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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 E: Land Use and Planning 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 E: Land Use and Planning 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 (EPRs)?
  - b. A change to any mitigation measures discussed or EPRs recommended in the technical assessment?

With regard to question 1, I can confirm that the proposed changes to the construction program and associated activities would not materially change the outcome of the Land Use and Planning Impact Assessment published with the EES.

With regard to cumulative impacts, I note that with the change to the construction program, the Project has identified Melbourne Airport Rail as an additional relevant future project for assessment of cumulative impacts. I can confirm that this additional project would not materially alter the cumulative impact assessment. In addition, it is noted, that there is an increased likelihood that the construction of Western Renewables Link may overlap with the construction of the OMR/E6, the Merrimu (residential) Precinct and the Eastern Link Road (should the road project receive funding).

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With regard to question 2, I can confirm that the existing mitigation measures and EPRs are suitable and do not need to be amended.

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

Yours sincerely

Ben Mahon Land Use Planning Specialist