



Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link Interconnector

Investing in Tasmania's energy future

The Australian Government is partnering with the Tasmanian Government through targeted investments to help realise the significant potential that Tasmania offers to deliver additional electricity generation and much needed energy storage to the National Electricity Market.

The Prime Minister and Tasmanian Premier have agreed to work together to pursue the Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link to boost Tasmania's energy generation and provide much needed energy storage and dispatchable electricity to the National Electricity Market (NEM). The partnership between Australian and Tasmanian governments will initially commit up to \$86 million to help expedite these projects through to investment stage by 2021–22.

With a large number of existing reservoirs across several hydroelectric schemes and high wind energy resources, Tasmania offers significant potential to deliver additional energy storage and dispatchable generation to the NEM. Battery of the Nation will more than double Tasmania's existing 2200 megawatts of hydro and help unlock large untapped wind energy resources through this new large-scale energy storage capacity. Marinus Link will be key to making this reliable dispatchable energy available to the mainland by the mid-2020s.

Battery of the Nation

Battery of the Nation is a Hydro Tasmania initiative to investigate and develop a pathway of future development opportunities in wind and hydropower for Tasmania to make a greater contribution to the NEM. The project has the potential to deliver up to 2500 megawatts of dispatchable generation which will be needed to support increased intermittent generation from wind and solar generation assets.

The Australian Government has previously provided \$2.5 million, through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), to support Hydro Tasmania identify 14 potential projects with potential generation capacity of 4800 megawatts and 140,000 megawatt hours of energy storage. The Tasmanian Government, through Hydro Tasmania, has committed another \$30 million to take three shortlisted sites in north-western Tasmania, with a combined storage capacity of up to 40 gigawatt hours, through to a final investment decision.

The Australian Government is committing to develop, in consultation with the Tasmanian Government, an underwriting mechanism for the Battery of the Nation through the Government's Underwriting New Generation Investments (UNGI) program. Providing support through the UNGI program to the Battery of the Nation project will help secure new, reliable generation, increase competition and drive down prices. The UNGI program follows the recommendations of the ACCC, and is a key part of the Government's plan to deliver affordable, reliable 24/7 power.

Further information on the UNGI program is at energy.gov.au/government-priorities/energy-supply/underwriting-new-generation-investments-program.

Marinus Link

Marinus Link is the much needed second interconnector providing an additional 1200 megawatts of capacity between Tasmania and the mainland designed to take advantage of Tasmania's extensive renewable energy resources. The Australian Government has already committed \$10 million through ARENA for the feasibility assessment for Marinus Link. The Australian Government will commit an additional \$56 million, through the partnership with the Tasmanian Government, to help take Marinus Link from feasibility to a final investment decision in 2021–22.

Marinus Link would allow over 400 megawatts of existing dispatchable generation to be transmitted to Victoria, which, due to limited BassLink capacity, is currently unavailable. This is enough to power up to 400,000 homes and help manage the impact of variable wind and solar, unplanned outages and extreme weather as experienced in Victoria this summer. It will also provide capacity to expand Tasmania's pumped hydro capacity through Battery of the Nation and unlock additional renewable energy investment across Tasmania.

Together, Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link are expected to create up to 3800 direct and indirect jobs during construction and deliver up to \$7 billion of economic stimulus to north-western Tasmania and regional Victoria. Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link will help keep the lights on and vital industries running, and deliver reliable and affordable energy when and where it is needed.



Photo: Hydro Tasmania and ARENA

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2019.



This fact sheet is licensed by Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Government or the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Energy.