



Industry Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2023

Spotlight on local supplier capabilities

Providing opportunities for local businesses is an important part of doing business in Australia. We 'Look Local First' so that the regions hosting offshore wind see direct benefit. We've released the [Offshore Wind Supplier Showcase](#) to highlight local supply opportunities and give

global suppliers a glimpse of what Gippsland, Victorian and Australian businesses have to offer. This follows an extensive supply chain study which identified billions of dollars of opportunities for Australian businesses in the offshore wind industry.



Licence application lodged

Following the [declaration of an area in Bass Strait, off Gippsland](#), as suitable for offshore renewables, we applied for a Feasibility Licence within this zone to continue developing Star of the South. Proponents successful in obtaining a Licence can undertake feasibility studies and progress the environmental approvals and management plans required to obtain a Commercial Licence, to proceed to construction.

More offshore renewable zones

The Australian Government is powering ahead with [site declarations](#) for offshore renewables. Areas off Gippsland and the Hunter Valley are declared. Consultation is underway for the Illawarra and recently closed for the Southern Ocean. Sites in Northern Tasmania and WA have been prioritised for assessment, with consultation expected to start in October and November respectively.

Victoria to develop supporting infrastructure

Victoria continues to lead the country with offshore wind targets, the release of [Offshore Wind Implementation Statements](#) and commitments to develop critical supporting infrastructure. The 2023-24 Victorian Budget included \$27 million to progress development of the [Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal](#) at the Port of Hastings. New government agency [VicGrid](#) has been tasked with coordinating shared transmission infrastructure.

Industry events

Our team recently attended the APAC Offshore Wind and Green Hydrogen Summit in Melbourne, and the Gippsland New Energy Conference. Thank you to everyone who connected with us at these events. We'll also be taking part in these upcoming events.

- [Gippsland Procurement Power Initiative](#) – 12 September, Morwell
- [AFR Energy & Climate Summit](#) – 9-10 October, Sydney
- [Victorian Major Projects Conference](#) – 10-11 October, Melbourne
- [Offshore Wind Australia Conference](#) – 22-23 November, Sydney
- [Energy Infrastructure and Community Engagement Conference](#) – 30 November – 1 December, Sydney

Transitioning workforce a strong match for offshore wind

A recent study into transition opportunities for coal, oil and gas workers has identified that around 70% already have the core skills needed to work in the offshore wind industry. Findings are highlighted in [Making the move to offshore wind – a guide for workers](#).

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Victorian Minister for Energy, and Erin Coldham, CDO of Star of the South, discuss the guide at a recent State Electricity Commission (SEC) conference.



Port options identified

Following a detailed analysis of port options for Star of the South, we have identified the proposed Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal at the Port of Hastings as a preferred primary construction port, with Geelong Port and Port of Bell Bay also expected to play a role. A Gippsland Operations Base at a local port will support day-to-day construction management and operations activities. Barry Beach Marine Terminal and Port Anthony are both good options as nearby, established commercial ports.

Seabed geotechnical study complete

We celebrated the safe completion of Australia's first geotechnical campaign for offshore wind in June. Specialist drill vessel, the Fugro Mariner, spent five weeks at sea collecting soil and rock samples from up to 70 metres beneath the seafloor. Samples collected are now being analysed and will be used to inform project design.

Investor news

Star of the South is being progressed by a local Victorian-based team with investment from Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and Cbus Super.

In June 2023, CIP reached first close on its fifth flagship fund Copenhagen Infrastructure V (CI V) at EUR 5.6 billion in capital commitments received – putting it on track to reach the target fund size of EUR 12 billion and become the world's largest dedicated greenfield renewable energy fund.

Construction on CIP offshore wind projects globally are making significant progress. In Taiwan, all 62 jacket foundations were installed ahead of schedule for the Changfang & Xidao (CFXD) project, and the first jacket for the Zhong Neng Project has also been installed. Construction of the US Vineyard Wind project is powering ahead with the offshore substation installed and the first load of monopile foundations installed.



CFXD jacket installation, Taiwan



Vineyard Wind substation installation, US

Supplier profile – Port Albert Fishin' Charters

Port Albert Fishin' Charters is a local business that has provided vessel services and a wealth of local knowledge for Star of the South marine surveys and site visits since 2020. Brian has been working as a maritime operator for over 30 years.

"I'm looking forward to an offshore wind industry coming to the region. I can see some great opportunities not only for my business, but for many others around Gippsland"

– Brian Spiteri, Owner

