



Jim's Plain & Robbins Island Renewable Energy Parks

Project Update

April 2019

Welcome to our latest project update. Since you heard from us last, we've had a busy few months continuing with site investigations and survey work. You can read about these in the features below.

As you may have seen recently in the media, the Federal Government has announced it will commit a further \$56 million to the \$20 million already provided to advancing a second interconnector across Bass Strait. This announcement gives us further confidence to proceed with the full development of our Robbins Island and Jim's Plain Renewable Energy Parks.

We look forward to working with TasNetworks to progress the second interconnector and unlock the next generation of renewable energy projects in Tasmania.

David Pollington, Chief Operations Officer - UPC Renewables

Jim's Plain – addition of solar photo-voltaic

- As outlined in The Advocate recently, we have added solar PV as part of our Jim's Plain development. We have been working with the landowners to identify a suitable location for a small-scale solar PV installation to complement the proposed wind generation at this site. Inclusion of the solar PV is still subject to the economics stacking up.
- The addition of solar PV will make use of the proposed wind turbine infrastructure, including the substation and access roads which helps improve the economics of a solar PV installation. We are also considering installing a battery to complement the wind and solar generation.
- The area proposed for the solar PV installation is of poor quality pasture, and will not require any clearance of native vegetation.
- This addition also complements north west Tasmania's future potential as a renewable energy zone. The combination of wind, solar and battery technologies, as well as the resource monitoring on site, will provide really useful information for UPC for future developments. Data from the site's operation could be shared with schools and the University of Tasmania to assist with learning about renewables and how to optimise renewable energy generation in the National Electricity Market.

What has been happening at the project sites...

- We have been undertaking geotechnical investigations on Robbins Island to help us better understand the underlying soils and geology for suitability for construction of wind turbines, roads and other infrastructure. The investigations include cone penetrometer testing, borehole drilling, geophysical surveys and test pitting. The borehole program will also help us to determine the suitability of rock for quarrying to produce gravel for roads and hardstands, and for use in concrete foundations for the turbines.



Cone penetrometer testing on Big Beach

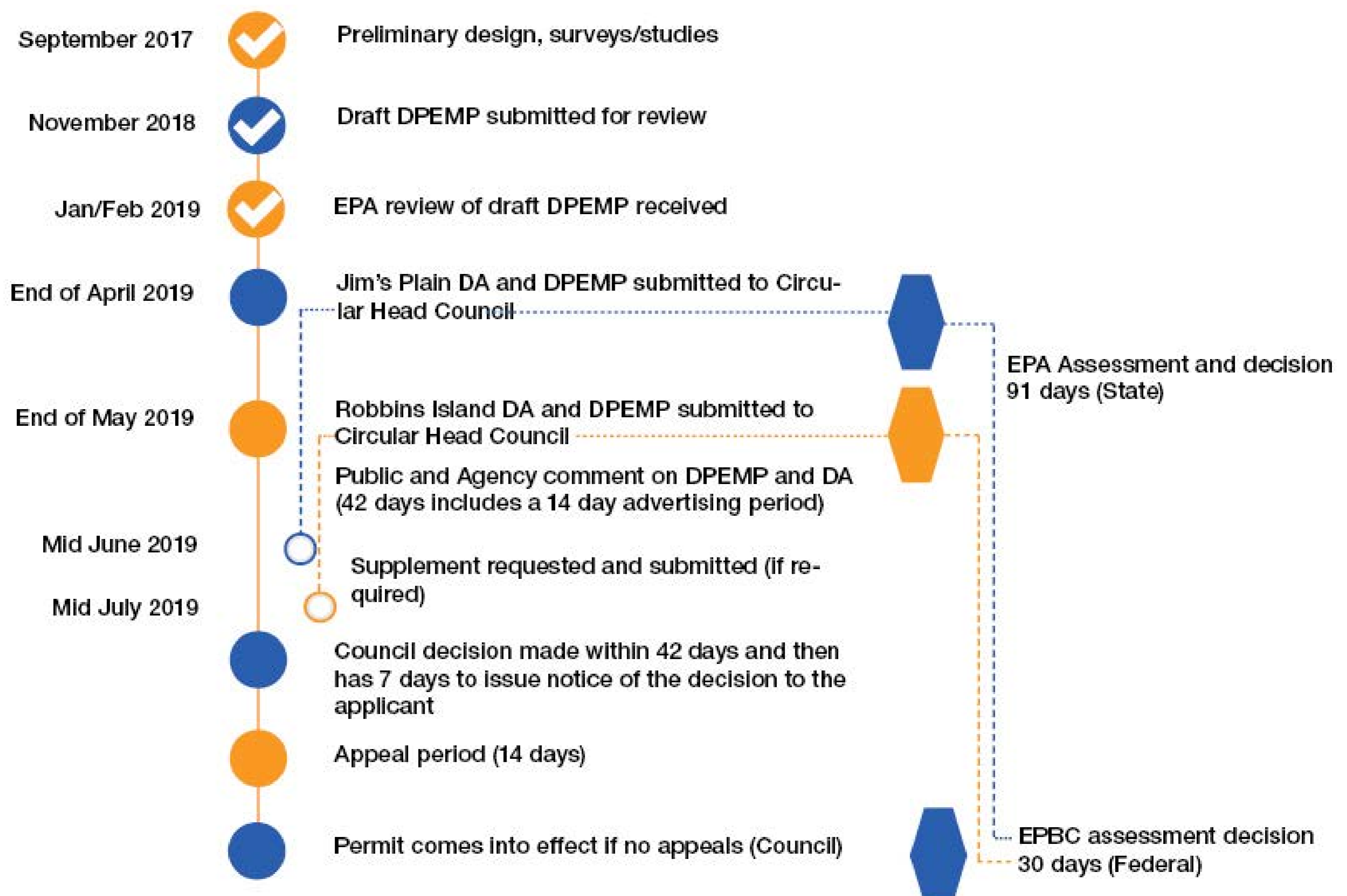


- We have also been continuing with our eagle surveys, which will continue during the development assessment period to improve our knowledge of the site.
- Both White-bellied sea eagle and the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed eagle have been seen on Robbins Island, with nests of both species on the island. The development will protect nests by implementing 1 km exclusion zones around each nest.
- We are also investigating the potential use of optical sensing technology which can detect eagles and if a collision risk is identified a specific turbine can be temporarily shut-down. This technology has been trialled in the United States for other eagle species and will be trialled at the Cattle Hill Wind Farm that is currently being constructed in central Tasmania.



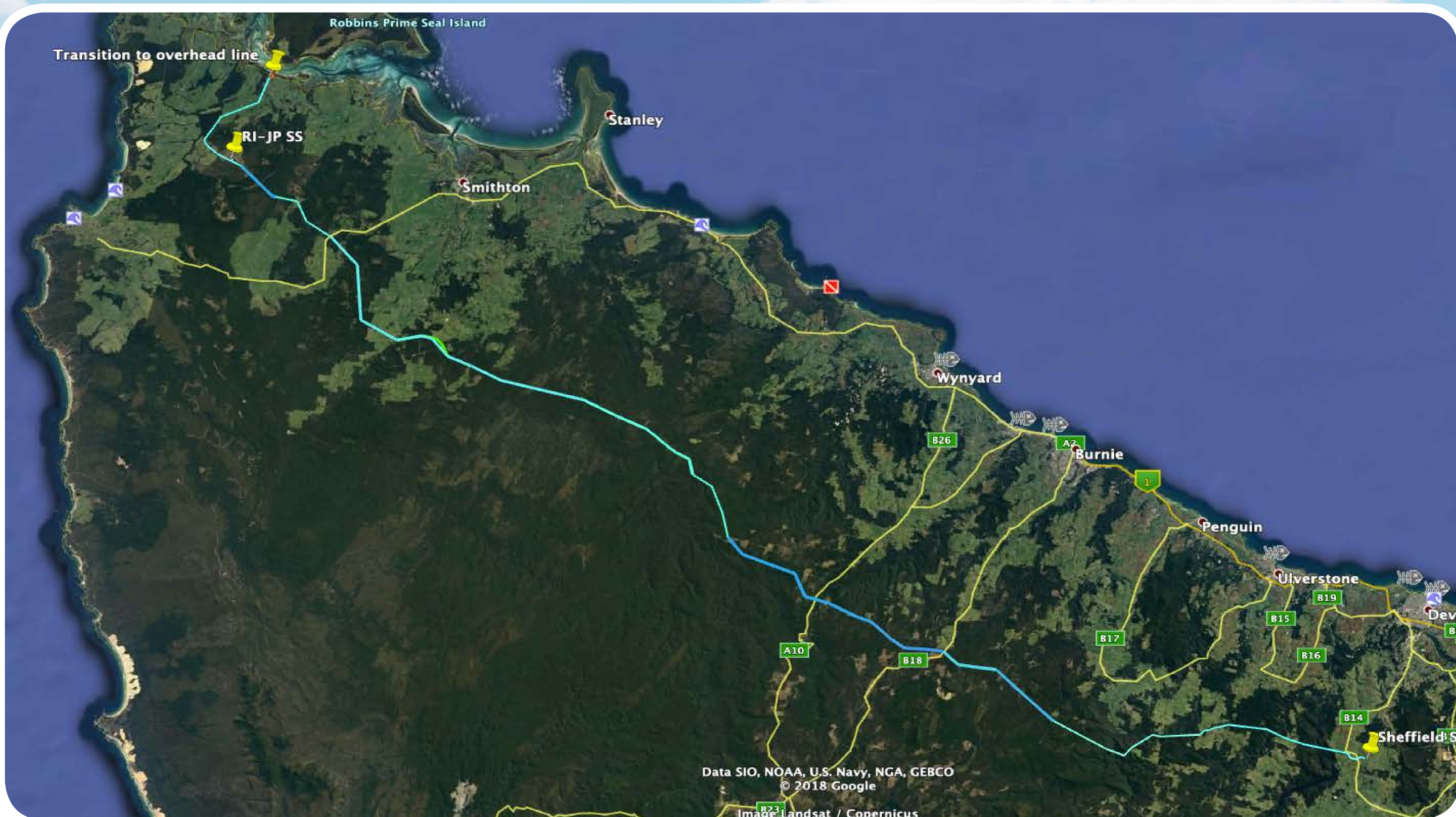
Project approvals process

- In November last year we submitted our draft Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP) to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania for both the Jim's Plain and Robbins Island projects. We received comments from the EPA in January and February. We are updating our documentation in light of these comments in preparation for submission of our Development Applications (DA) and final DPEMPs to the Circular Head Council.
- The Jim's Plain DA and DPEMP will be submitted at the end of April 2019 and the Robbins Island DA and DPEMP at the end of May 2019. The diagram below shows the approvals process that is required for the projects.



Transmission Line

- A new transmission line between the Jim's Plain and Robbins Island projects is required to deliver the electricity generated by these projects into the National Electricity Market. A number of potential connection options have been considered and the Sheffield substation at Nook is the closest location capable of handling the size of connection required for the projects. Sheffield also fits well with the future second interconnector (Project Marinus) and Battery of the Nation plans.
- We have been out talking with landowners to identify a suitable route; we have also been meeting with the five councils whose jurisdiction the transmission line crosses.
- There are several key considerations in selecting the route, including:
 - Avoiding areas of high environmental and heritage significance
 - Minimising the impact on private landowners
 - Working closely with landowners to identify the best route through their land to limit the impact on current and future business practices and plans
- The approvals process for the transmission line will involve DA approval from the five councils; five separate DAs will be submitted towards the end of 2019. The DAs will consider a number of issues including land tenure, environmental, heritage, and visual impacts.



Planned and future community engagement

- We are working with the Circular Head and north-west Tasmania communities and stakeholders. We will continue to hold regular Community Drop-in Sessions and Community Information Sessions throughout the year and a reminder that our next Community Drop-in Session is:
- If you are unable to come to the session, please speak with one of our team:

When: 4pm - 7pm on Thursday 4 April 2019

Where: Circular Head Council Offices

33 Goldie Street, Smithton TAS 7330

 Jim's Plain and Robbins Island
Renewable Energy Park

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 **UPC**
Renewables™