

PROJECT APPROVALS



LICENCING & REGULATION

Offshore wind projects in Australian waters are licenced and regulated under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act).

Licences are needed to investigate, build and operate an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure.

Star of the South was granted a **feasibility licence** in May 2024. Prior to this (before the OEI Act came into effect), the project was developed under an exploration licence. To proceed to construction, we'll also need a **commercial licence** and **transmission and infrastructure licence**.

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator is responsible for regulating Australia's offshore wind industry. The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator oversees work health and safety, infrastructure integrity, and environmental management and compliance.

A **management plan** approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator is required before construction can begin. This is a legally enforceable document which sets out how we will comply with relevant laws, regulations and approvals.

ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING APPROVALS

Star of the South is going through a rigorous, coordinated Commonwealth and State environmental impact assessment process.

This is one of the most thorough assessment processes for projects in Australia. It considers potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning impacts that could arise during a project's construction, operation and decommissioning, and proposes measures to avoid or reduce any adverse impacts.

Star of the South's assessment will be informed by years of environmental surveys, consultation and 25 technical studies from subject-matter experts.

Outcomes of the assessment process will help inform government approval decisions, including under the:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 (Cth)
- Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)
- Marine and Coastal Act 2019 (Vic)
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic).

KEY STEPS

Key steps	 <p>AREA DECLARATION</p> <p>In this first step, an area is identified and consultation undertaken to understand if it is suitable for offshore wind development. If suitable, the area may be declared under the OEI Act.</p>	 <p>FEASIBILITY LICENCE</p> <p>Once an area is declared, projects may apply for a licence to assess the feasibility of developing offshore wind in the area. The licence term is 7 years.</p>	 <p>ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING APPROVALS</p> <p>If a project is feasible, the next step is to seek all necessary approvals. This involves years of studies and preparation of an environmental impact assessment.</p>	 <p>MANAGEMENT PLANS</p> <p>A management plan details how a project will manage potential risks and comply with all relevant laws, regulations and approval conditions.</p>	 <p>COMMERCIAL LICENCE</p> <p>A project with a feasibility licence, all necessary approvals, and an approved management plan may apply for a commercial licence to construct and operate an offshore wind farm. The licence term is 40 years.</p>
Who's involved?	<p>The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) manages the process.</p> <p>The Australian Minister for Energy makes declaration decisions.</p>	<p>The Offshore Infrastructure Registrar manages the process.</p> <p>The Australian Minister for Energy makes licence decisions.</p>	<p>The approvals process is managed by DCCEEW and the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning.</p> <p>There are a range of decision makers, including the Australian Minister for the Environment, the Victorian Minister for Planning and the Victorian Minister for Environment.</p>	<p>The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator is responsible for approving and enforcing management plans.</p>	<p>Guidelines for administering these licences are still under development.</p>
Consultation	<p>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</p> <p>Community consultation plays an important role at each step. We will share information, seek out feedback, listen and respond at every stage. Formal government consultation processes also provide an opportunity to provide feedback directly to decision makers.</p>				
Status	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Gippsland offshore wind zone was declared on 19 December 2022.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Star of the South obtained a feasibility licence in May 2024.</p>	<p>Underway</p> <p>We are preparing an environmental impact assessment for Star of the South.</p>	<p>Future</p>	<p>Future</p>

A PROJECT BY



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

