

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #29

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4 pm – 6 pm
Minutes	Jason Pickering	Date	2024-09-25
Location	Bond Street Event Centre, Sale		

Attendees

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

Key discussion points

Item	Outline
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
2	Standing items and actions from previous meeting
	Focus topic: Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study June 2024, Prepared by Urban Enterprise for South Gippsland Shire Council and Latrobe City Council
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Guest speakers from South Gippsland Shire Council:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Christian Stefani, Manager Regional Partnerships and Maddie Paraga, Renewable Energy Development Officer– Refer to presentation for key updates– Paul enquired about the Study's findings including the 76% dwelling occupancy rate in South Gippsland and whether this reflects a high number of holiday houses. Christian confirmed the high rate of holiday homes results

in seasonal occupancy because owners often use their property for a short period each year before offering it for short stay rentals. Christian acknowledged that some holiday homeowners may consider offering their property to cater for a future local workforce.

- Peter asked about workforce accommodation for the upcoming Esso oil and gas platform decommissioning works at Barry Beach Marine Terminal. Christian explained South Gippsland Shire have been briefed about Esso’s decommissioning work and the increased accommodation demand is likely to generate accommodation demand for three years. This demand could be compounded by workers on the Marinus Link project which may commence around the same time, offshore wind construction and further onshore renewable energy projects.
- Nick added that competing demands for workforce and housing aren’t the only pressures expected locally. The ongoing development of the Victorian Livestock Exchange at Koonwarra will soon create Australia’s largest livestock sales yard adding extra traffic movements. Christian agreed and noted the importance of local government to undertake timely land use planning.
- Nicki queried the potential for coastal erosion and inundation within South Gippsland Shire and how this might affect development planning. Christian explained this is an ongoing concern and must be considered carefully to determine where development can occur. Council’s coastal strategy looks at minimising coastal development and focusing development into towns more fit for purpose and able to appropriately accommodate the growth.
- Harry commented that local tourism could suffer if accommodation availability was dominated by workers during new industry construction. Christian agreed if it was based on current supply, an increase in demand would have a negative impact on an availability for tourism. Council’s view is there needs to be greater investment in developing appropriate land to accommodate growth and progressing this quicker where applicable.
- Ian noted that one of the key issues discussed at the recent Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC) was social licence and community readiness for substantial projects within Gippsland and asked whether Council understands the level of broader community readiness. Christian explained the Study noted that social licence takes a long time to build and maintain, and that Southerly Ten have engaged well with the community over a long period of time, but social licence can quickly be eroded when an organisation doesn’t prioritise its importance.

Christian noted that understanding the investment, economic and community benefit, and the potential opportunities created for a region, whilst still being conscious and mindful to protect the community, cultural and environmental pillars is what’s required to build social licence for new development. Community engagement is the greatest tool you can use to inform and learn, and to nurture this relationship.

4 Break

What’s happening on the project

- Refer to presentation for key updates

5 Paul spoke of recent events and presentations delivered by the project team.

Action 1.

What’s happening in the community

Community updates, open to all members.

- Paul shared that Southerly Ten is participating in some collaborative engagement sessions with other Gippsland offshore wind developers throughout November with events at Seaspray (8th), Foster (13th), Traralgon (14th), and Yarram (23rd).

6 Further detail can be found here <https://www.starofthesouth.com.au/community>

Action 2.

- Glenn Stagg raised concern about blade components of some onshore windfarms breaking and debris landing within neighbouring paddocks. Erin responded that these examples are being investigated and one of the suppliers has identified a manufacturing fault. This shows that developers can undertake thorough planning and use componentry that has been certified and a manufacturing fault could still potentially create
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an issue. Despite this type of fault being very uncommon, the industry is investigating and will learn from these incidents.

Peter added this process is common in any form of manufacturing including production of motor cars which often announce product recalls. No industry is immune from manufacturing faults, and even with maintenance, operating equipment can still fail.

- Peter shared frustration amongst the community due to delays in offshore wind commencing construction. Peter welcomes the updated project timeline in the next project newsletter which will address some of these concerns. Darren added Gippsland Climate Change Network is hearing similar frustrations from people wanting a transition to renewables to happen sooner rather than later.

Paul offered to meet with or present to any groups who have raised these concerns.

- Darren provided a shout-out to Power Pops, who are touring around our local area with virtual reality headsets, enabling young people the opportunity to climb up to the top of a wind turbine, look out to sea, and get a sense of what this new industry might look like firsthand.
- Nick shared that Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) recently launched their strategy '*Pathways to Partnership: Gunaikurnai and Major Projects*' and that he'd be happy to present this to a future CAG meeting.

Further detail can be found here <https://gunaikurnai.org/pathways-to-partnerships/>

Erin agreed it would be great to explore this strategy as a future CAG agenda item.

Action 3.

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- 7 Other business
- Next meeting – Wednesday 6 November 2024

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- 8 Meeting close
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Actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Share further detail on the Gippsland Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA).	Paul / Jason	2024-10-02
2	Share details of the upcoming collaborative engagement sessions to be held with other Gippsland offshore wind zone developers.	Paul / Jason	2024-10-02
3	Share links to Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) strategy ' <i>Pathways to Partnership: Gunaikurnai and Major Projects</i> ' and recent videos.	Paul / Jason	2024-10-02

Questions taken on notice

No.	Action	Owner	Due
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