

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #26

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4pm – 6pm
Minutes	Jason Pickering	Date	2024-05-23
Location	Yarram District Hub		

### ATTENDEES

CAG Members		Project Team	Apologies
Ian Gibson	Deb Lucas	Myles Daniel	Jenny Smith
Nicki Jennings	Wendy Farmer	Paul Johnson	Tony Wolfe
Allan Rogers	Julianne Peavy	Jason Pickering	Glen McColl
Jack Winterbottom	Harry Mitchelson	Lachlan McKinnon	Darren McCubbin
Marcus McKenzie	Jonathon Pintus		Travis Dillow
Glenn Stagg	Ken Fraser		Anne Roussac-Hoyne
Tony Cantwell	Nick Dudley		Peter Mooney

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

No. Discussion points

1	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country</b>
2	<b>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</b>
3	<b>Focus topic:</b> <b>Southerly Ten response to the Exposure Draft of the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (OEI) Amendment Regulations 2024.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <a href="#">Refer to presentation for key updates.</a></li><li>– Myles Daniel, Senior Technical Development Director, provided an overview of the OEI Draft regulations and how the OEI Act will be implemented.</li></ul>

No. Discussion points

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We gave feedback on a number of topics:

- Adjusting details to reduce unnecessary delays or inefficiencies.
- Caution when adopting oil and gas regulations due to differing risk levels, and differing investor risk profiles due to the differing revenue models.

Next Steps:

- The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) have released draft guidance regarding the regulations and have a workshop June 13 with industry.
  - Brief government on our key feedback.
  - Consultation on Transmission Infrastructure Licences, which are additional to the Feasibility/Commercial Licences required is also underway and we will provide feedback to this process.
- Southerly Ten has a Feasibility Licence to exclusively explore development in our Star of the South offshore project area but requires a Transmission Infrastructure Licence to install export cable to shore.
- Nicki asked if the Transmission Infrastructure Licence required for undersea export cable routing would also permit connection to VicGrid's proposed coastal connection hub located near Giffard West. Myles explained the Transmission Infrastructure Licence under consultation only applies to Commonwealth waters which begin at 3 nautical mile (5.55 km) offshore, and there will be a State Government equivalent for the remainder of the route.
  - Allan asked is there now clarity around safety zones and expected setbacks from each turbine during operation, as fishers are keen to understand what will ultimately be decided. Myles explained that it is open to further review after offshore wind developers nominate their preferred protection zones from any infrastructure, and if the zone is deemed unreasonable by the regulator, then it will not be approved. Safety Zones of up to 500m during construction activities and Protection Zones of up to 1.8 km during operation are the maximum distances that could be applied for by developers.
  - Lachlan added the Protection Zones are specific to a particular activity, rather than access. For example, it could be applied to anchoring, trawling or scallop dredging but does prevent access to that zone.
  - Ian queried whether the Safety Zone proposal is open to interpretation. Myles answered it's open to what will be approved within some boundaries, and consultation is a key part of this process.
  - Nicki commented that there will absolutely need to be a standardised approach to this to eliminate any confusion about which project field you were travelling through at the time. Myles agreed and added whichever project is established first will likely set precedents that will be adopted or refined for other projects in the future.
  - Nick asked whether the regulator considered adopting regulations from international projects. Myles explained that the OIR has liaised with regulators from across the globe. The OIR works jointly with NOPSEMA, which has extensive experience regulating Australia's offshore oil and gas industry and will no doubt also adopt some of its learnings from the global offshore wind industry.

**Next 12 months for Star of the South and Kut Wut Brataualung.**

- [Refer to presentation for key updates.](#)
  - The Victorian Government plans to run an expression of interest process for offshore wind developers that have secured a Feasibility Licence to indicate participation in the first auction round (scheduled for submission early 2026, with award in late 2026).
    - Allan asked whether another developer who was unsuccessful in securing a Feasibility Licence could make an offer to Southerly Ten to buy the Star of the South project site. Myles answered while it is possible for sites to change hands it is not a straightforward process as laws are in place to reduce this occurring and to ensure that if it does occur that the buyer is suitably skilled, resourced and financed.
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No. Discussion points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jack queried if other projects are not as advanced as Star of the South, would other developers be able to compete in the first auction to deliver 2GW by 2032 as per the State Government target. Myles assumes that some but not all developers will be ready for the first auction, which is why it would be advantageous for the Victorian State Government to announce a tranche of auctions (for example, three auctions, one every year). Developers can then position themselves for the auction that best fits their own timelines, but it's also important to demonstrate to the supply chain that this is a sustainable industry with repeat auctions. Global supply demand will result in component manufacturers booked years in advance, so suppliers want to see high levels of industry confidence rather than supply a single project or two.</li><li>- Wendy asked how often the auctions would likely be held, and would they ideally continue each year until all the targets are met. Myles responded that annually would align with some other markets such as the United Kingdom, but that frequent does carry a high administrative burden, so others chose to be less frequent. Having repeat auctions affords a staggering of project execution timelines. This importantly reduces potential bottlenecking at ports facilities - as one project is finishing and moving out of the port, the next can be preparing to move in. Even globally, ports often can't handle several projects being built at the same time, so maybe our future auctions are best timed around that capability within Australia.</li><li>- Myles confirmed with Nicki that is a 'blind' auction and Southerly Ten will not have knowledge of other bids.</li><li>- Southerly Ten is establishing the project team and processes for Kut Wut Brataualung, with a focus on licence compliance.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Allan noted that Kut Wut Brataualung is 45km from coast, far greater than the minimum 10 km starting point permitted by the Commonwealth Government. Allan added that residents along this coastline are puzzled that projects were not proposed further out, as it's clearly feasible. Myles responded that without the development of initial near-shore projects which provides industry confidence, projects further from the coast in more challenging locations may not get built and it would be very challenging for the industry to establish the initial projects long distances from the coast.</li><li>- Jack asked what's the furthest distance from shore for an offshore wind project anywhere in the world. Myles mentioned the Hornsea offshore wind projects in the United Kingdom is 120 km and commenced operation 20 years after the first projects were built. This again highlights the progression of what can be achieved after building the projects closer to the coastline first.</li></ul></li></ul>
4	<p><b>Focus topic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Fishing insights from visit to Vineyard Offshore Wind Project</b></li><li>- <a href="#">Refer to presentation for key updates.</a></li></ul>

No. Discussion points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lachlan McKinnon, Fisheries Manager, presented on a visit in March 2024 to Massachusetts and Rhode Island to learn from the Vineyard Wind Fishing Liaison team as they roll out their 'Fishing Mitigation Program' which is primarily their compensation program for commercial fishers who've been impacted by the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paul asked why the difference between the two examples. Lachlan presumes it's where each State rated their priorities after consultation with their own fisheries advisors.</li> <li>- Allan asked how often this compensation is paid. Lachlan responded that payments are made annually for 5 years, and if the recipient is still fishing at the end of that period, there is a review process for further payments.</li> <li>- Nick asked are we able to know the total value of the compensation Vineyard Wind 1 is paying. Lachlan explained it's publicly accessible information and is equivalent of around \$60 Million AUD across the 5 of the states discussed earlier. Approximately \$35 Million AUD of the total is direct compensation to fishers with the balance paid into various industry benefit funds. Massachusetts is impacted the most and proportionally receives the largest share of this compensation.</li> <li>- Allan enquired whether this type of compensation model is similar elsewhere in the world, like for example, in the United Kingdom. Lachlan explained in the UK, fishers were in the past paid to remove their gear during surveys and construction with no on-going payments during operations. Commercial fishing has continued during the operational phase of projects in the UK.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p>An app called 'Waterfront' is used in the US during construction to provide real time information on vessel locations and construction activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicki commented that an app seems a great way to keep people informed on the project overall, not just from a fishing industry perspective. A Southerly Ten app could even inform of employment opportunities. Lachlan added the 'Waterfront' app does indeed have jobs listed and you don't need to be associated with a project or a marine user to access it. It's paid for by the projects, you can download it for free and see all the information without the need for a subscription.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Break</b></p>
6	<p><b>What's been happening on the project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Refer to presentation for key updates.</a></li> <li>- Paul spoke of recent events and presentations delivered by the SOTS project team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VicGrid's draft 'Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan' is open for feedback until the 18 June 2024. You can review and provide your feedback here <a href="http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits">www.engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action 1:</b> The project team will share the VicGrid draft 'Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan' feedback link with the CAG by email.</p>
7	<p><b>What's happening in the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community updates – open to all members</li> <li>- Allan shared that after a recent meeting with Gippsland Ports that the finances for rebuilding the McLoughlins Beach jetty are still secure despite delay with the project commencing. The project will be awarded to a new contractor, hopefully beginning construction in a few months' time.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Other Business</b></p>
9	<p><b>Meeting close</b></p>

## ACTIONS - NEW

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	The project team will share the VicGrid draft 'Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan' feedback link with the CAG by email.	Paul / Jason	30/5/2024

## NEXT MEETING

Date	Time	Place
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	4pm – 6pm	South Gippsland, (Venue TBC)