

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting #34 – 24 July 2025



A landscape photograph featuring a field of tall, green grass in the foreground, blowing in the wind. The background is a vast sky with large, soft clouds, some of which are illuminated with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and natural.

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 new Latrobe City Council member
  - Minutes and action items
  - Declaration of potential conflicts
2. Focus Topic
  - Planning Star of the South's EIS/EES Exhibition
3. Break
4. What's happening on the project
5. What's happening in the community
6. Other business
  - Other questions or feedback
  - Key messages
  - Suggestions for future agenda items
  - Next meeting – Thursday 18 September
7. Meeting close

# PLANNING STAR OF THE SOUTH'S EIS/EES EXHIBITION

Focus topic

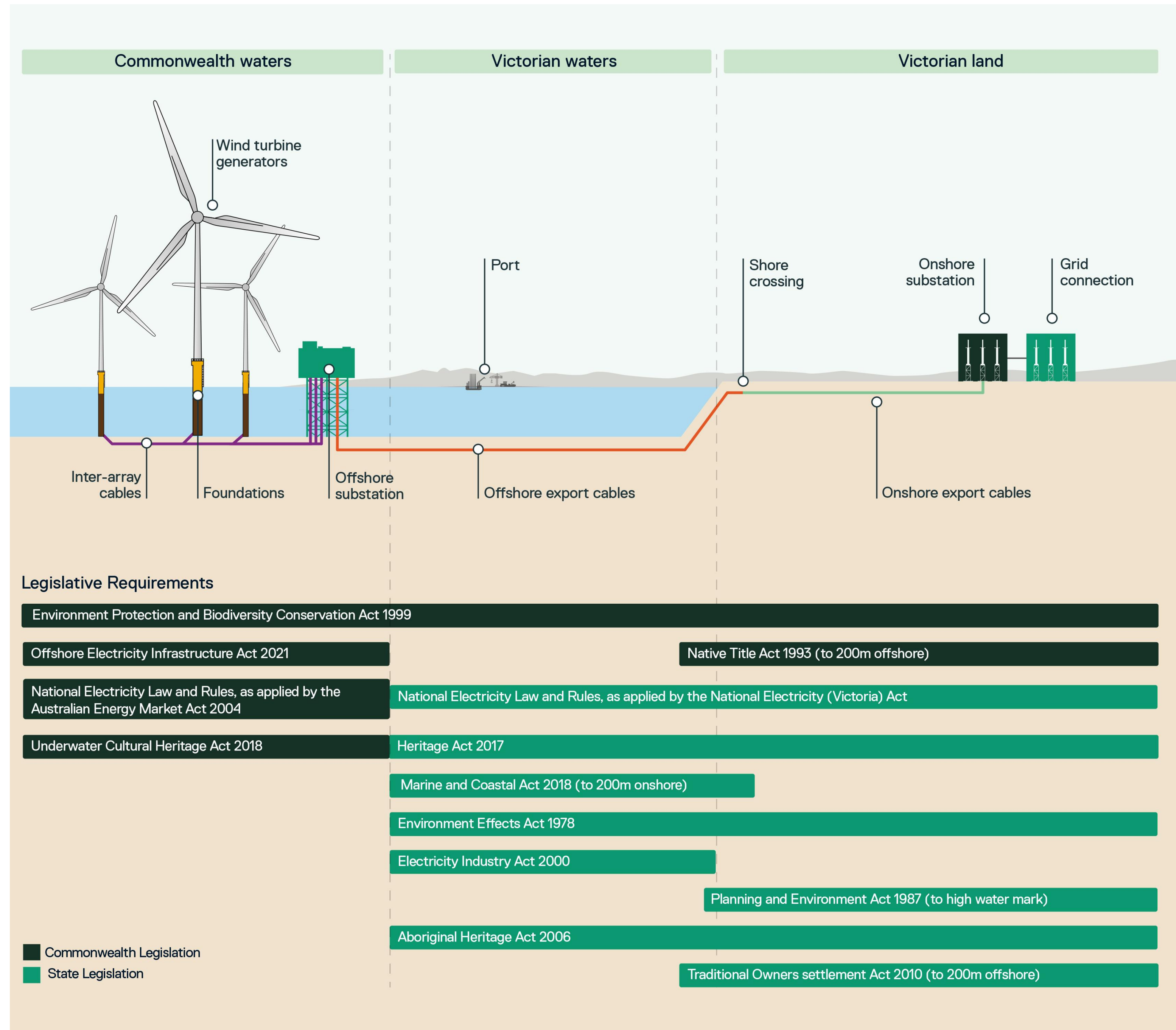
# What is the EIS/EES?

A **Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** and **Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES)**:

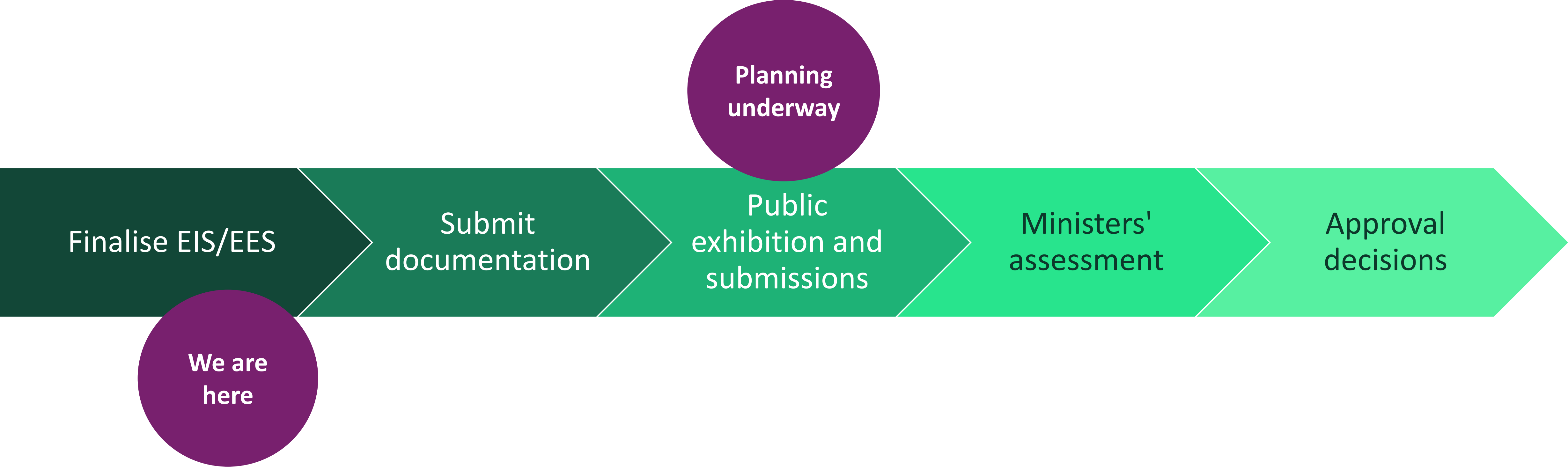
- assesses the potential project impacts
- identifies measures to minimise or manage those impacts.

The EIS/EES informs government approvals.

Where relevant and possible, the EIS/EES is coordinated (e.g., scoping documents, exhibition).



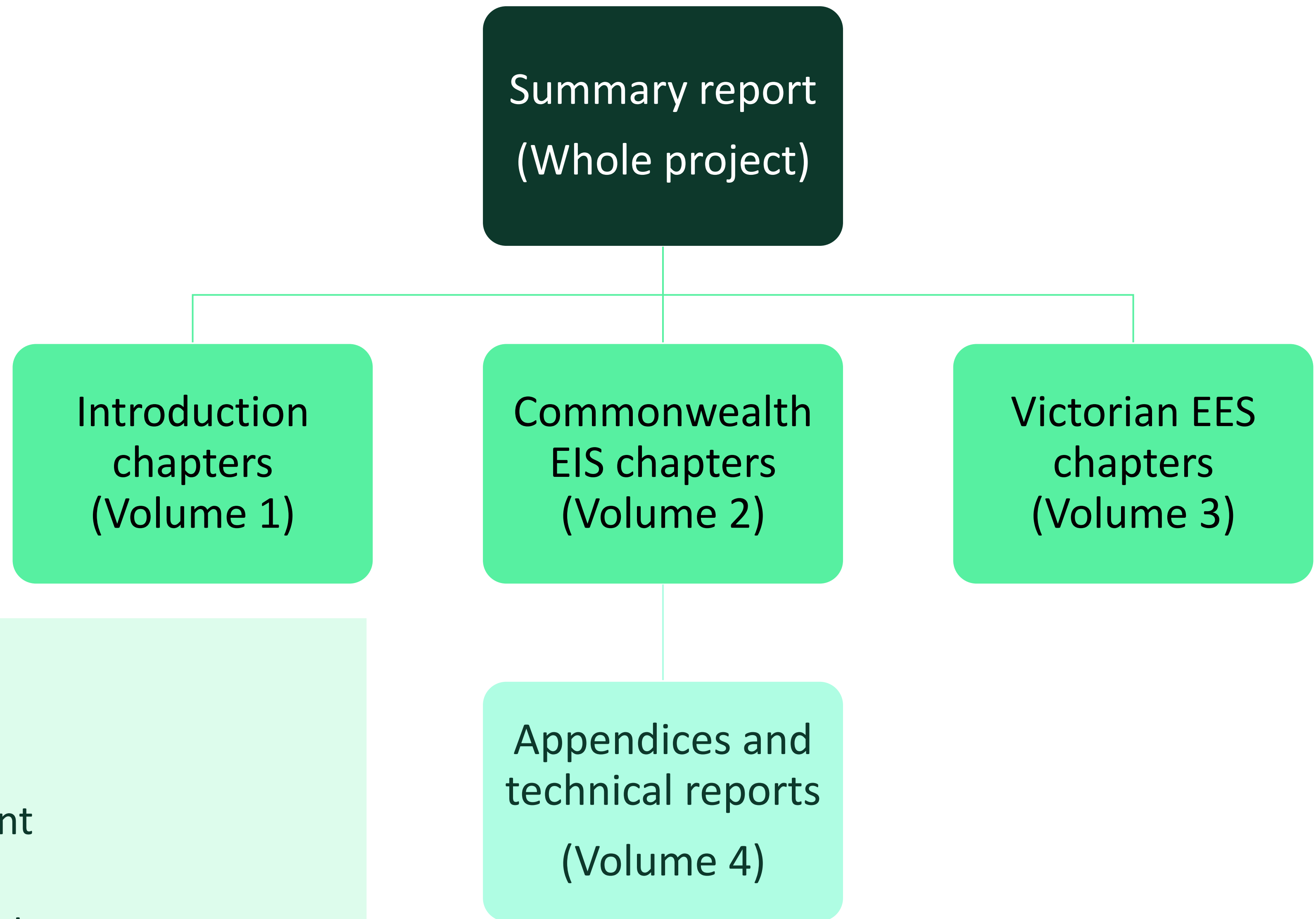
# EIS/ESS process



# EIS/EES next steps

## Finalise EIS/EES

- Finalise **summary report**
- Finalise **chapters**
- Finalise **technical reports**
- Technical Reference Group engagement
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops
- Community, landholder and Traditional Owner engagement
- Planning for submission



# EIS/EES steps

## Public exhibition and submissions

- Publicly available for 30 – 40 days
- Hardcopies and online
- Newspaper, radio and social media advertising
- Community newsletter to 53,000 homes
- Community information sessions
- Stakeholder briefings
- Submissions made via Engage Victoria platform (*right*) or DCCEEW
- Victorian EES inquiry process



The screenshot shows a web page for the 'Western Renewables Link Inquiry and Advisory Committee'. The page has a teal header with navigation links: 'Consultations', 'About us', 'Contact us', 'Login', 'Register', and 'Search'. The main content area features a large image of a landscape with power lines. Below the image, there is a title 'Western Renewables Link Inquiry and Advisory Committee' and a sub-header 'An Inquiry and Advisory Committee is collecting submissions to consider the environmental effects of the proposed Western Renewables Link Project.' A status bar indicates 'OPEN FOR FEEDBACK' and 'CLOSES 22 AUGUST 2025'. A navigation bar below the image has three tabs: 'Overview' (selected), 'Participate', and 'Timeline'. The 'Overview' section contains the following text: 'The Minister for Planning will appoint a joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to advise on the environmental effects of the proposed Western Renewables Link Project. The IAC is an independent group of experts tasked with this assessment.' Below this, it lists the IAC's tasks: 'review the Environment Effects Statement (EES), draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) GC209 to the Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Ballarat, Hepburn, Moorabool and Melton Planning Schemes, and public submissions; hold a public Hearing to hear from the Proponent and submitters who want to speak to their written submission; provide advice to the Minister about the environmental effects of the project.' It also mentions that the IAC will follow 'Terms of Reference' approved by the Minister for Planning. On the right side, there are buttons for '+ Follow' and 'Share', and a 'Contact the project team' section with contact information: 'Planning Panels Victoria', '136 186 (select option 6)', and 'planning.panels@transport.vic.gov.au'. A 'Timeline' section is also visible at the bottom right.

Example currently on Engage Victoria

# EIS/EES steps

Post  
exhibition

Ministers'  
assessment

Approval  
decisions

- Minister for Planning will provide an Assessment with conditions the project needs to meet
- This is provided to primary approval decision makers (*planning scheme amendment, marine and coastal consent and Cultural Heritage Management Plan*)
- Prepare an EIS 'addendum', with any project changes
- We'll confirm conditions the project will need to meet for Commonwealth matters
- **Timing for approvals depends on many factors**



BREAK

# What's happening on the project

- WGCMA EIA briefing – onshore focus
- Clean Energy Council Offshore Wind Forum
- Trade & Tech Fit Career Expo
- Yarram Primary School – I'm a Scientist
- Bass Coast Industry – Workforce round table
- South Gippsland Bass Coast Careers Expo
- South Gippsland School Industry round table
- Australian Wind Energy Conference
- Gippsland Tech School, Cyber Security Challenge Week – Clean Energy
- NAIDOC Week Celebration in Yarram
- Gippsland Transmission Community round table
- Gippsland Offshore Wind Days in Toora
- Gippsland Grammar Futures Expo



# What's coming up

## EIA briefings

We're meeting with non-governmental environmental organisations ahead of the public exhibition of our environmental assessment later in 2025.

## Events and presentations

- Jobskills Expo 2025
- Catholic College Sale Pathways Expo
- Australian Clean Energy Summit
- Gippsland Offshore Wind Days in Loch Sport, and Woodside
- Bass Coast Jobs & Careers Expo – Wonthaggi
- Sale College, Year 11 VCE VM students
- Lighthouse Club Australia
- Gippsland New Energy Conference
- 2025 Gippy Youth New Energy Summit
- APAC Wind Energy Summit 2025



# What's happening in the community?

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



# Gippsland Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) Sector Plan

Deliver a strategic sector plan that outlines a pathway for state and federal governments to work with industry and regional stakeholders to support delivery of a Gippsland offshore wind industry.

## Funding

GOWA members including developers and councils

## Project oversight



## Focus on

- enabling infrastructure
- the 'ask' to government
- positive advocacy
- workforce development
- positive case studies
- creating investment certainty
- transition timeline for OSW

The logo for Aurecon, featuring the word "aurecon" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font with a small green dot above the 'a'.

**Launch** at the Gippsland New Energy Conference

# OTHER BUSINESS

# Other business

Other questions and feedback?

Suggestions for future agenda items

- Email / call Jason or Paul

**Next meeting – 4pm to 6pm**  
**Thursday, 18 Sept. 2025**  
Latrobe Valley (Venue TBC)

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Date (subject to change)	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
Thursday, 6 November 2025	Sale	(TBC)
Wednesday, 10 December 2025	(TBC)	(TBC)

Thank you for your participation



PROJECTS BY



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