

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT GUIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Star of the South's environmental assessments are available for public review and comment between **18 May and 29 June 2026**.

We've prepared a draft Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Star of the South project, and a Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the project's works in Victoria.

The draft EIS provides information about:

- The project and why it's proposed
- How it will be constructed, operated and decommissioned
- The environmental studies we've completed
- Potential impacts and how we propose to address them.

The EES assesses works in Victoria to construct, operate and decommission underground cables.

Their purpose is to help communities and government understand the project in detail before approval decisions are made.

WHAT'S BEEN ASSESSED?

Technical specialists have studied and assessed 26 topics:

Heritage

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Submerged Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Non-Aboriginal underwater cultural heritage
- Historic heritage

Marine environment

- Coastal processes and sediment transport
- Benthic ecology
- Fish and invertebrates
- Marine mammals and turtles
- Offshore ornithology and bats
- Marine protected areas

Onshore environment

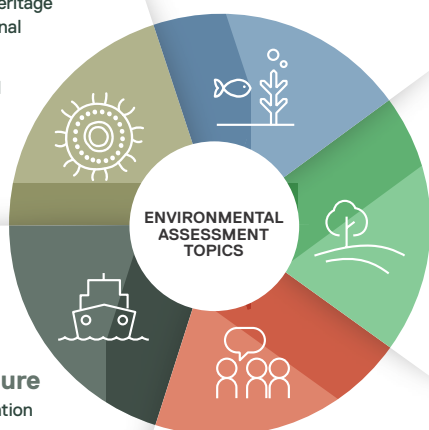
- Electromagnetic interference
- Onshore ecology
- Groundwater
- Surface water
- Soil and waste
- Onshore noise and vibration
- Air quality

Transport and infrastructure

- Shipping and navigation
- Infrastructure and coexistence with other users
- Traffic and transport

Social, economic and visual

- Social
- Business and tourism
- Commercial and recreational fisheries
- Agriculture
- Land use and planning
- Seascape, landscape and visual



WHERE TO FIND THE DOCUMENTS

The draft EIS and EES documents are available at starofthesouth.com.au

Hard copies of all documents can be viewed at:

- Foster Library
- Lakes Entrance Library
- Sale Library
- Seaspray General Store
- Yarram Library
- State Library Victoria
- Drop-in community sessions across Gippsland, where we'll be available to answer questions.

EIS and EES summary reports are also available at:

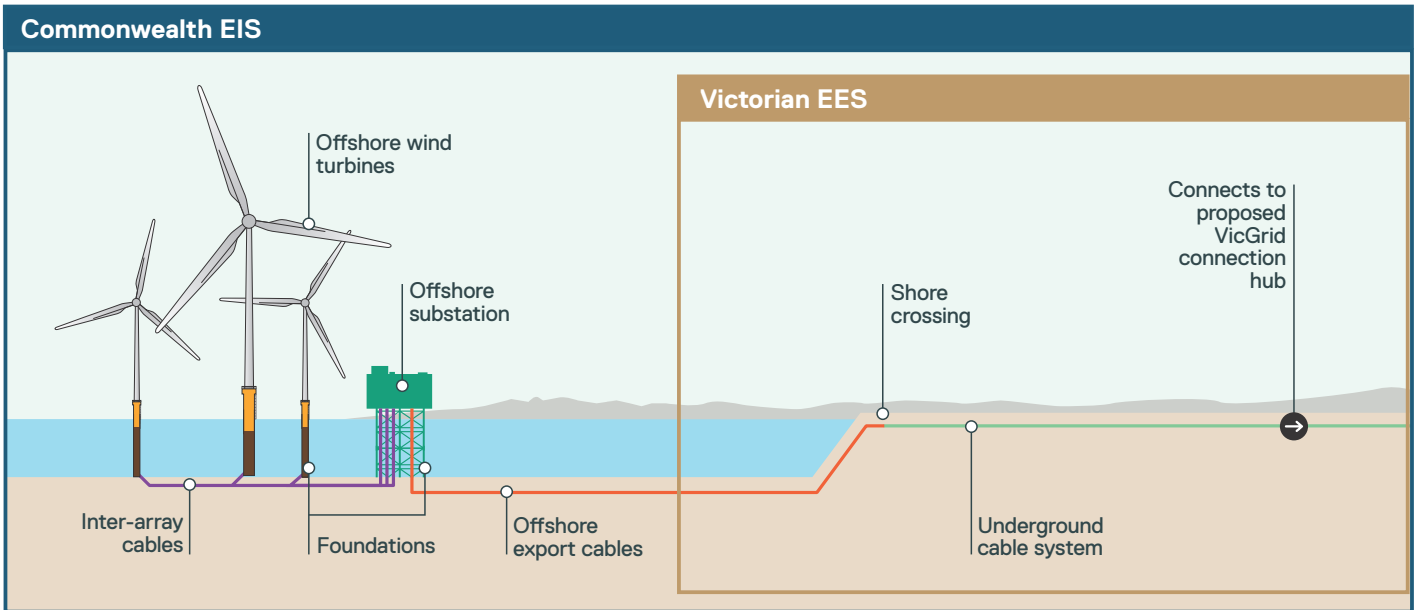
- Bairnsdale Library
- Leongatha Library
- Port Albert Maritime Museum
- Traralgon Library.

If you're unable to access the documents online or in person, please contact us to arrange alternative access.



ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Star of the South spans Commonwealth and Victorian jurisdictions and is being assessed through two separate processes.



Commonwealth EIS

- ✓ Examines the entire project
- ✓ Commonwealth process
- ✓ Results in an EPBC approval decision

About the EIS

Star of the South's draft EIS examines:

- The offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters
- A transmission system in Commonwealth and Victorian waters and on land.

The EIS process is managed by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

EPBC approval

At the conclusion of the EIS process, the Australian Minister for the Environment will decide whether the project is approved under the EPBC Act and under what conditions.

Victorian EES

- ✓ Examines works in Victoria
- ✓ Victorian process
- ✓ Results in a Victorian Minister's Assessment

About the EES

Star of the South's EES examines:

- Underground cables in Victorian waters (up to 5.5 km offshore) and on land.

The EES process is managed by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning under the Environment Effects Act (EE Act).

Victorian approvals


At the conclusion of the EES process, the Victorian Minister for Planning will provide an assessment of the environmental effects of the works in Victoria. This assessment is considered by decision makers responsible for Victorian approvals.

Draft planning scheme amendment (PSA)

A draft PSA is available with the EES. It sets out proposed approval conditions for the underground cables on land.

 **starofthesouth.com.au**
Anyone can make a written submission on the draft EIS via a form on our website between 18 May and 29 June.

If you are unable to lodge your EIS submission online or require assistance, please contact Star of the South on 1800 340 340 or info@starofthesouth.com.au

 **engage.vic.gov.au/SOTS**
Anyone can make a written submission on the EES and draft PSA via a form on the Engage Victoria website between 18 May and 29 June.

If you are unable to lodge your EES submission online, contact Planning Panels Victoria through the Customer Call Centre on 136 186 (select option 6) and request a hard copy submission coversheet.

NAVIGATING THE DOCUMENTS

There are a different levels of detail available to help you understand the project and its assessment.

Community resources

Fact sheets and videos will give you an overview of the project, the environmental assessment process and key topics.



EIS Summary Report

The summary report provides an overview of information contained in the EIS.

START
HERE
for an
overview



EES Summary Report

The summary report provides an overview of information contained in the EES.

EIS

The EIS includes chapters and attachments relevant to the Commonwealth assessment.

Chapters 1-7 – Project information

These chapters explain the project's development, legislative and assessment frameworks and consultation.

Chapters 8-22 – Assessment by topic

These chapters provide a comprehensive overview of impact assessment findings by topic.

Chapter 23 – Environmental Management Framework (EMF)

This chapter explains how environmental impacts will be identified, managed, monitored and minimised through the project's life, in line with Commonwealth requirements.

Key attachments include:

- I – EIS Mapbook
- III – Construction underwater noise management framework
- IV – Seabird monitoring and management framework



EES

The EES includes chapters and attachments relevant to the Victorian assessment.

Chapters 1-7 – Information about works in Victoria

These chapters explain how the underground cable works in Victoria have been developed, legislative and assessment frameworks and consultation.

Chapters 8-25 – Assessment by topic

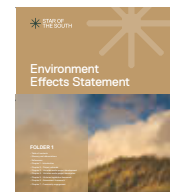
These chapters provide a comprehensive assessment of the underground cable works in Victoria.

Chapter 26 – Environmental Management Framework (EMF)

This chapter explains how the environmental impacts of the underground cable works will be identified, managed, monitored and minimised through the project's life, in line with Victorian requirements.

Key attachments include:

- I – EES Mapbook
- III – Draft PSA



Technical reports

Each technical report assesses the entire project and is prepared by independent specialists. They detail the study methodology, existing conditions, impact assessment findings and proposed mitigation measures.

FIND OUT MORE

Go to starofthesouth.com.au to access the EIS and EES documents and learn more.

Talk with our team

Webinar

Join us online on Monday 25 May from 6 – 7 pm to hear from our team and ask questions. Register at starofthesouth.com.au

Drop-in information sessions

Talk with our team, view EIS and EES documentation and ask questions.

Location	Date	Time
Traralgon Town Hall	Thu 28 May	5 – 7pm
Seaspray Hall	Fri 29 May	4 – 6pm
Foster War Memorial Hall	Sat 30 May	10am – 12pm
Port Albert Hall	Sat 30 May	2 – 4 pm
Woodside Hall	Mon 1 June	4:30 – 6:30pm

Pop-ups

We'll be available to speak with locals about our assessments and provide project information.

Location	Date	Time
Toora Red Pig Bakery	Tue 26 May	10am – 12pm
Sale Gippsland Centre	Mon 1 June	10am – 12pm
McLoughlins Beach	Sat 6 June	9 – 11am

Questions

About the project, the draft EIS, EES and draft PSA documentation, or about making an EIS submission

Star of the South - 1800 340 340 or info@starofthesouth.com.au

About the EIS process under the EPBC Act

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Victoria and Tasmania Assessments Section) – 1800 920 528, EPBC.Vic.Tas@dcceew.gov.au

About the EES process under the EE Act

Department of Transport and Planning (Impact Assessment Unit) – (03) 8622 7633, EES.referrals@transport.vic.gov.au

About making an EES submission or the Victorian Inquiry process

Planning Panels Victoria - 136 186 (select option 6) or office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au



VICTORIAN INQUIRY

The Victorian Minister for Planning will appoint an Inquiry to consider the Victorian EES. The scope of the Inquiry is limited to providing advice on the identified relevant key matters and other matters outlined in its Terms of Reference from the Minister for Planning.

The Inquiry will conduct a submitter conference on relevant key matters, and will provide parties with the opportunity to provide it with further written material on the identified other matters.

The Inquiry will hold a directions hearing to consider the arrangements and timetable for the submitter conference and the process for submitters who want to be heard or provide further written material on the works in Victoria.

If you would like to participate in the Inquiry process, by either appearing at the submitter conference and/or providing further written information, you will need to make a written submission and mark on the submission form that you would like to participate.

The Inquiry will review all EES submissions, the EES and draft PSA before providing advice to the Victorian Minister for Planning in accordance with its terms of reference. It is not the role of the Inquiry to consider the draft Commonwealth EIS or Commonwealth matters.

Information on the Inquiry process will be published as it becomes available at engage.vic.gov.au/SOTS.

A PROJECT BY



starofthesouth.com.au
1800 340 340
info@southerlyten.com.au
310 Commercial Road, Yarram

LinkedIn Star of the South
Facebook Star of the South Project
Interpreter Call 13 14 50

We acknowledge the people of the Gunakurnal nation as the original custodians of Country and pay respect to Elders past and present.

