



Electricity transmission licence

Basslink Pty Ltd (ACN 090 996 231)

As varied on 25 September 2024 (with effect from 3 October 2024)



Electricity Transmission Licence

This Licence is issued pursuant to section 19 of the *Electricity Industry Act 2000*.

Date

This Licence was last varied on 25 September 2024 with effect from 3 October 2024.

Licensee

This Licence is issued to:

Basslink Pty Ltd, ACN 090 996 231 (the Licensee)
Level 3, 410 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

**THE COMMON SEAL of the
ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**
was affixed pursuant to the authority
of the Commission on 30 September 2024

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard Brody".

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Gerard Brody

CHAIRPERSON

Part A – Interpretation

1 Definitions

1.1 Unless the contrary intention appears, a term has the meaning shown opposite it:

Act	the <i>Electricity Industry Act 2000</i> .
Business Day	a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in Victoria.
Change of Control	occurs in relation to the Licensee if: (a) an Entity that Controls the Licensee ceases to Control the Licensee; or (b) an Entity that does not Control the Licensee starts to Control the Licensee provided that no Change of Control will be deemed to have occurred where the Ultimate Holding Company that Controls the Licensee remains the same or the Change of Control results from the acquisition or cancellation of, or dealing in, securities which are traded on a recognised financial market.
Code of Practice	the same meaning given to it in section 3 of the ESC Act.
Commission	the Essential Services Commission established under the ESC Act.
Control	the same meaning given to it in section 50AA of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).
Energy ombudsman	the Energy and Water Ombudsman (Victoria) Limited.
Entity	the same meaning given to it in section 64A of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).
ESC Act	the <i>Essential Services Commission Act 2001</i> .
Land Access Code of Practice	the Land Access Code of Practice made under section 47(1) of the ESC Act, as amended from time to time.
Entity	the same meaning given to it in section 64A of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).
ESC Act	the <i>Essential Services Commission Act 2001</i> .
Licensed Activities	activities undertaken by the Licensee or a Third Party in connection with the activity authorised pursuant to clause 3 of the Licence, including any activities undertaken under the Act.

Licensee	Basslink Pty Ltd, (ACN 090 996 231)
Minister	the person who is, from time to time, the Minister administering the Act.
Review	a systemic and independent process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which particular criteria are fulfilled, this includes, but is not limited to, a regulatory audit undertaken in accordance with relevant guidelines issued by the Commission.
Third Party	a contractor, subcontractor, agent or other third party engaged, directly or indirectly, by the Licensee.
Transmission Assets	the transmission assets as described in Schedule 1.
Transmit	includes the conveyance of electricity to: (a) support the operation of the Transmission Assets; and (b) entities directly connected to the Transmission Assets.
Ultimate Holding Company	the same meaning given to it in section 9 of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).

1.2 In this Licence, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) headings and footnotes are each for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Licence;
- (b) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (c) words importing a gender include any gender;
- (d) an expression importing a natural person includes any company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, corporation or other body corporate and any governmental agency;
- (e) a reference to a condition, clause, Part, or Schedule is a reference to a condition, clause, or Part of, or Schedule to, this Licence (as the case may be);
- (f) a Schedule is part of this Licence;
- (g) a reference to any statute including the Act and regulation, proclamation, Order in Council, ministerial order, ordinance, code, guideline, procedure or by-law includes all statutes, regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ministerial orders, ordinances, codes, guidelines, procedures or by-laws varying, consolidating, re-enacting, extending or replacing them and a reference to a statute includes all regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ministerial orders, ordinances, by-laws and determinations issued under that statute;
- (h) a reference to a document or a provision of a document includes an amendment or supplement to, or replacement or novation of, that document or that provision of that document;

- (i) a reference to a person includes that person's executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including, without limitation, persons taking by novation) and permitted assigns;
- (j) other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this Licence have a corresponding meaning;
- (k) a period of time:
 - (i) which dates from a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated exclusive of that day; or
 - (ii) which commences on a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated inclusive of that day;
- (l) an event which is required under this Licence to occur on or by a stipulated day which is not a Business Day may occur on or by the next Business Day.

2 Notices

2.1 A notice under this Licence is only effective if it is in writing, given in accordance with clause 2.2, and dealt with as follows:

- (a) if given by the Licensee to the Commission – addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission at either the physical or email address specified below (or as otherwise notified to the Licensee by the Commission):

Essential Services Commission
Level 8, 570 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
licences@esc.vic.gov.au

- (b) if given by the Commission to the Licensee – addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Licensee (or such equivalent position) at either the physical or email address specified below (or as notified to the Commission by the Licensee in accordance with clause 2.5)

Level 14, 60 City Road,
Southbank VIC 3006
apaoperationsrca@apa.com.au

2.2 A notice is to be:

- (a) signed by or on behalf of the person giving the notice and delivered by hand; or
- (b) signed by or on behalf of the person giving the notice and sent by pre-paid post; or
- (c) transmitted electronically by or on behalf of the person giving the notice by electronic mail.

2.3 A notice is deemed to be received:

- (a) if delivered by hand – upon delivery to the relevant address;

- (b) if sent by post – upon the confirmation of delivery of the notice by the relevant delivery service, or in accordance with section 160(1) of the *Evidence Act 2008*, whichever is earlier;
 - (c) if transmitted electronically – in accordance with the *Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000*.
- 2.4 A notice received after 5.00pm, or on a day that is not a Business Day, is deemed to be effected on the next Business Day.
- 2.5 The Licensee must:
- (a) notify the Commission of any change to the Licensee’s physical or email address for the service of notices pursuant to clause 2.1; and
 - (b) specify in such notice the new physical or email address and the effective date of the change,
- as soon as practicable and no less than five Business Days prior to the effective date specified in the notice.

Part B – Licence

3 Grant of the Licence

- 3.1 Subject to clauses 3.2 and 3.3, in exercise of its powers under section 19 of the Act, the Commission grants the Licensee a licence to Transmit electricity via the Transmission Assets on the terms and conditions set out in this Licence.
- 3.2 This Licence only permits the Licensee to Transmit electricity via the Transmission Assets.
- 3.3 The Licensee was first granted a licence to Transmit electricity on 12 June 2001 and the licence has been varied on the dates set out in Schedule 2.

4 Variation

- 4.1 The Commission may vary this Licence in accordance with section 29 of the Act.

5 Transfer

- 5.1 This Licence may be transferred in accordance with section 31 of the Act.

6 Revocation

- 6.1 The Commission may revoke this Licence in accordance with section 29 of the Act.

Procedures

- 6.2 For the purposes of section 29(3) of the Act, the Commission may revoke this Licence in accordance with the procedures of this clause 6.

- 6.3 If the Licensee notifies the Commission that it requests, or consents to, revocation of this Licence:
- (a) clauses 6.4 to 6.6 do not apply; and
 - (b) the Commission may at any time revoke this Licence by issuing a notice to the Licensee that specifies the date upon which the revocation takes effect.
- 6.4 Where the Commission proposes to revoke this Licence, the Commission will issue a notice to the Licensee, specifying:
- (a) the basis upon which the Commission proposes to revoke the Licence;
 - (b) the date upon which the revocation is proposed to take effect, such date to be no less than 20 Business Days after the date of the notice; and
 - (c) that the Licensee has the opportunity to make submissions on the matter and the time and date by which, and manner in which, those submissions must be made.
- 6.5 Prior to making a decision to revoke the Licence, the Commission must consider any submissions made by the Licensee in accordance with a notice issued under clause 6.4.
- 6.6 Where the Commission decides to revoke this Licence, the Commission will issue a notice to the Licensee specifying:
- (a) the basis upon which the Commission is revoking the Licence; and
 - (b) the date upon which the revocation takes effect, being no earlier than the date specified in the notice issued under clause 6.4.
- 6.7 If the Commission issues a notice under clause 6.3(b) or 6.6, this Licence will be revoked on the date specified in that notice.

Part C – Licence Conditions

7 Status of requirements in this Part

- 7.1 A failure by the Licensee to meet any of the requirements set out in this Part C is a breach of a civil penalty requirement for the purpose of the ESC Act.

8 Payment of fees

- 8.1 The Licensee must pay a licence fee as determined by the Minister in accordance with the provisions of section 22 of the Act.

9 Change of control

- 9.1 The Licensee must give the Commission written notice if any event occurs, any decision by the Licensee is made, or any other circumstance exists that will result in:

- (a) a Change of Control of the Licensee; or
- (b) the Licensee being under external administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

9.2 The notice required under clause 9.1 must:

- (a) set out particulars of the relevant event, decision or circumstance; and
- (b) be given to the Commission as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case not later than three Business Days after the Licensee becomes aware of the event or circumstances or makes the decision.

10 Compliance with regulatory instruments

10.1 The Licensee must have in place a system for monitoring its compliance with this Licence, any applicable Code of Practice and the Act.

10.2 The Licensee must give the Commission notice of any actual or potential non-compliance with this Licence or the Act, that the Licensee believes has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur.

10.3 The notice required under clause 10.2 must:

- (a) set out particulars of the actual or potential non-compliance; and
- (b) be given to the Commission as soon as reasonably practicable, and within three Business Days of the Licensee having reasonable grounds to believe the actual or potential non-compliance has occurred.

11 Ongoing technical capacity

11.1 The Licensee must at all times maintain such technical capacity as is reasonably required to:

- (a) meet its obligations under this Licence, any applicable Code of Practice and the Act; and
- (b) undertake the Licensed Activities.

12 Provision of information

12.1 Except where expressly provided to the contrary in a Code of Practice, the Licensee must maintain comprehensive records regarding any Licensed Activities for a period of at least seven years.

12.2 The Licensee must provide to the Commission, in the manner and form decided by the Commission, such information as the Commission may from time to time require for the purposes of performing its functions or exercising its powers.

13 Review

13.1 Subject to clause 13.2, the Licensee must, upon direction by the Commission, appoint an independent reviewer to conduct a Review of any of the following:

- (a) the Licensee's compliance with its obligations under its Licence, a Code of Practice or the Act;
- (b) the reliability and quality of information reported by the Licensee to the Commission and the consistency of that information with the Commission's specifications; and
- (c) any other matter as directed by the Commission.

13.2 The Licensee must obtain the Commission's prior approval of:

- (a) the appointment of an independent reviewer; and
- (b) the scope, timing and methodology of a Review that the Licensee must conduct under clause 13.1.

13.3 The Licensee must ensure that the Commission is promptly provided with a copy of any reports produced by an independent reviewer for a Review that the Licensee must conduct under clause 13.1.

13.4 The Licensee must require any independent reviewer it appoints to comply with any guidelines issued by the Commission dealing with Reviews.

14 Insurance

14.1 The Licensee must maintain general public liability insurance for its Licenced Activities.

14.2 The level of insurance, under clause 14.1, is that of an efficient and prudent Licensee.

15 Dispute Resolution

15.1 Subject to clause 15.2:

- (a) if the Licensee accesses private land under section 93 of the Act for the purpose of operating or maintaining the Transmission Assets, it must be a member of the energy ombudsman's dispute resolution scheme;
- (b) the role of the energy ombudsman is to resolve disputes between the Licensee and affected parties in relation to the access referenced in clause 15.1(a); and
- (c) for the purposes of clause 15.1(a), the terms 'private land' and 'affected parties' have the respective meanings given to them in clause 2.1.1 of the Land Access Code of Practice.

15.2 Clause 15.1 does not apply if the Licensee is required to enter into a dispute resolution scheme under a Code of Practice.

Note: The conditions identified in Part C of this Licence are not an exhaustive list of a Licensee's obligations. A licensee is required to comply with additional obligations as set out in the Act and instruments made under that Act. In addition, obligations are placed on the Licensee in Codes of Practice.

Schedule 1: Transmission Assets

Description
The Basslink electricity transmission interconnector in Victoria, connecting with the 500kV Victorian transmission network at Loy Yang Substation

Schedule 2: Variations to this licence

Date	Variation
12 June 2001	This Licence first has effect.
25 September 2024	Updates to reflect the revocation of the Electricity System Code and accompanying general review of licences in 2024. Update to description of transmission asset.