

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #33

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4 pm – 6 pm
Minutes	Jason Pickering	Date	2025-05-28
Location	RW May Pavilion, Yarram Recreation Reserve, Yarram VIC 3971		

Attendees

CAG Members	CAG Members	Project Team	Apologies
Ian Gibson	Jonathon Pintus	Erin Coldham	Darren McCubbin
Cr Catherine Bannerman	Glenn Stagg	William Ryan	Travis Dillow
Tony Cantwell	Nicki Jennings	Martin Juniper	Allan Rogers
Nick Dudley	Julianne Peavey	Julia Preston	Glen McColl
Wendy Farmer	Deb Lucas	Jacob Politakis	Jenny Smith
Ken Fraser	Christy Hoiles (Latrobe City Council)	Paul Johnson	Jack Winterbottom
Peter Mooney		Jason Pickering	Harry Mitchelson
Anne Roussac-Hoyne			Tony Wolfe

Key discussion points

Item	Outline
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Focus topic: Star of the South, Onshore transmission update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Refer to presentation for key updates <p>William Ryan – Senior Manager, Onshore Transmission</p> <p>Martin Juniper – Senior Manager, Environment and Approvals</p> <p>Julia Preston – Manager, EIA Communications & Engagement</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Nick asked whether Southerly Ten would consider relocating the transmission shore crossing further east than Reeves Beach to be closer to the VicGrid proposed offshore wind energy connection hub near Giffard West. William explained the project is planning to maintain the current transmission alignment, arriving at Reeves Beach and then installing around 30kms of onshore underground transmission to Giffard West.– Wendy queried if developers are required to deliver transmission underground from their respective shore crossings to the proposed VicGrid connection hub at Giffard West. William responded that VicGrid, the government body responsible for coordinating transmission connections for Gippsland Offshore Wind, has

stipulated that developers install underground transmission infrastructure from the coast to the connection hub at Giffard West.

- Nicki asked if the Star of the South onshore transmission route from the intended shore crossing to the proposed VicGrid connection hub is finalised. William explained that VicGrid are still investigating the final location of their connection hub so the project can't finalise the intended route, but we have secured transmission easement options for most of the alignment.

3 Break

Brief focus topic: Project update

- [Refer to presentation for key updates](#)

4 Erin provided an industry outlook, an overview of the recent Federal election result and of the release of Implementation Statement 4.

What's happening on the project

- [Refer to presentation for key updates](#)

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

- Ian asked if the collaborative developer lead 'Gippsland Offshore Wind Days' engagement sessions are working well. Paul explained that each event in November 2024 and March 2025 had been well attended by a wide range of community members including those who have little awareness of Gippsland's proposed offshore wind industry to potential project employees and suppliers. Regardless of their prior knowledge, each attendee is more informed after attending the session.

5 Feedback from attendees indicates strong support to speak with all developers plus VicGrid and Offshore Wind Energy Victoria (OWEV) at each event. This has helped to address potential consultation fatigue caused by each entity hosting their own sessions in overlapping communities.

Erin added each developer has really embraced the concept of this collaborative engagement which contributes to its success.

What's happening in the community

Community updates, open to all members.

- Wendy informed that 15 June 2025 is Global Wind Day and urged fellow Community Advisory Group members to promote the offshore wind sector and renewable energy projects on their socials and if possible, attend local events like one being organised by Friends of the Earth at Toora Wind Farm.

[Action 1 - Event detail will be shared when finalised.](#)

- Nick spoke of a recent Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation on-country day at Balley Hooley, a significant indigenous site at the confluence of the Buchan and Snowy Rivers and near the town of Buchan. Findings were detailed from an earlier archaeological dig on-site conducted in partnership with Monash University. From a single 1m² x 0.5m deep pit, the findings date back to around 9,000 years. This highlights the importance, and possible complexity relating to cultural heritage assessments required along proposed transmission routes for renewable energy projects.
 - Ken shared that South Gippsland Shire Council has a new CEO, Allison Jones, who begins on Monday 2 June 2025. Also, ESSO is continuing its community engagement sessions relating to the upcoming decommissioning of oil and gas infrastructure in Bass Strait. The latest round of engagement provides further detail of some of the associated works that will occur at Barry Beach Marine Terminal.
 - Wendy shared that "Nanna's Against Nuclear" has reformed following the Federal election as "Nanna's for Renewables", and that they are still meeting each Tuesday afternoon in Traralgon. The group has received contact from other areas hoping to replicate their own local version. Wendy added the meetups are not restricted to Nanna's only - men and children who support renewable energy are most welcome too.
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7 Other business

– Next meeting – CAG #34, Thursday 24 July 2025, in South Gippsland

8 Meeting close

Actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Following Wendy's community update, to share information about the upcoming Global Wind Day organised by Friends of the Earth event planned for 15 June 2025 at the Toora Wind Farm. – Shared event detail and flyer by email (6 June) with the Community Advisory Group, and more widely through our Star of the South project social media channels (12 June).	Jason	13 June 2025

Questions taken on notice

No.	Action	Owner	Due
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