not shining and wind is not blowing.

With the ability to store energy for days, our hydro 'battery' ensures an on-demand energy supply, smoothing out the peaks and troughs of variable renewables. Greater energy security, without needing to rely on backup from gas or diesel, will prove extremely attractive to new industry.

Realistically, no major industry will set up in Tasmania hoping that more wind farms will be built - it just doesn't make economic sense. Likewise for wind developers. Tasmania only really becomes a viable option with Marinus Link and access to the National Electricity Market.

The solution is to strengthen Tasmania's connection to the NEM, which will further unlock the development of hydro and open up markets for wind energy, not at the detriment of Tasmania but in fact in support of it.

Marinus Link will deliver 2,800 direct and indirect jobs in Tasmania and Victoria, both during construction and ongoing, and will generate \$7 billion worth of additional economic activity and billions more in investment.

With fibre-connected devices rapidly changing the way that we live, work and play, the fibre optic component of the Marinus Link cables will increase telecommunications competition and drive down internet costs.

And then there's climate change, the big issue that impacts all on this planet, and which we as Tasmanians can help do something about. Marinus Link will cut emissions by unlocking savings of at least 140 million tonnes of CO2 by 2050. That's the equivalent of taking roughly one million cars off the road.



The Tasmanian economy operates in a national and global economy. What's need here is big-picture thinking, a shift in ideology and a dash of courage. Let's be brave enough to say what we have here is valuable, and we can have more.

Tasmania sits on the cusp of becoming a renewable energy powerhouse - a once in a lifetime opportunity to drive down energy costs, support our local economy and build exciting new industries.

And that's something we could all be proud of.

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