

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING #32 – 3 APRIL 2025



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, STANDING ITEMS AND ACTIONS

- Apologies
- Welcome Cr Catherine Bannerman, new Wellington Shire Council member
- Minutes and action items
- Declaration of potential conflicts

2. FOCUS TOPIC

Southerly Ten Environmental Impact Assessment

3. BREAK

4. WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE PROJECT

5. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

6. BRIEF FOCUS TOPIC

Attitudes to Offshore Wind Community Sentiment Survey

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Other questions or feedback
- Key messages
- Suggestions for future agenda items
- Next meeting – Wednesday 28 May 2025

6. MEETING CLOSE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

FOCUS TOPIC

PURPOSE OF THIS UPDATE

- **Build on previous detailed briefings regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment and Marine Ecology Survey Program.**
- Provide an overview of:
 - What we've done and found in our baseline studies
 - What we're now investigating
 - What's next as we progress the EIA technical reports
 - How we'll seek feedback on the EIA



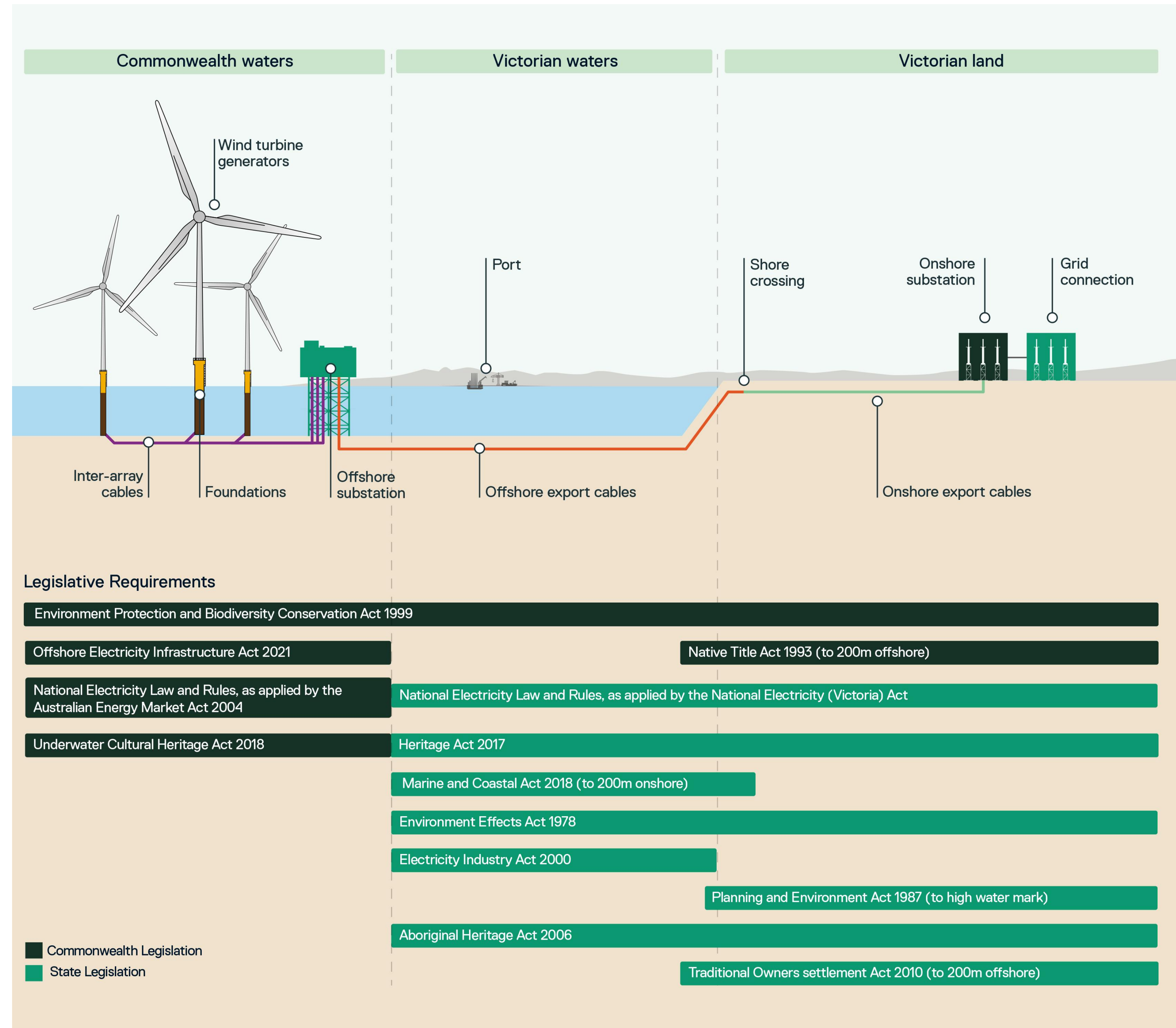
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Identifies potential project impacts and measures to minimise or manage those impacts.

Facilitate government approvals.

Coordinates Victorian and Commonwealth government approvals processes

- Environment Effects Statement (Victoria)
- Environmental Impact Statement (Commonwealth)



Where are we now?



NOW

2020
Victorian and Commonwealth governments determined:
EIS + EES required
(Coordinated EIA process)

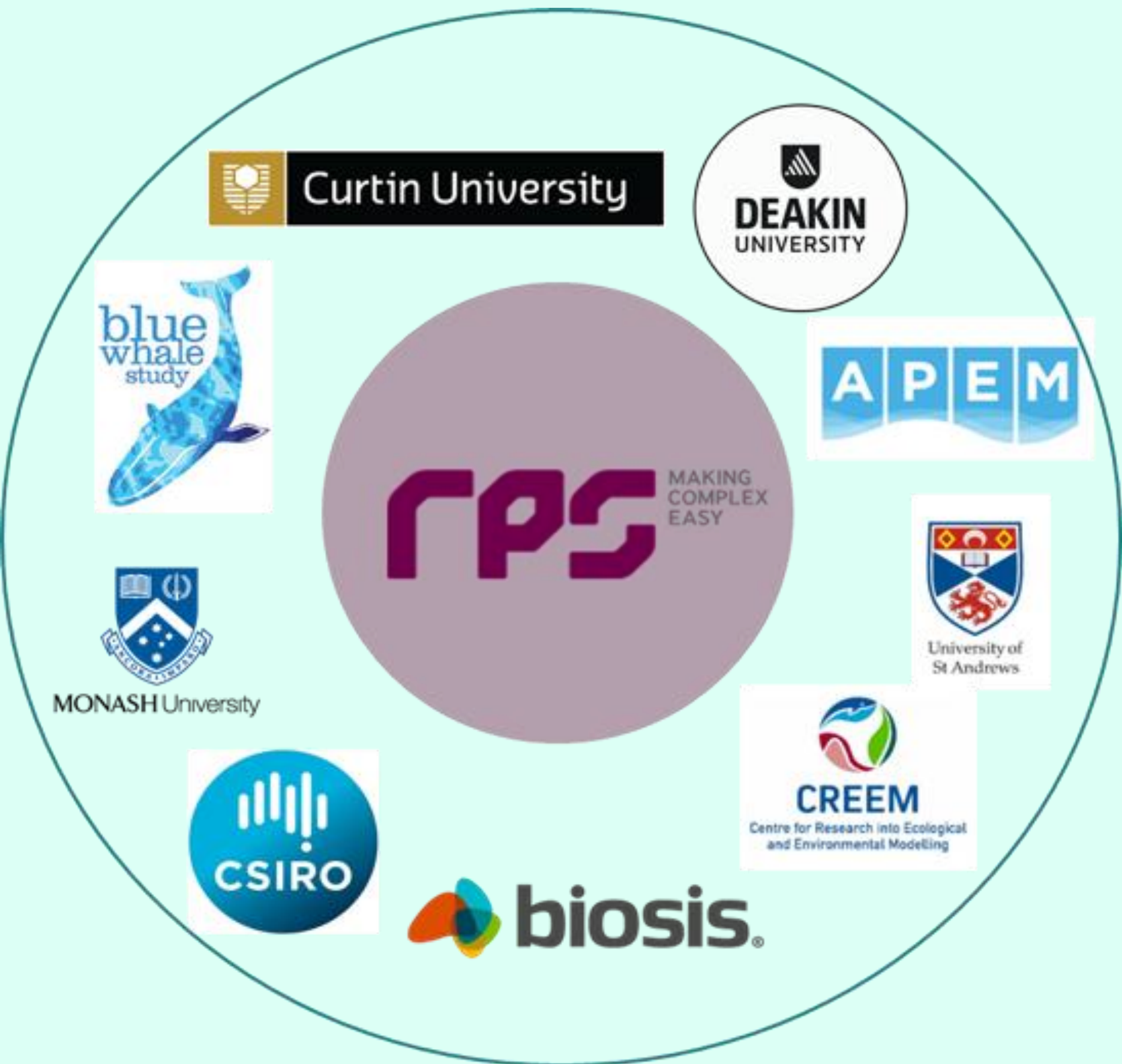
2020
|
2024
Completed extensive baseline studies of the marine and onshore environment.

Preparation of our EIA submission

- 25 technical studies
- Examines our baseline studies and investigations
- Assesses potential project impacts and mitigations
- Aiming to submit to government later this year

OUR BASELINE STUDIES AND WHAT WE'VE FOUND

BASELINE STUDIES



Marine Ecology Survey Program (MESP) 2020 – 2023



Birds
 Shorebird monitoring
 Population counts
 Aerial surveys
 Tagging
 At-sea observations



Marine mammals
 Aerial surveys
 Tagging
 Population counts
 Underwater acoustic monitoring



Fish
 Underwater video surveys
 Scientific net surveys
 Underwater acoustic monitoring



Benthic ecology
 Underwater video surveys
 Grab surveys



Coastal processes
 Near shore underwater wave and current monitors

PREPARING THE EIS/EES

1. Referral and referral decision

2. Scoping

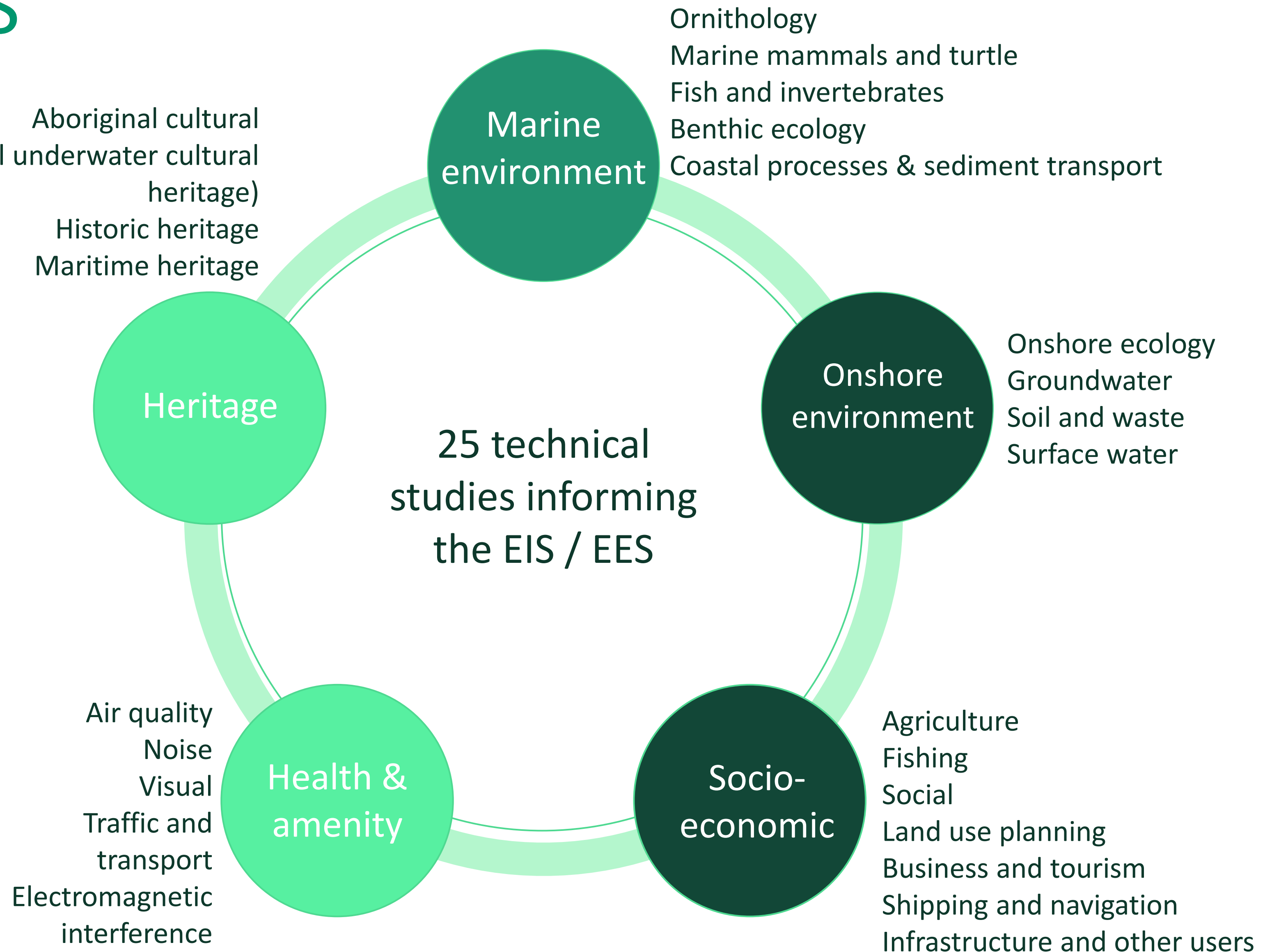
3. Baseline studies

4. Preparing the EIS/EES

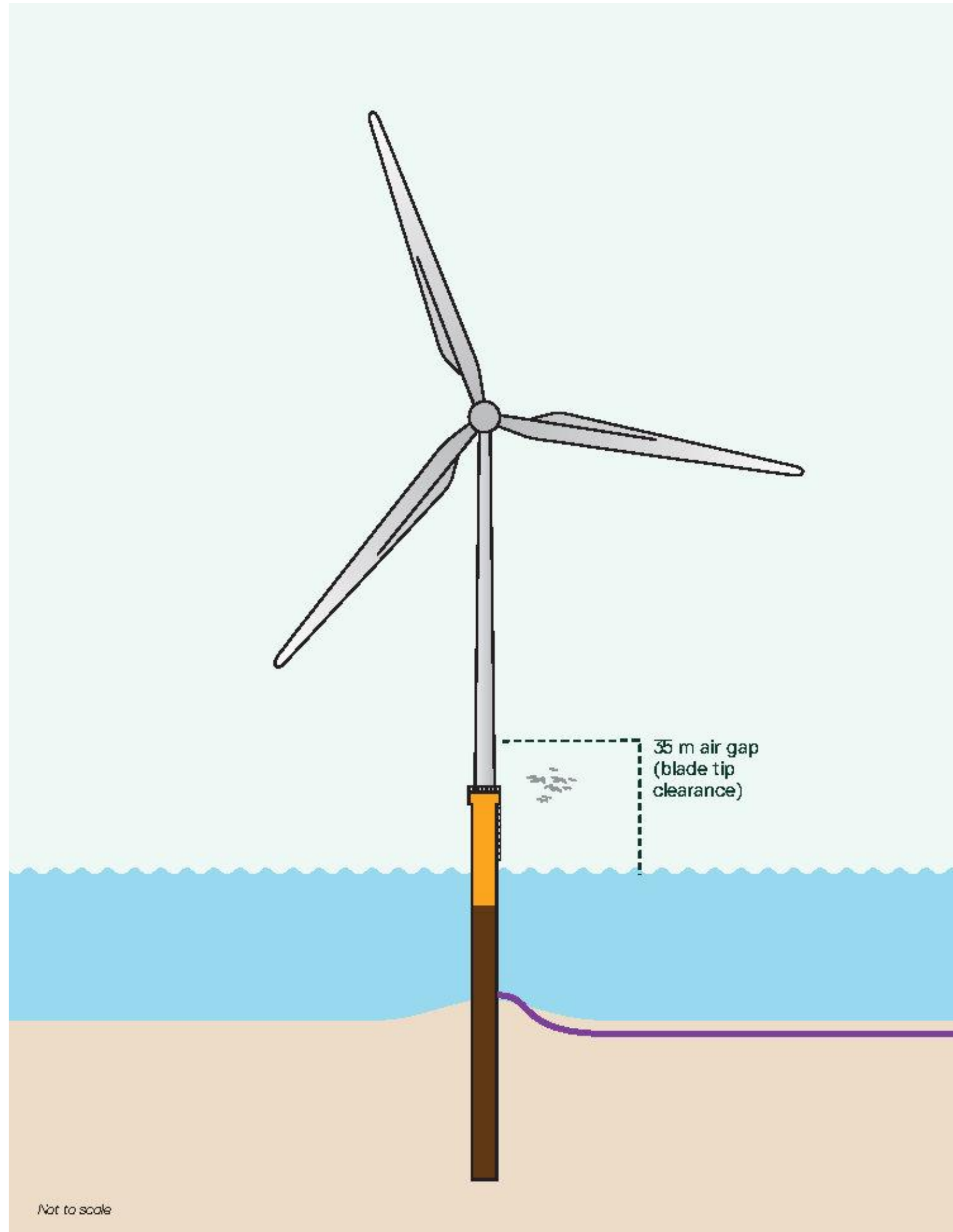
5. Public review and submissions

6. Minister's assessment

7. Planning and environmental approval decisions



BIRDS AND BATS - AIR GAP



- Increase in air gap identified as the most impactful ‘avoidance’ and mitigation measure available
- 12-month redesign process to determine optimal air gap height
- Key considerations: baseline survey findings, international practices and evidence, constructability, technical constraints and supply chain considerations
- Increase from 25 m to 35 m expected to reduce collision risk significantly for key species - modelling underway

Emerging international evidence shows that actual collisions are much lower than modelled

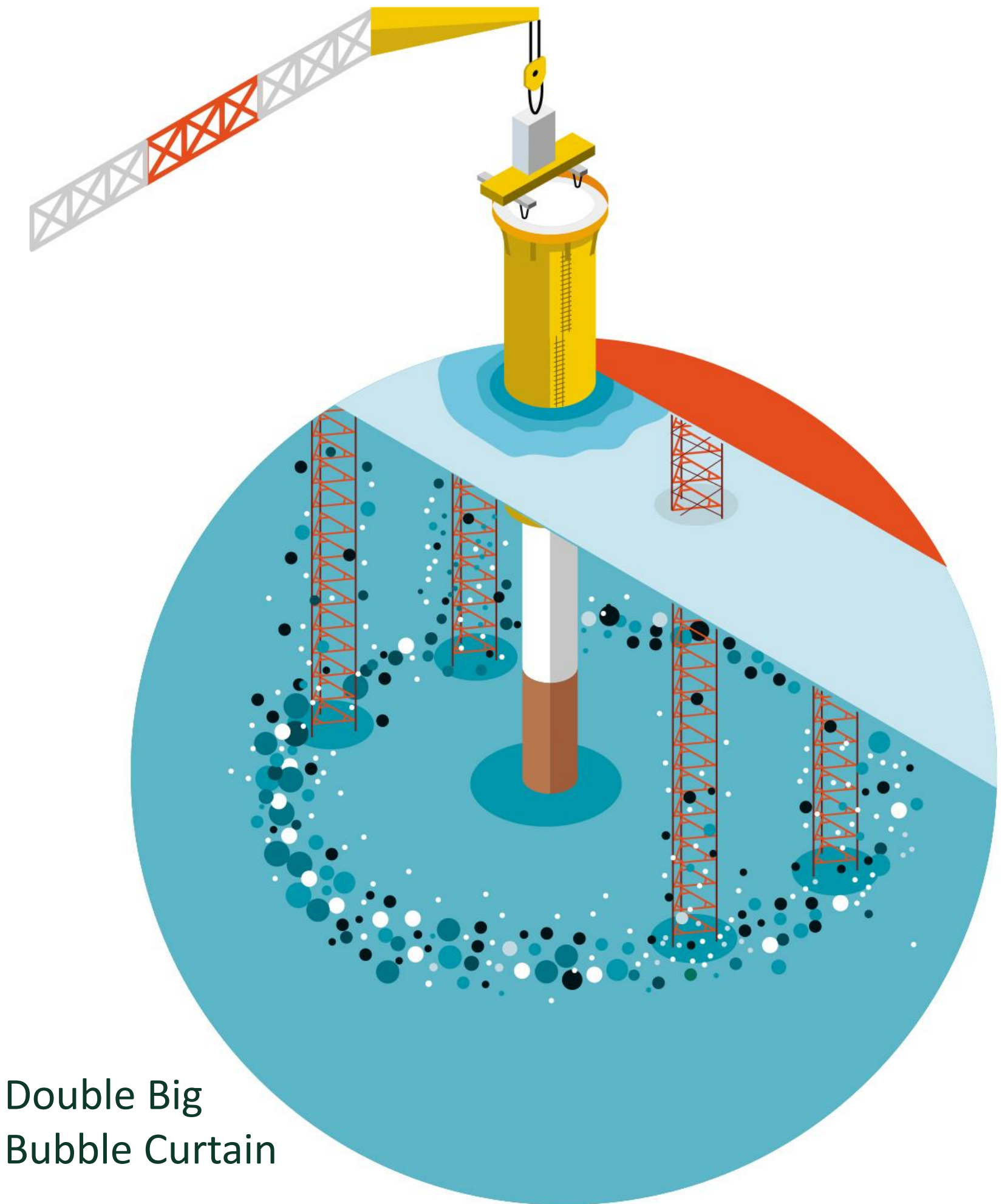
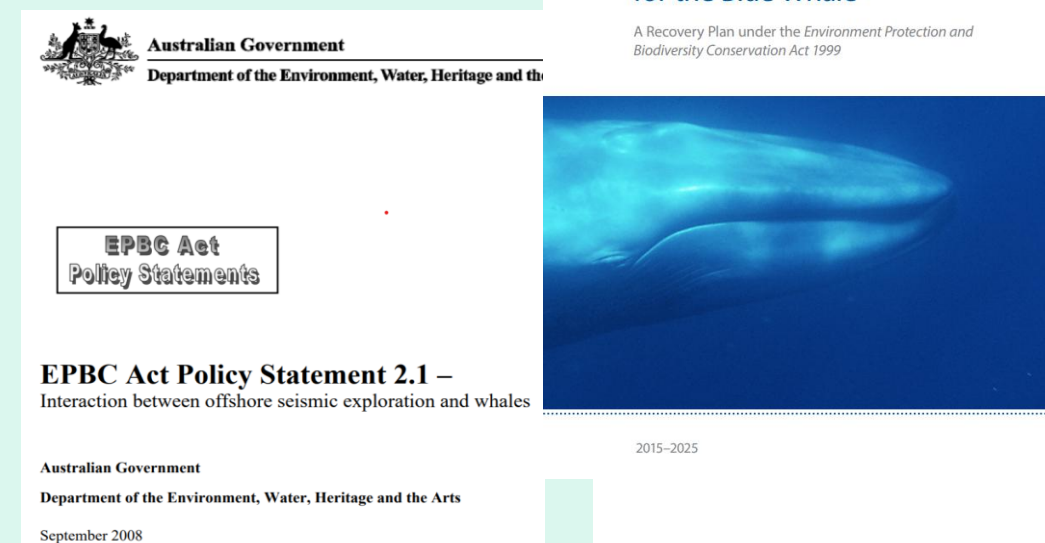
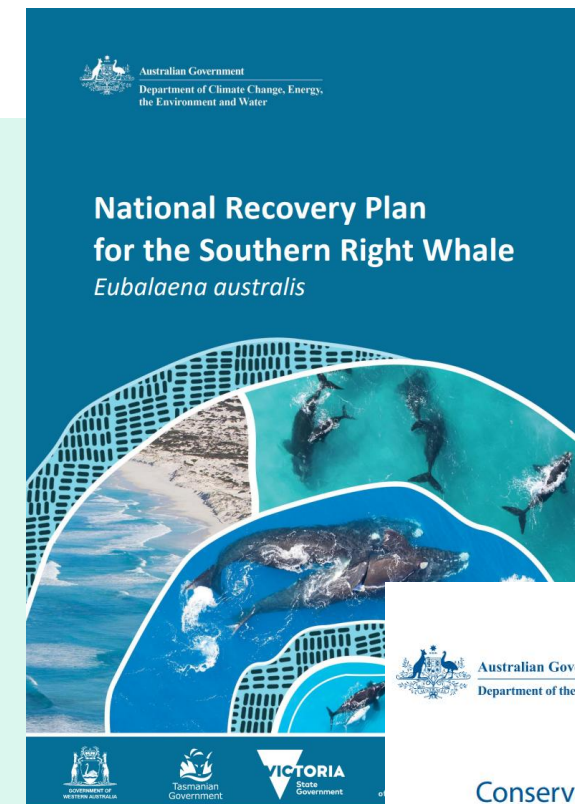


UNDERWATER NOISE

- Identify type and source of noise
- Modelling to understand impact and mitigations
- Selection of mitigation options
- Finalise assessment for EIS/EES

Policy and requirements are evolving

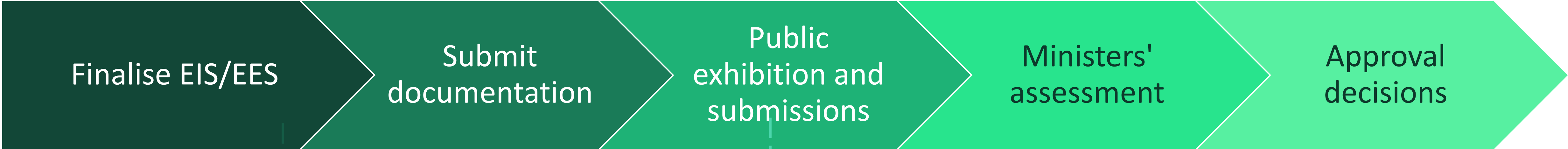
- New guidelines being developed
- EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1
- EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1
- Project needs to be consistent with Recovery Plan requirements



Double Big Bubble Curtain

NEXT STEPS

SHARING THE EIA AND SEEKING FEEDBACK



- Community briefings, including CAG
- Joint developer community information sessions
- Technical Reference Group
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops
- Landholder engagement

- EIA documentation will be available online and in local venues
- Community information sessions
- Stakeholder briefings
- Online hub for submissions (Engage Victoria)
- Independent Inquiry

BREAK

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON THE PROJECT

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Austin Healey Owners Club of Victoria Inc., Port Albert
- Gippsland Offshore Wind Days sessions in:
 - Port Albert,
 - Golden Beach,
 - Sale,
 - Leongatha
- IPFA event about Australian market for Offshore Wind, Melbourne
- Climate Investor Forum, Melbourne
- Surfers for Climate – Car Park Cinema, Sydney
- Toora Triathlon & Family Fun Day
- South Gippsland Jobs Expo, Leongatha
- Surfers for Climate – Car Park Cinema, Port Macquarie
- Melbourne University, SiRE students, Yarram



WHAT'S COMING UP

EIA APPROVAL BRIEFINGS

We're meeting with non-governmental environmental organisations ahead our intended public exhibition for environmental impact assessment later in 2025.

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Cultivating Communities – Tarra Festival
- CEDA Climate and Energy Summit
- One Gippsland Briefing



CLIMATE AND ENERGY SUMMIT 2025

Thursday, 1 May 2025

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY UPDATES – ALL MEMBERS

- What are you hearing?
- What are the hot topics in your local area?

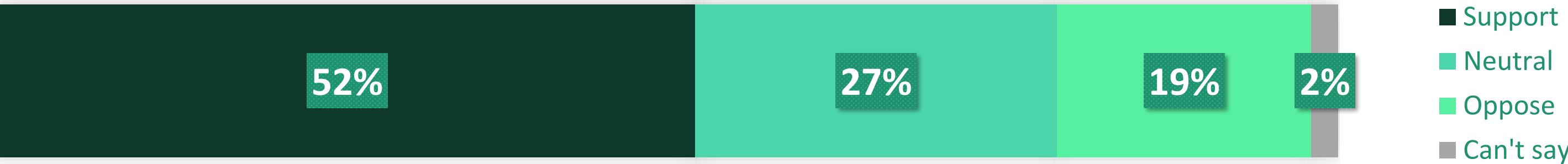


COMMUNITY RESEARCH OVERVIEW

BRIEF FOCUS TOPIC

Community research overview – Star of the South

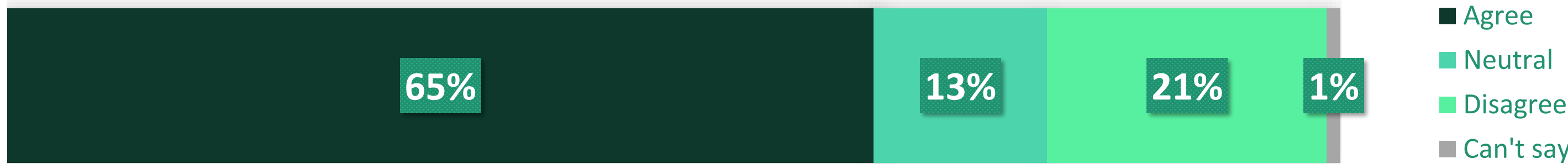
There is strong community for support for Star of the South



Support is driven by:

- 17% - need for more renewables
- 15% - clean energy to replace fossil fuels
- 12% - less intrusive than onshore
- 11% - local jobs and economic opportunities

Gippslanders agree Star of the South will be good for the region

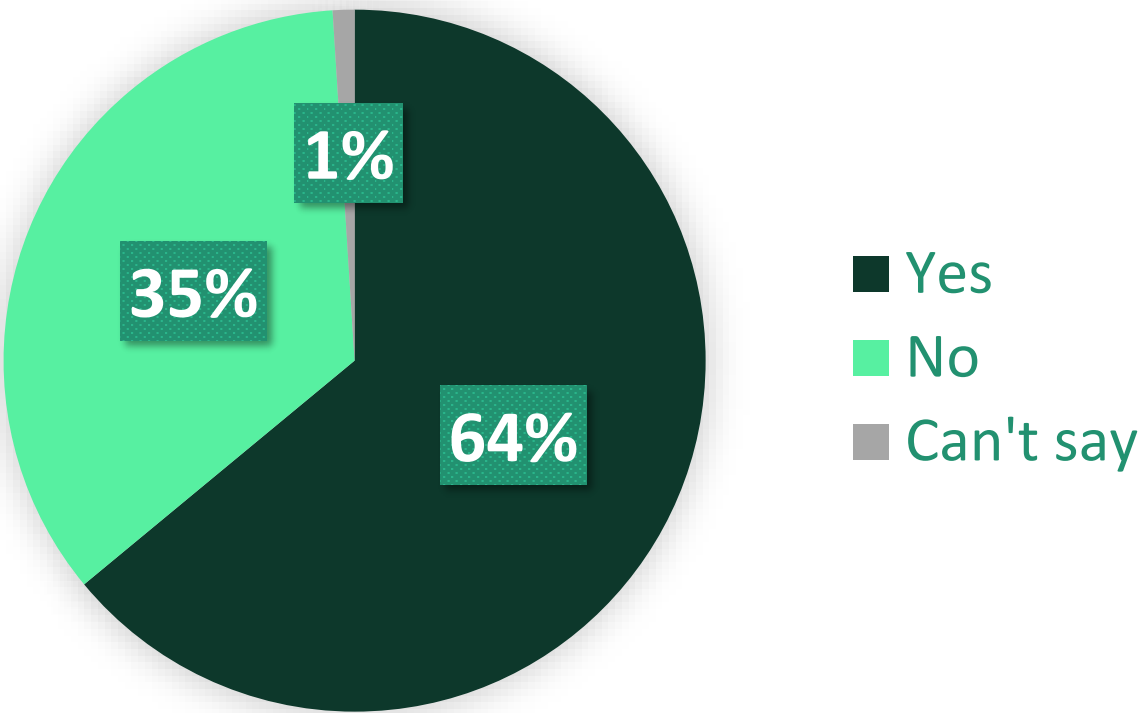


Opposition is driven by:

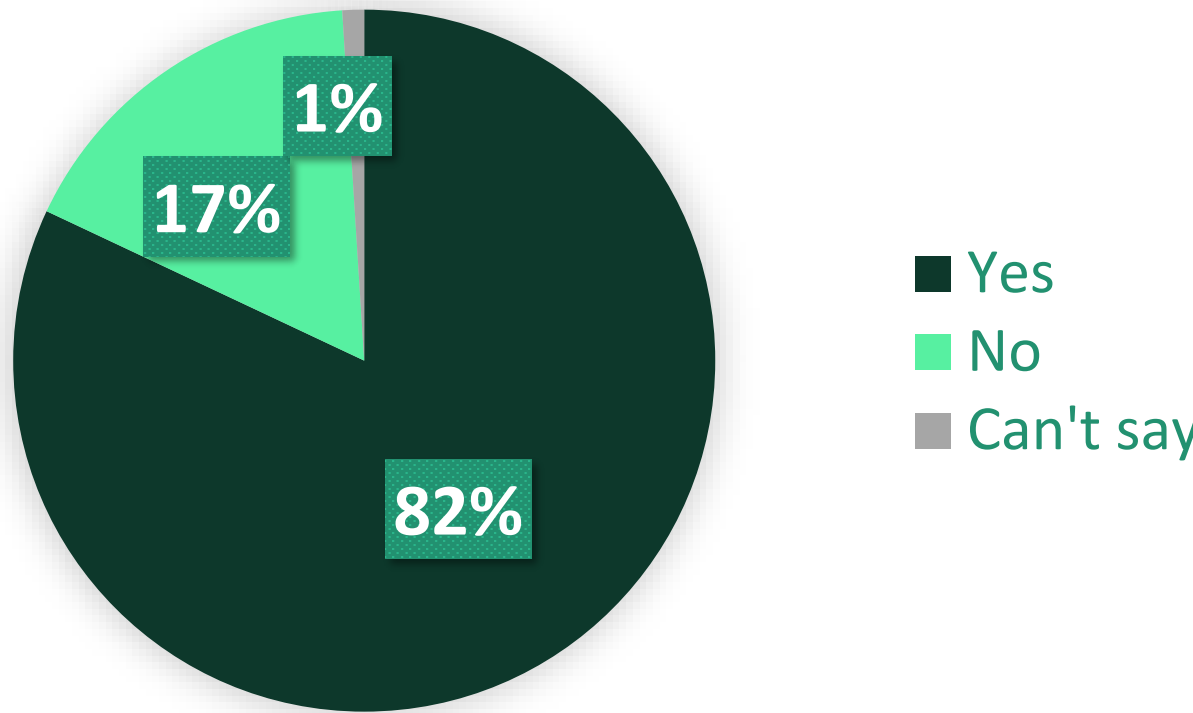
- 18% - concern about environmental impacts
- 8% - concern about cost
- 7% - unsure if it is the right renewable energy option
- 6% - visual amenity

Awareness and knowledge about Star of the South in the community is high

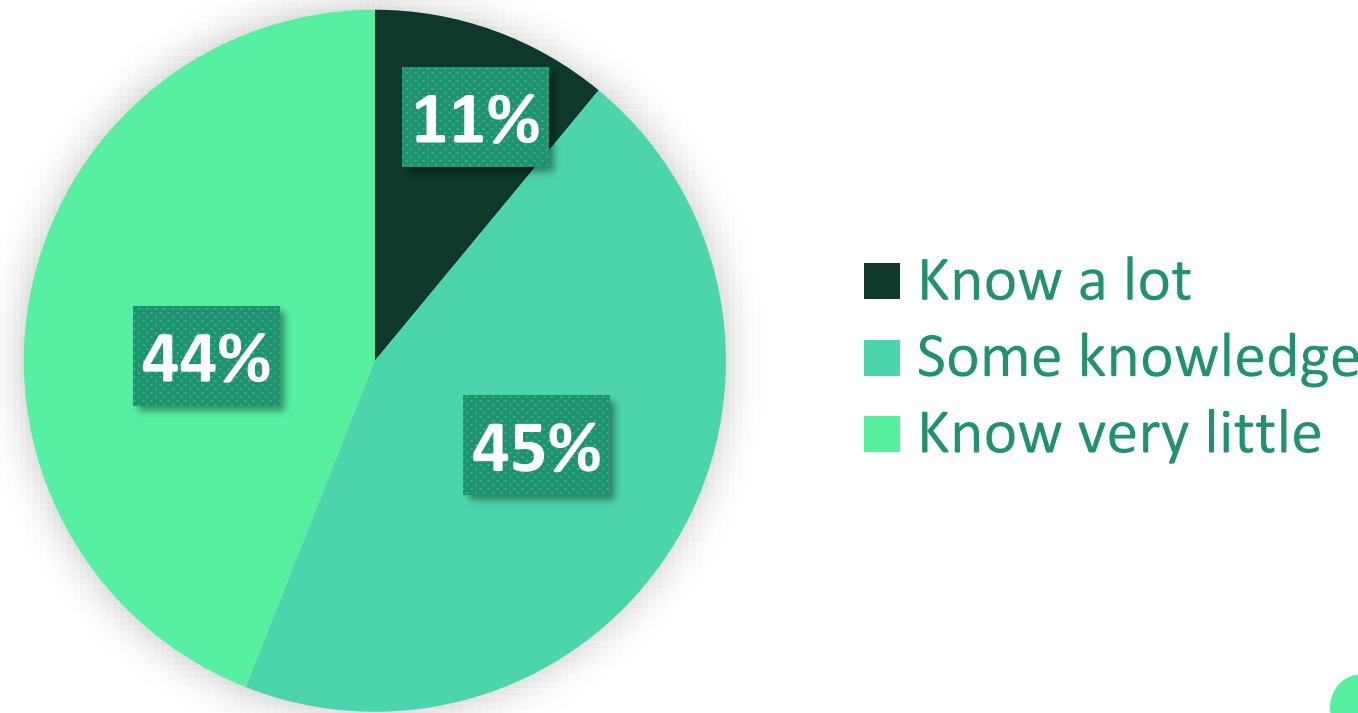
Unprompted Awareness



Prompted Awareness



Knowledge of Star of the South

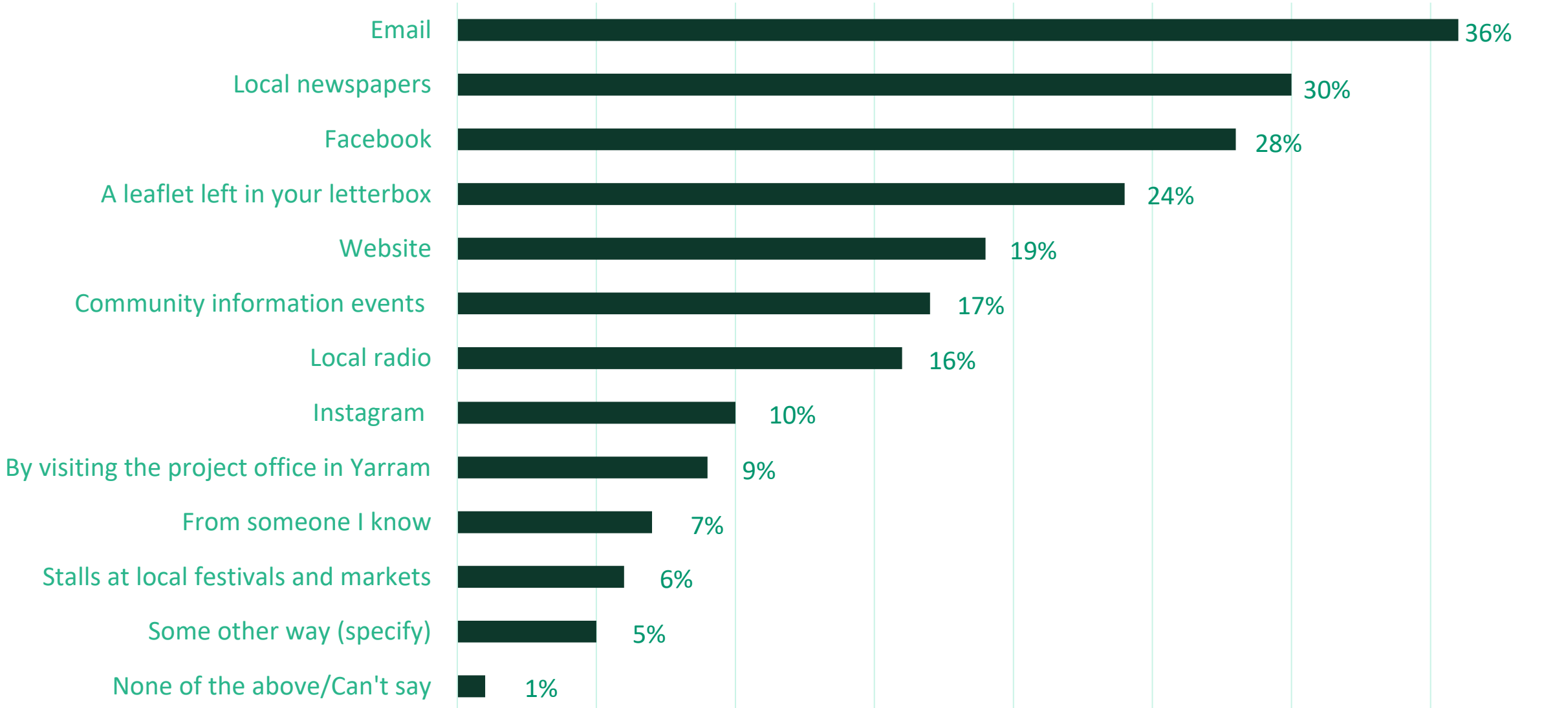


Community research overview – communication preferences

51% of respondents are interested in learning more about our projects



Here's how residents' say they prefer to receive information...



OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Other questions and feedback?

Suggestions for future agenda items

- Email / call Jason or Paul

Next meeting – 4pm to 6pm
Wednesday, 28 May 2025
Yarram(Venue TBC)

Date (subject to change)	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
Thursday, 24 July 2025	South Gippsland (Venue TBC)	(TBC)
Wednesday, 17 September 2025	Latrobe Valley	(TBC)

Thank you for your participation



PROJECTS BY



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