

26 June 2025

Land Planning and Approvals Director
AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd
Level 31, 2 Southbank Boulevard
Southbank VIC 3006

**Subject: Assessment of updated construction program for Western Renewables Link –
Technical Report K: Bushfire Impact Assessment**

Dear Director,

I refer to your Brief dated 23 June 2025 regarding the proposed change to the construction program. I am the author of Technical Report K: Bushfire Impact Assessment of the Western Renewables Link Environment Effects Statement (WRL EES). I note the background information in the Brief and the questions posed in the Brief, being:

1. Would a change in program and associated activities described in section 2 of this document materially change the outcome of the technical assessment published with the EES and result in:
 - a. Any changes to the impacts identified?
 - b. Any new impacts not considered in the assessment?
 - c. Changes to the conclusions set out in the assessment?
 - d. Changes to the cumulative impact assessment?
2. Would a change in program and associated activities require:
 - a. Any additional mitigation measures or Environmental Performance Requirements?
 - b. A change to any mitigation measures discussed or Environmental Performance Requirements recommended in the technical assessment?

With regard to question 1, I can confirm that the construction stage potential impacts of the Project that are described in Section 7 of the technical report would extend over an additional fire season. I do not consider that any new types of potential impact would be triggered by this change to the construction program or that the conclusions set out in the assessment would need to be modified.

With regard to question 2, I can confirm that no new or additional mitigation measures, Environmental Performance Requirements or Incorporated Document conditions would be required with the proposed change to the construction program. The construction stage mitigations described in the technical report would remain appropriate and apply over the extended construction period.

With regard to cumulative impacts, I note that Melbourne Airport Rail has been identified as an additional relevant future project as a result of the change to the construction program. I can confirm that changes to the construction program would not alter the potential cumulative bushfire impacts considered in the technical report. Neither the nature of potential impacts or the relevant future projects with which there is potential for cumulative impact would be affected by the proposed extension to the construction period.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Clifton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Craig Clifton
Bushfire Specialist