

Latest News about the Murraylink Underground Interconnector

The 176km underground Murraylink interconnector cable was laid in less than 10 months. The testing and commissioning process is now underway.

This success is due to strong support and goodwill from local communities and Murraylink's commitment to make good on its promises. Laying the cable, building complex converter stations at each end, and creating links to existing grids are seamlessly implemented.

Murraylink Transmission Company is the private developer of this 220 Megawatt underground interconnector between the South Australian Riverland and Victorian Sunraysia regions.



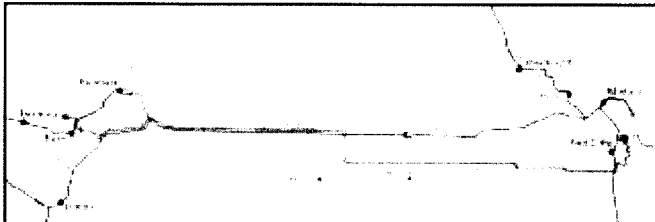
Murraylink underground cable rollout

This is a project developed by a foreign-owned company that is showing a great regard for Australia's natural environment. Murraylink has set a new benchmark to be followed by all developers, both Government and private for future infrastructure projects.

Murraylink has proven beyond doubt that there are alternatives available on the market to 'traditional' overhead transmission line development.

Overhead cabling can't keep up!

The Murraylink Project has set an Australian record by installing a major power interconnector within just 39 months - from conceiving, designing, licencing, permitting, and building through to commissioning stage.



Cable laying now complete!

A final connection at the Berri Converter Station marked the successful completion of cable laying on 4 June, 2002.

A total of 176km of cable is now fully underground between Red Cliffs in Victoria and Berri in South Australia. This represents 4,000 tonnes of cable hidden underground since laying of the DC power cables began in Victoria, in August 2001.

Now the world's longest underground transmission line, Murraylink sources power generated in Victoria, the Snowy Region and NSW for transfer to SA. It can also source power generated in SA for transmission to Eastern states.



Project Director Mike Farr with cables as they enter the Berri Converter station after 176 km underground

Power is expected to be flowing commercially from August when it will be gradually introduced to the system.

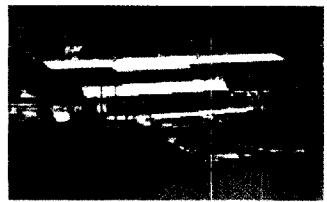
Underground cable was chosen instead of overhead transmission lines to reduce visual and environmental impact.

The project features two underground High-Voltage Direct-Current cables buried side-by-side and just over one metre below the ground.

The cables travel underground for the total distance and were drilled under the Murray River, all road or rail crossings and also a number of significant Aboriginal heritage sites.

The underground cables link two new high technology AC/DC Converter Stations. One is near Berri in South Australia and the other is in Red Cliffs in Victoria.

The secret to the rapid assembly program is the modular format of the "HV/DC Light" equipment. Much of it could be pre-assembled and tested. The sole developer and provider of this equipment is ABB from Sweden.



Red Cliffs Converter Station

MURRAYLINK- Daring to be different!

Apart from converter stations at either end of the link there is nothing to show for Murraylink.

Power flow is fully controllable and the transmission line unaffected by traditional causes of power outages such as lightning, wild life or bush fire. Improvements were also made to existing electricity networks in both States to enhance local transmission reliability.

A complete substation was built near the Berri Converter for ElectraNet SA to increase transmission reliability in the local area.

This project is funded entirely by private investment. And early in its planning, Murraylink proved to regulators and the community that its unique features would minimise environmental, aesthetic and land impacts. Community support for the project was greatly enhanced by the decision to use under-



Aerial of Berri converter station & Monash sub station



The old and the new - Murraylink underground cable rollout (foreground), with older style overhead cable lines behind

ground cables. No new right-of-ways, easements or resumptions involving private property were needed. Public land was used wherever possible.

Environmental concern a priority

Rigorous environmental monitoring of the project has been carried out throughout construction.

Confirming its quality of community consultation and commitment to the environment, Murraylink received national recognition from LandCare Australia for its revegetation along the cable route.

Murraylink has also donated a direct tree seeding machine that will be owned by LandCare to help future projects in Victoria.

Regional LandCare Co-ordinator, Matt Crawley said, "Murraylink has sought and is using the skills of the local

LandCare group and the skills they contain. It provides a great example of this type of relationship, this type of partnership. It's a great model!"

Murraylink also received an "Environmental Planning and Conservation" award from the Royal Australian Planning Institute in SA acknowledging its environmental approach.

Murraylink has created a major milestone in modern electricity transmission. And in the process set a high standard for professional consultations with Government, with Legislators and Agencies, and with the community in two States.



The LandCare wagon

