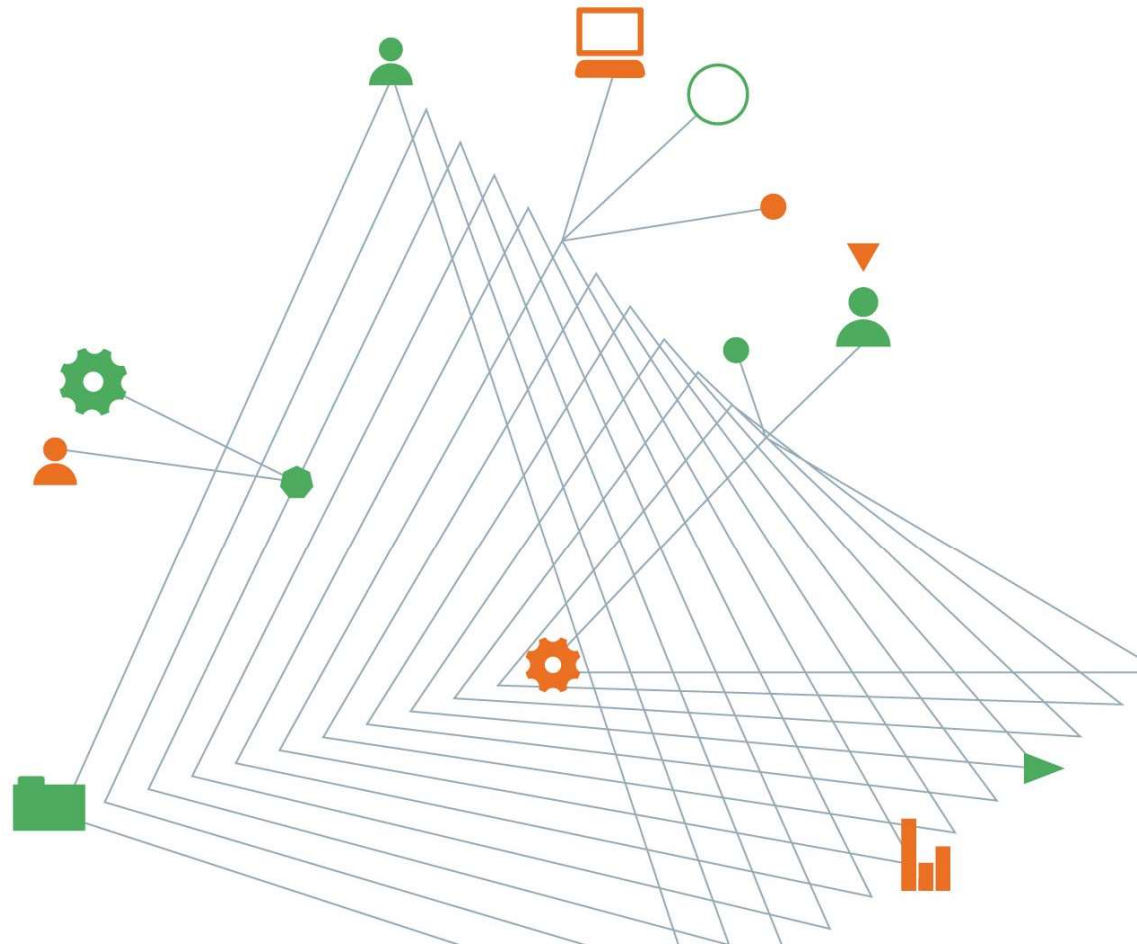


Experience  
comes to life  
when it is  
powered by  
expertise

**Beyond bilateral agreements in  
Australian impact assessment**

**Erin Pears**  
Practice Leader Environmental and  
Social Impact Assessment

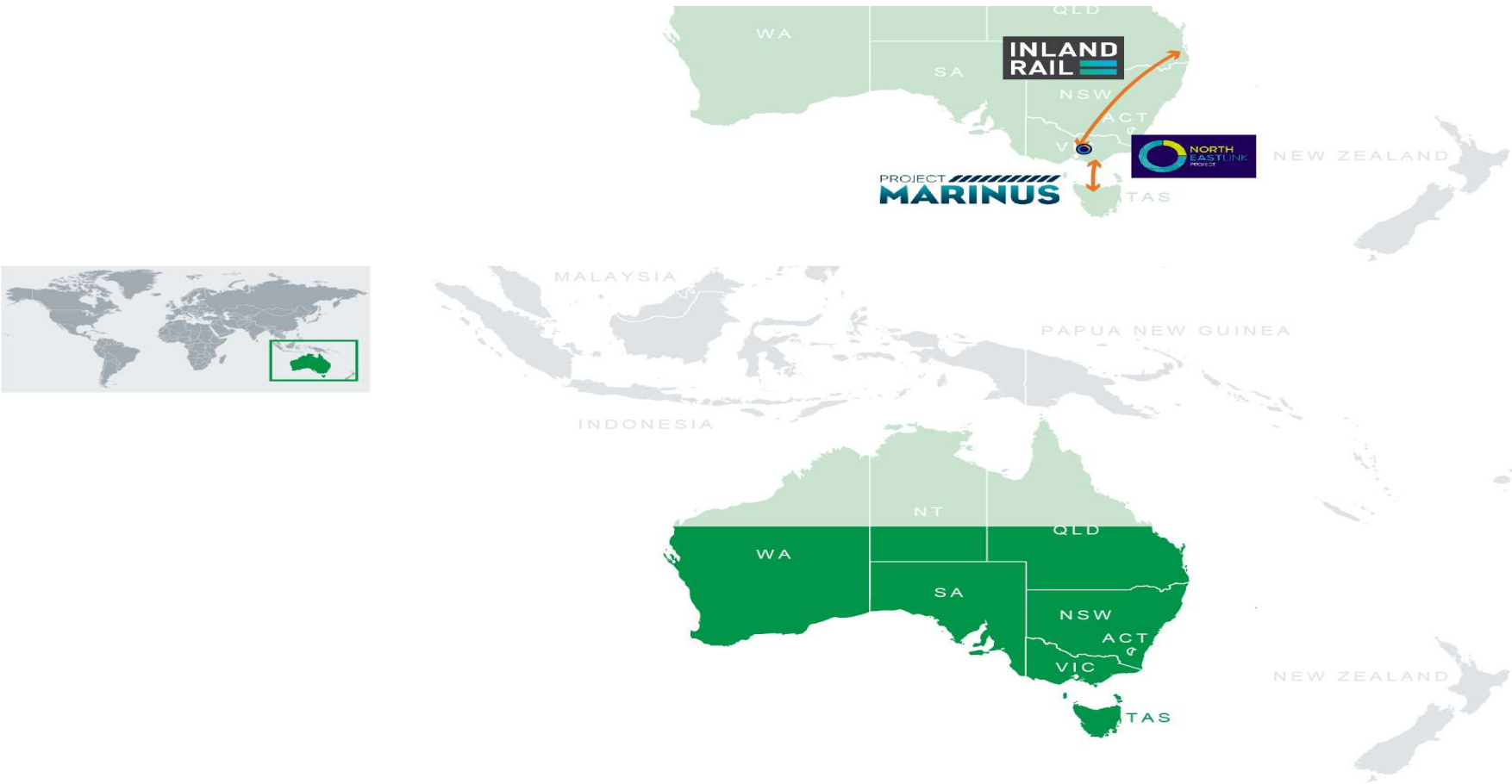


## Beyond bilateral agreements in Australian impact assessment

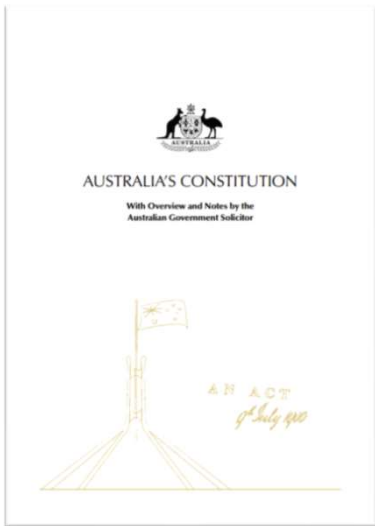
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1. Current approach to cross jurisdictional assessment (bilateral agreements)
2. Why is there a problem?
3. What is the solution?

# Cross jurisdictional assessments in Australia



## Commonwealth government



## State and territory governments

### Limited powers related to environment:

- International treaties
- Commonwealth land and water
- **Nine Matters of National Environmental Significance**

### All other environmental matters



# Bilateral agreements

Commonwealth  
government assessment



State or territory  
government assessment



## Bilateral agreements

- Single assessment process
- Streamlined assessment
- Removes duplication

# What happens when bilateral agreements don't apply?



### Inland Rail Project

- 1,700 km freight rail project
- Four jurisdictions
  - Victoria
  - New South Wales
  - Queensland
  - Commonwealth
- Bilateral agreements do not apply
- **Divided** assessment



### North East Link

- 6 km road tunnel
- Two jurisdictions:
  - Victoria
  - Commonwealth (small area of Defence land)
- Bilateral agreement does not apply
- **Duplicated** assessment



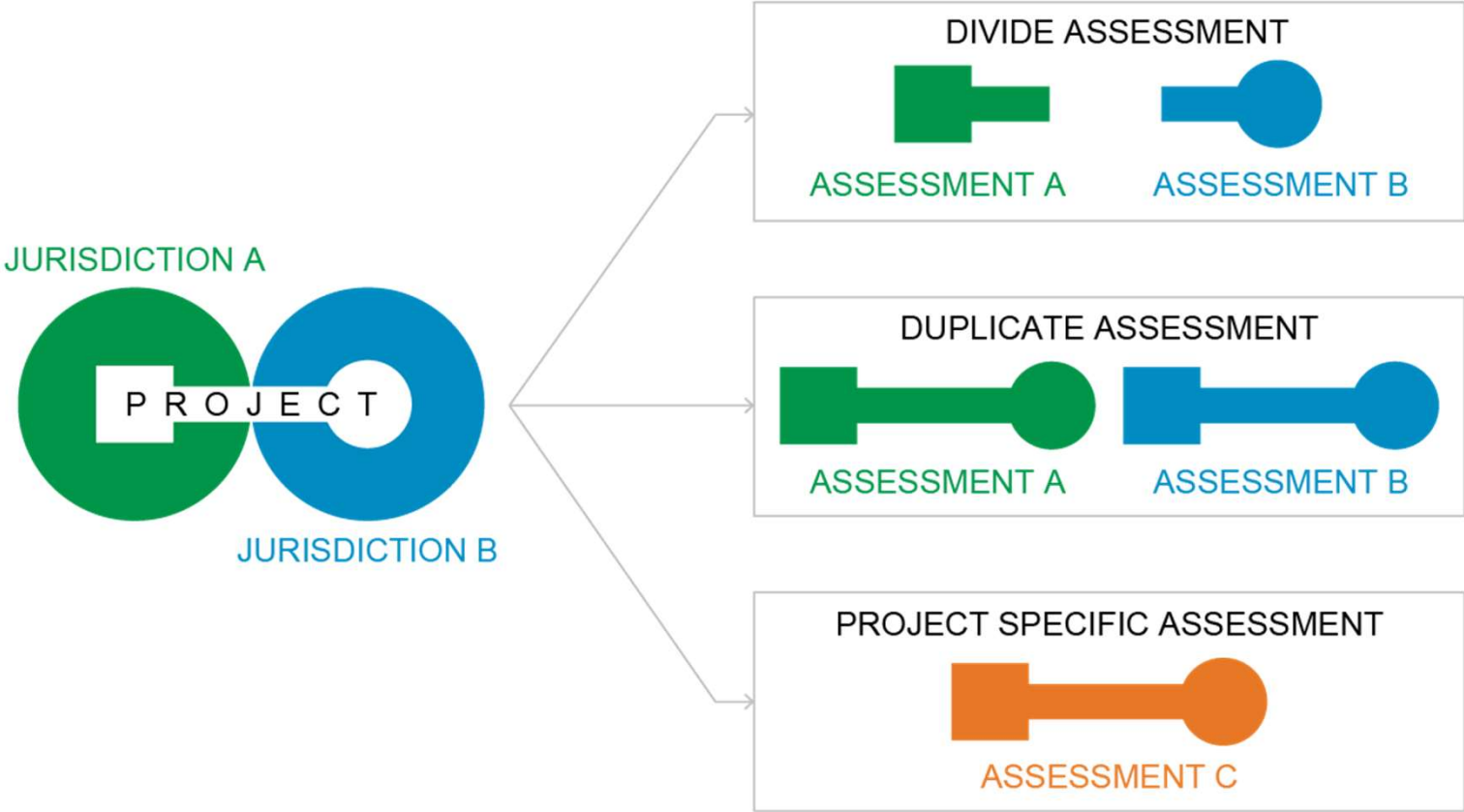
### Basslink

- MOU between Victorian, Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments.
- **Project specific** assessment

### Project Marinus

- Subsea power interconnector
- Three jurisdictions
  - Tasmania
  - Victoria
  - Commonwealth
- Bilateral agreement does not apply
- Assessment approach yet to be determined





# Why is this problem?

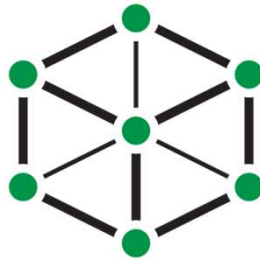


Cross jurisdictional assessment approach	Full assessment of all relevant impacts	Streamlined approach removing duplication	Clear communication with affected stakeholders
Divide projects	✗	✗	✓
Duplicate assessment	✓	✗	✓
Project specific approach	?	?	?

## What's the solution?



National standards  
for  
cross jurisdictional  
assessment



Framework  
for  
cross jurisdictional  
assessment



Revolution

Thank you

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