

# Community Advisory Group

Meeting #18 – 30 March 2023

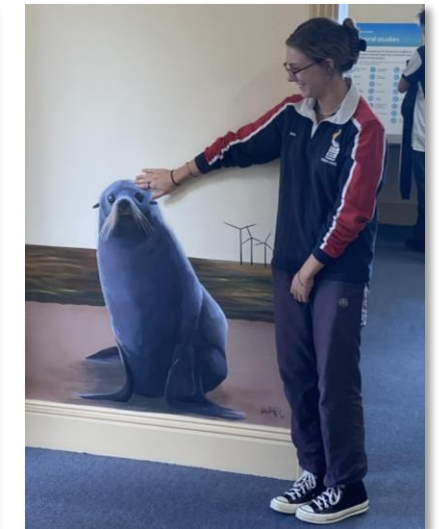
We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of the land and pay respect to their elders past and present

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Standing items and actions
  - Apologies
  - Minutes and action items
  - Declaration of potential conflicts
3. What's happening on the project
4. What's happening in the community
  - Nina Barry-Macaulay
  - Tony Cantwell
  - All (10 min)
5. Break (10 min)
6. Focus topic: Transmission Update
7. Brief Update: Recreational Fishing Update
8. Other business
  - Other questions or feedback
  - Suggestions for future agenda items
  - Next meeting – Sale, venue TBC, Wednesday 10 May.
9. Meeting close

# What's been happening

- **Pelagic Fish Survey** completed during February
- **Offshore Wind Implementation Statement 2** was released in early March
- **Events:** Toora Town Triathlon Family Day, VFA Ultimate Fishing Expo, Sistas in Business, Mid-Valley Job Expo and South Gippsland Job Expo, Gippsland SOTS Supporter get together's in Yarram and Morwell
- **Presentations:** Company of Master Mariners, IPA Symposium Energy, Ocean Business Leaders Summit, Mt Waverly Rotary Club, Frankston Rotary Club, Mount Saint Josephs Girls College, Gippsland ALP Branch Members, Maroondah Bushwalking Club, Women on Farms Gathering, Lavalla Catholic College, Yallourn Power Workers, Tasmanian Maritime Network Meeting.
- **Many visitors** to the Gippsland office amongst another busy tourism period
- **New Gippsland office artwork** - 'Flip' an Australian Fur Seal, named by Yarram Secondary College student Jess.



# What's coming up

- **Feasibility licence application** submitted by April 27
- **Seabed studies** will commence shortly
- **Workforce mapping** report
- **Local supply chain** capabilities and opportunities report
- **Aerial Whale studies** in Bass Strait
- **Events and presentations:** Deadly in Gippsland – A first nations business expo, Combined Gippsland Essential Industries Group, Probus Club of Traralgon, Officer Secondary College, The Trades Fit Expo, Latrobe Valley SCUBA Club



The feasibility licence application is our top priority over the coming months

# What's happening in the community

- **Community updates**
  - Nina Barry-Macaulay
  - Tony Cantwell
- **Everyone**
  - What are you hearing?
  - What are the hot topics in your local area?

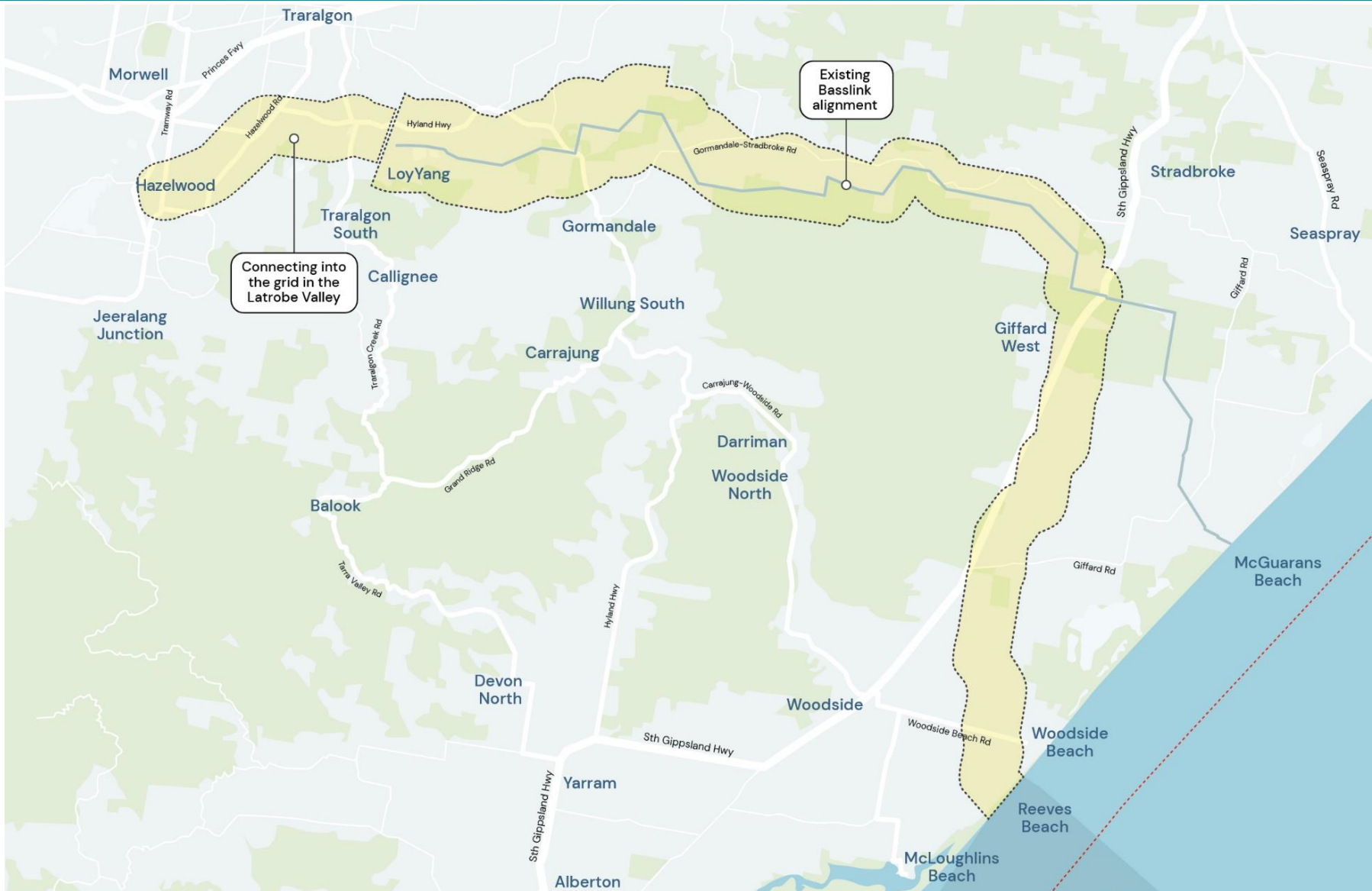
**Would you like to give an update at the next meeting?**



# Transmission Update



# Transmission Update





## Recreational fishing and boating engagement

# Why and how we're talking with fishers

## Why?

- To understand how local fishers and boaters use the area
- Share project information and updates
- Hear and respond to questions and feedback
- To identify and act on any issues and opportunities
- Learn about the best ways to keep people informed and involved

## How?

- Gippsland office
- Boat ramp surveys
- Online surveys
- Presentations to local groups
- Events
- Industry workshop
- Phone / email enquires
- Social media



VFA Ultimate Fishing Expo, February 2023

We use what we hear to inform the project's development, assessment and future planning for construction and operations

# Recreational fishing survey

## How we collected survey responses



### Boat ramps (2021-2022)

- Port Albert, Manns Beach, McLoughlins Beach, Port Welshpool



### Online (2022-current)

- [getinvolved.starofthesouth.com.au](https://getinvolved.starofthesouth.com.au)



At boating and fishing shows, pop-up information stalls, via phone enquiries and other events

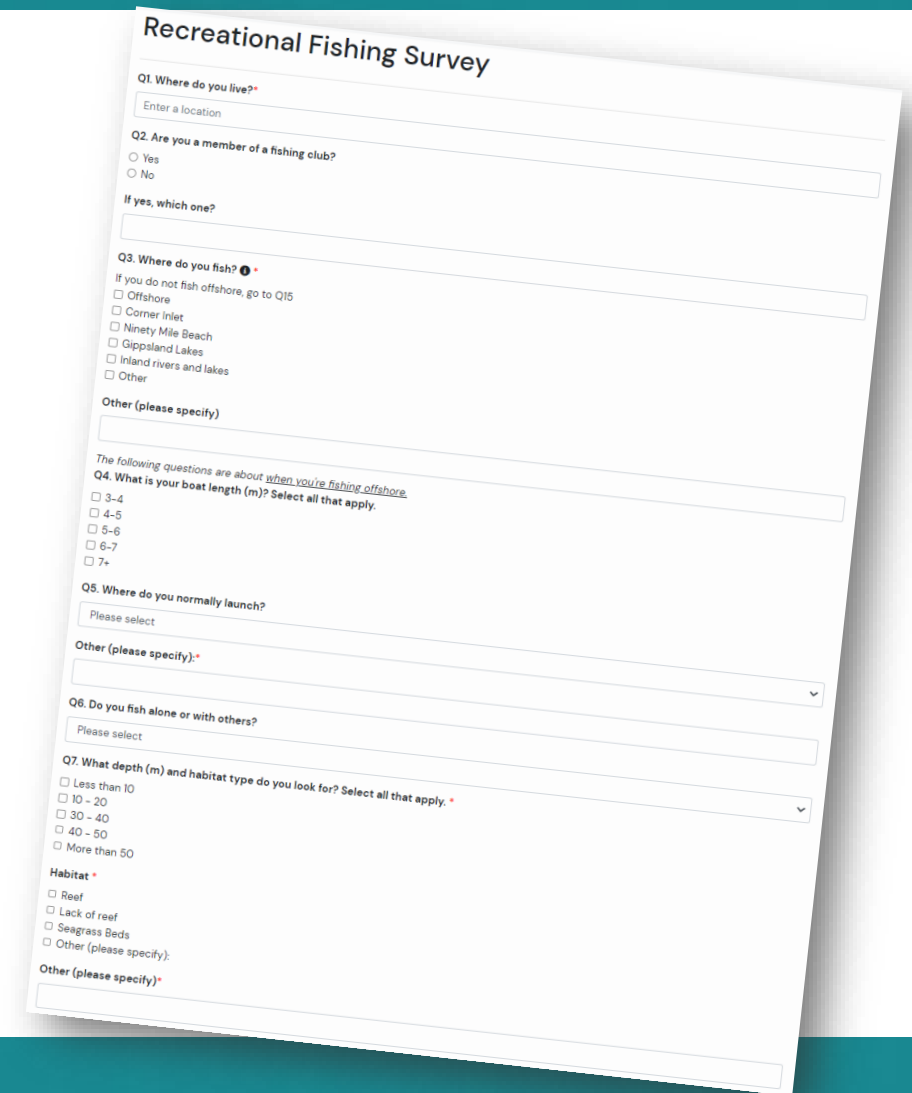


South Gippsland Game Fishing Snapper comp, Nov 2021

106 surveys have been completed to date

# Recreational fishing survey – what we asked

1. Where are you from?
2. How many are fishing with you today?
3. Are you a fishing club member?
4. Where do you fish?
5. If in the Star of the South Exploration Licence Area - what depth, which months, frequency, wind conditions, fishing method, targeted/caught species
6. Can you think of any issues or positives that may arise from the project for recreational fishing?
7. Any comments or questions?



**Recreational Fishing Survey**

**Q1. Where do you live?\***  
Enter a location

**Q2. Are you a member of a fishing club?**  
 Yes  
 No  
If yes, which one?

**Q3. Where do you fish? \***  
If you do not fish offshore, go to Q15  
 Offshore  
 Corner Inlet  
 Ninety Mile Beach  
 Gippaland Lakes  
 Inland rivers and lakes  
 Other  
Other (please specify)

The following questions are about when you're fishing offshore.

**Q4. What is your boat length (m)? Select all that apply.**  
 3-4  
 4-5  
 5-6  
 6-7  
 7+

**Q5. Where do you normally launch?**  
Please select  
Other (please specify):\*

**Q6. Do you fish alone or with others?**  
Please select

**Q7. What depth (m) and habitat type do you look for? Select all that apply. \***  
 Less than 10  
 10 - 20  
 30 - 40  
 40 - 50  
 More than 50  
**Habitat \***  
 Reef  
 Lack of reef  
 Seagrass Beds  
 Other (please specify):  
Other (please specify):\*

# Recreational fishing survey – key findings

Of the 106 people who completed a survey....



72% fish offshore



27% fish in the Star of the South Exploration licence area



50% fish at anchor  
25% troll, 25% drift



75% fish with bait,  
25% fish with lures/jigs



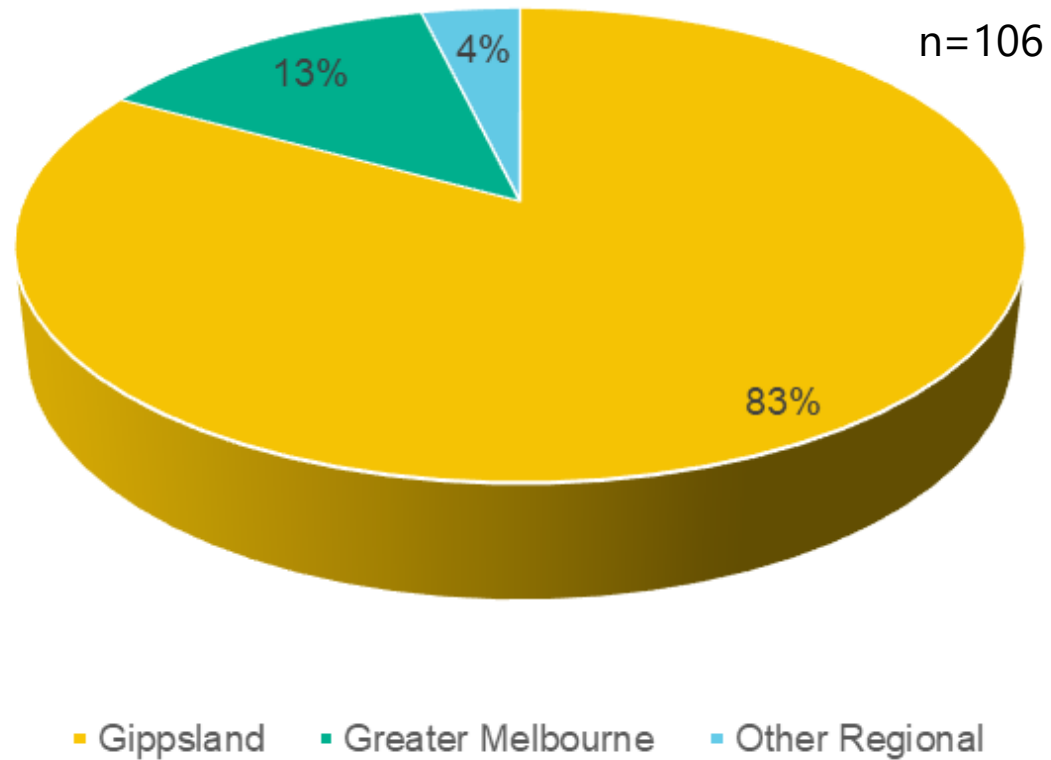
Most popular months to fish September-April



Most fish between 2-6 days per month

# Recreational fishing survey – key findings

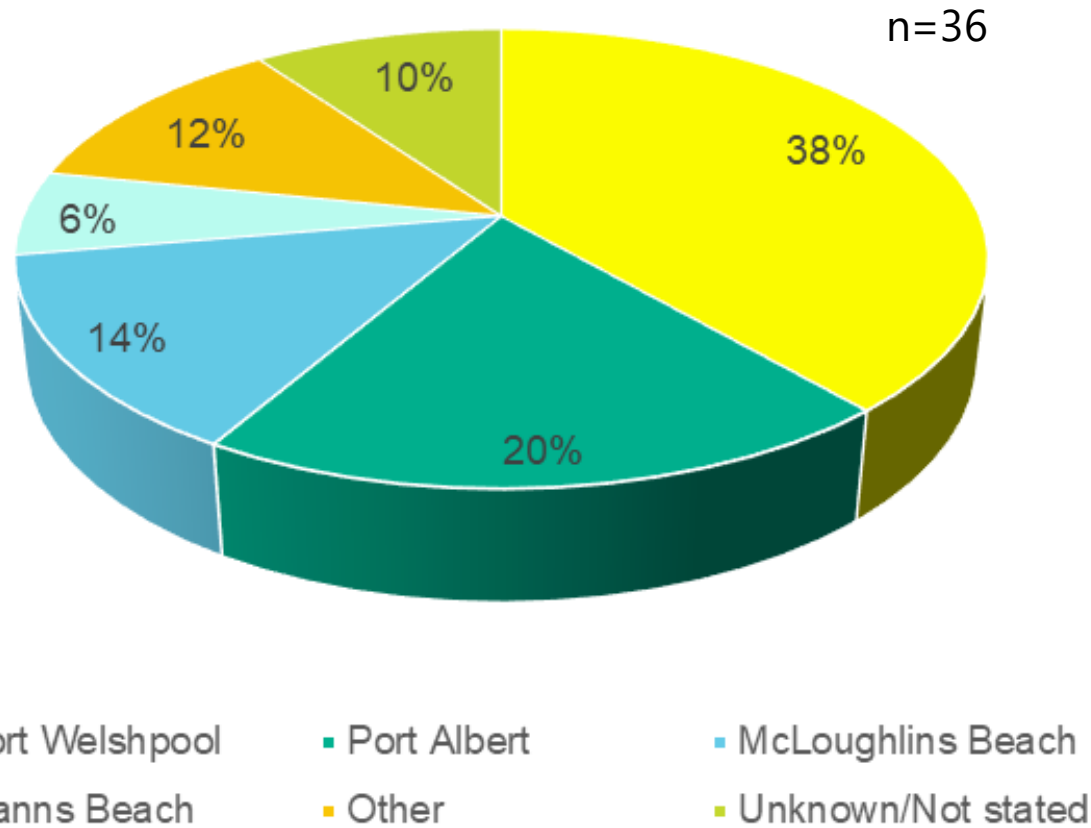
Where do you live?



Results from both online and boat ramp surveys

# Recreational fishing survey – key findings

Where do you normally launch?



Results from the online fishing survey only

# What to recreational fishers catch?



Here are some local fishers showing us their catch!  
Images (except \*) courtesy Martin Auld; \* courtesy Stella Bodman

# Recreational fishing survey – key findings

## What are fishers concerned about?

- Access to the site – misperception about being 'locked out'
- Impacts on fish from noise, vibration, EMF
- May not be able to anchor in wind farm
- Visual amenity/proximity to Corner Inlet
- Impacts on fish (and bird) migration
- Hydrological impacts (currents/tides)
- Ecological impacts from oil spills, dropped objects
- Property damage
- Increased boat traffic, tourism, people!

## What are fishers positive about?

- "Artificial reef" effect, creating habitat, attracting fish,
- Broader positive ecological benefits
- Opportunities for employment
- Improved seabed mapping of area
- Increased boat traffic, tourism, people!

# Feedback from industry bodies

We've also spoken with the Victorian Fisheries Authority, VRFish, Future Fish, Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation and the Boating Industry Association (Victoria).

What they told us...

- The islands (Seal group) are the most popular destination for recreational fishers offshore
- Fishing numbers typically increases on weekends and holidays
- Results from our boat ramp surveys are consistent with their understanding
- Interested in transit through wind farm for all types of vessels, proximity to turbines
- Interested in potential enhancements to fishing
- Interested in any impacts to fish and fishing and how these will be managed
- Interested in habitat within wind farm area, including composition of the substrate
- Support for Star of the South's approach to baselines fish surveys

# Other recreational users

We've also spoken to other boat and recreational users

- Most don't use the area due to distance from shore and ocean conditions
- Yacht clubs in Gippsland indicated they either don't sail offshore or stick closer to shore
- The area is well outside yacht race routes
- Charter operators interested in potential for fishing trips once wind farm is established





# Other business

# Other business

- Other questions and feedback?
- Suggestions for future agenda items?
  - List on the CAG Member Teams Page 'files'
  - Email/call Jason
- Next meeting – 10 May 2023

## Forward meeting schedule

Date	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
10 May 2023	Sale	Workforce and supply chain study findings
<b>28 June</b>	Foster/South Gippsland	Commercial fishing
16 August	Yarram	Timeline deep-dive – how are we tracking?
5 October	Latrobe Valley	Feasibility Licence outcomes and next steps
15 November	Foster / South Gippsland	Marine environmental assessment update (including birds, marine mammals, seafloor ecology)
December (TBC)	TBC	Xmas breakup

Thank you for your participation