

## Minutes

# Community Advisory Group meeting #4

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	5pm-7pm
Minutes	Sophie Fitzpatrick	Date	2021-03-11
Location	Library Room, Criterion Hotel, Sale		

## Attendance

Members		Project team	Apologies
Rick Rutjens	Susan McMillan	Erin Coldham	Jonathan Pintus
Darren McCubbin	Glenn Stagg	Mandy Elliott	Caleb Barlow
Jane Oakley	Jack Winterbottom	Sarah Altmann	Matt Langdon
Tony Wolfe	Mary-Lou Dixon	Sophie Fitzpatrick	Travis Dillow
Jessica Young	Allan Rogers		Wendy Farmer
Peter Mooney	Cr Marcus McKenzie		Deb Lucas
Harry Mitchelson	Shannan Little		Jenny Smith
Dane Heinrich			Julianne Peavey

## Actions – previous

No	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
1	Implement SMS alerts for CAG member communications	Sarah Altmann	10/03/2021	Complete	
2	Respond to questions taken on notice	Sarah Altmann	10/03/2021	Complete	

## Key discussion points

Item	Discussion points
1	<p><b>Welcome and acknowledgement of country</b></p>
2	<p><b>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement of minutes for CAG meeting #3.</li> <li>• Further to his previous declaration of a potential conflict of interest, Allan advised he will donate fees paid for undertaking Star of the South recreational fishing surveys to the Mcloughlins Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association. The Chairperson stated that anyone doing paid work for the project should declare it, can use it as they wish, and reiterated the importance of the CAG being independent and limiting instances of members undertaking paid work for the project.</li> <li>• Group discussed meeting held by lawyers on 10 March at Woodside Hall regarding easements and land acquisition. Allan attended the meeting and provided an overview.</li> <li>• Group discussed Marinus Link project webinar held on 24 February. Peter advised that Marinus Link recently briefed unions about the project and that they're using a DC system.</li> <li>• Sarah advised SMS will be trialled to support member communication ahead of the next meeting.</li> <li>• Queries raised on the CAG webpage (fish surveys, grid capacity) have been responded to. The query regarding turbine maintenance will be addressed in the next meeting.</li> <li>• Chair acknowledged member achievements - Deb was named Yarram Rotary Citizen of the Year 2020, and congratulated Shannon on becoming a father and Allan and Harry on the arrival of grandchildren.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>What's happening on the project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star of the South is making a submission to the Victorian Government's Energy Innovation Fund.</li> <li>• Recruitment underway for Yarram-based staff.</li> <li>• Star of the South has started contacting landholders with an update on transmission.</li> <li>• Sarah gave overview of planned activities to communicate the transmission route decision. An optional out-of-session CAG briefing will be held on 16 March. Other activities include a community webinar on 22 March and COVID-safe outdoor events in late March at Woodside Beach, Yarram and Morwell. After Easter there will be a session at Lakes Entrance.</li> <li>• Erin noted an upcoming presentation with Star of the South CEO as part of the Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA) and panel discussion with Ross Garnaut.</li> </ul>

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4	<p><b>What's happening in the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian and Sarah presented to the Traralgon Rotary. They were asked about the CAG, offshore wind and what is happening on the project.</li> <li>• Harry advised of Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) CEO resignation. SIV are undertaking a member survey on behalf of Star of the South. SIV are to submit a report to Star of the South when survey is complete. Harry noted fishers are sensitive about sharing information and want to understand it's being used for.</li> <li>• Darren and Jane discussed a recent briefing from the Victorian Government about the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Development Plan, as part of consultation on their Directions Paper. Jane advised that C4G are surveying their members about the development of a Renewable Energy Zone in Gippsland.</li> <li>• Tony noted information about project job numbers and talked about the economic benefits compared to gas.</li> <li>• Mary-Lou shared positive feedback she had heard around Waratah Bay about Star of the South community engagement.</li> <li>• Peter noted that he attended a briefing from Energy Australia regarding the retirement of Yallourn.</li> <li>• Chair sought feedback on the idea of nominating a member to share a more in-depth update about their community/organisation and what's happening at each meeting. Feedback from the group that time for informal updates and discussion is important to retain, but that this could be suitable sometimes. Anyone wishing to take up this opportunity to contact the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Environmental assessment processes (EIS/EES) - group discussion and questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah provided an overview of the environmental assessment process – refer to presentation supplied.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Questions and discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question about the Gippsland REZ – directions paper available on DELWP website. New authority called VicGrid leading this and will come into effect from 1 July. The intent is to enable new renewable development and capacity. Note that it is important to coordinate efforts with different developers and needs to be mindful of opportunities for local communities and socially acceptable from community perspective.</li> <li>• Question about the potential economic impact of the project – it is still early days for this project but some initial work done to understand potential economic benefits of an offshore wind industry in Gippsland. This is a good focus topic for a future meeting.</li> <li>• Question about Yallourn early retirement and potential for transfer of jobs to offshore wind – Star of the South released a statement about Energy Australia's announcement. Skills in the energy sector are transferable and project is talking with Energy Australia and other groups such as Committee for Gippsland, LVA, RDV and council, to contribute to workforce transition plans.</li> <li>• Question about the capability of Star of the South and whether it could come online</li> </ul>

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	<p>earlier if required – Star of the South could be ready and operating at full capacity by 2028. To proceed, project needs approvals and it needs to make sense from a market perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question about whether the date of the expected closure of Yallourn was factored into Star of the South – yes this has been on the project’s radar and expected. Question about the role of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction (Commonwealth) and the regulatory framework – EPBC Act applies to environmental assessment of the onshore and offshore components. A Commonwealth Government licence granted by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction is also needed to build, operate and decommission the wind farm.</li> <li>• Question about whether a new approval process is being created for Star of the South because it is the first offshore wind project? – EIS and EES processes are existing assessment processes. New legislation is being developed which would enable offshore wind by providing a pathway to apply for a licence to build an offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters.</li> <li>• Question about GLaWAC’s role in approvals – GLaWAC is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act for the project’s Cultural Heritage Management Plan. This is a necessary approval for the project to proceed. Question about extent of RAP jurisdiction taken on notice.</li> <li>• Question about whether EIS and EES are concurrent or staged processes – concurrent with similar steps and timing for the two jurisdictions.</li> <li>• Question about whether the EES/EIS process can continue if the other required legislation is delayed – yes, they’re not dependent on one another but both approvals are needed before the project can proceed.</li> <li>• Question about whether the EES process can be challenged at VCAT – parties have challenged aspects of an EES process before on matters of judicial review in the Victorian Supreme Court</li> <li>• Question about how to raise important issues or species that are not listed or considered significant – talk with project and provide feedback on the EES scoping requirements and/or EIS assessment guidelines. These documents set out what the project must consider in its assessments.</li> <li>• Question about whether the list of studies required is on the Victorian Government website – No not yet. EES scoping requirements are expected to be released for public comment in coming months.</li> <li>• Question about whether disaster management and extreme weather is included in the studies – studies will consider the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Question taken on notice about whether bushfire risk gets assessed.</li> <li>• Question about EES inquiry process – anyone who makes a submission as part of the EES public exhibition phase is given the opportunity to present to the Inquiry. The role of the Inquiry is to make recommendations to the the Minister for Planning. They ask lots of questions of the project and in order to assess whether the issues have been appropriately considered and inform their advice for the</li> </ul>

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	<p>Minister. EIS uses a different process. Written submissions may be made and the project must respond to all issues raised in submissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson and Mandy are both Planning Panels Victoria sessional members and sometimes sit on inquiry panels for other projects. They would not be on the Inquiry for Star of the South.</li> <li>• Question about what the TRG is – the Technical Reference Group of made up of regulatory agencies including local councils. They provide advice throughout the EES preparation to SOTS and DELWP impact assessment unit.</li> <li>• Question about the Commonwealth licencing process – the project cannot be built without a licence. Licencing process will be set out in a new bill that needs to be introduced and passed through Parliament.</li> <li>• Action to discuss Commonwealth licence process in another meeting.</li> <li>• Question about the timeframes in terms of key steps – currently at the scoping stage. Preparation of EIS/EES takes a couple of years and public exhibition and comment is expected in 2023.</li> <li>• Question about whether there is a Victorian Commissioner for renewables – no but there is a Sustainability Commissioner.</li> <li>• Question from Allan about fish taken on notice – Allan to post on CAG member page for response.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Other items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions for future agenda items – turbines, economic benefits, jobs/investment</li> <li>• Chairperson noted that the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner expressed an interest in attending a meeting</li> <li>• Next meeting to be held in early May, date and venue to be confirmed.</li> </ul>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Respond to questions taken on notice - Extent of Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) jurisdiction (Mary-Lou) - Various questions - sediment, EMF, turbine siting and ports (Allan)	Sarah Altmann	30/04/2021
2	Discuss Commonwealth legislation in future meeting	Sarah Altmann	30/06/2021

## Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
24 May 2021	4:00pm–6:00pm	Toora Football & Netball Club