



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING #27 – 4 JULY 2024



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

2. STANDING ITEMS AND ACTIONS

- Apologies
- Minutes and action items
- Declaration of potential conflicts

3. FOCUS TOPIC

- Environmental approvals update
 - Status of Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Status of Birds Environmental Impact Assessment

4. Break (10 MINUTES)

5. What's happening on the project

6. What's happening in the community

7. Other business

- Other questions or feedback
- Key messages
- Suggestions for future agenda items
- Next meeting – 4 July 2024

8. Meeting close

FOCUS TOPIC

ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL UPDATE

- STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- STATUS OF BIRDS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

OFFSHORE APPROVALS UPDATE

WE'RE EXPECTING TO SUBMIT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN 2025

Key points:

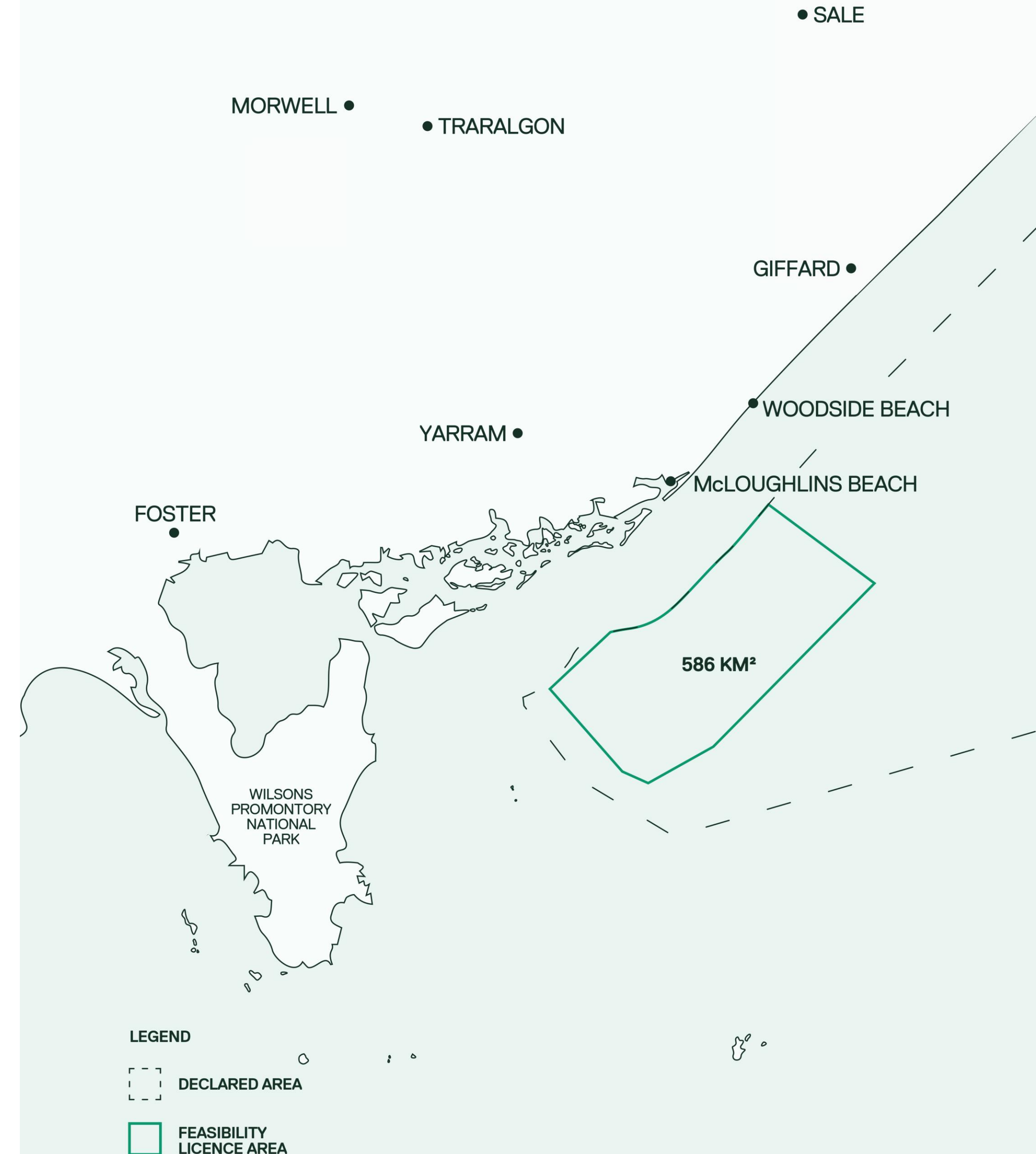
- There have been updates to key elements of the project that affect approvals in the first part of 2024.
- The environmental assessment of the project is being updated to take into account the updates to the project.
- We're working to finalise assessment.



FEASIBILITY LICENCE AREA

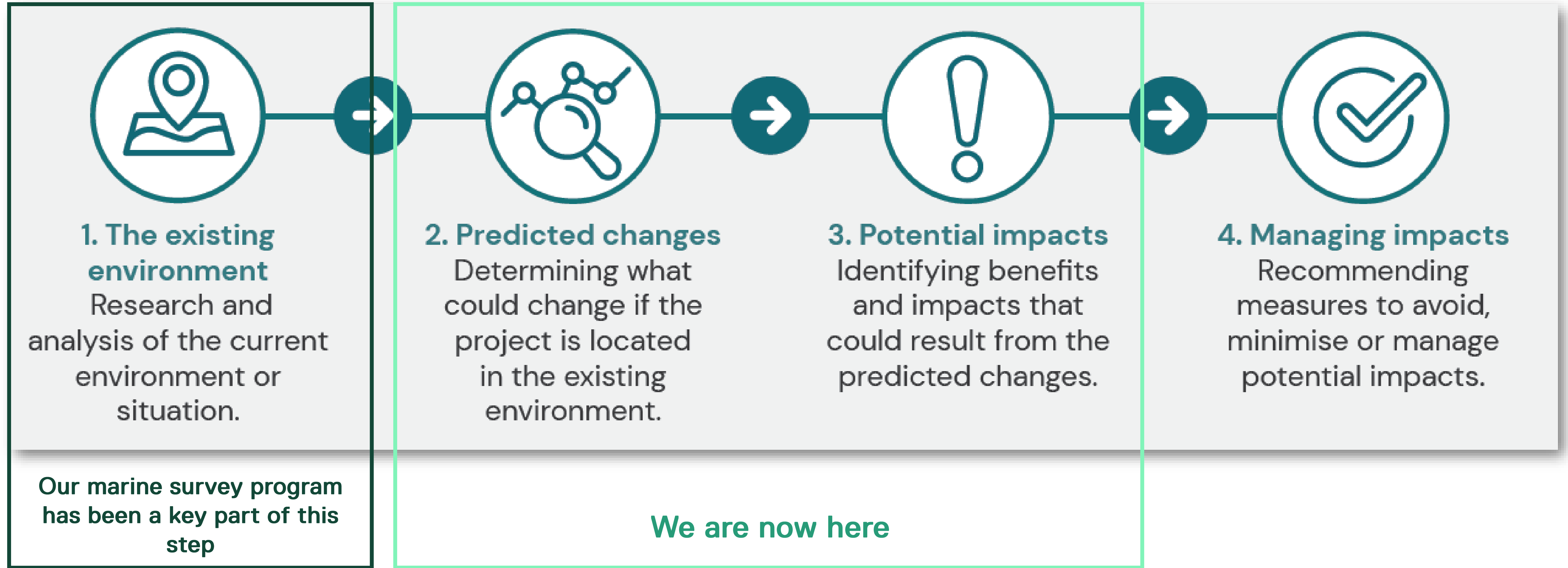
THE GIPPSLAND FEASIBILITY LICENSES WERE AWARDED IN MAY 2024

- A feasibility licence was granted to Star of the South this increased the area we've been investigating by just over 140km² and means all previous reports need to be updated
- Still an up to 2.2 GW project
- Remodelling of impacts associated with turbines includes:
 - Collision Risk for birds
 - Underwater noise
 - Coastal processes.



UPDATE ON BIRD ASSESSMENT

ANALYSIS OF DATA COLLECTED IS UNDERWAY AND REPORTS WILL BE PUBLICLY RELEASED WHEN COMPLETE.



MARINE ECOLOGY SURVEY PROGRAM

STAR OF THE SOUTH COLLECTED 2 YEARS
OF BASELINE DATA

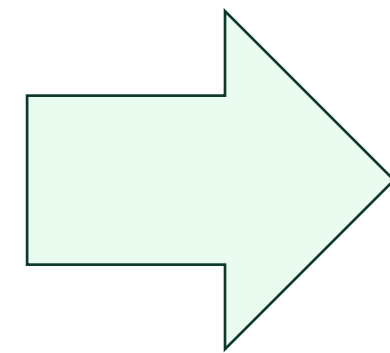
- Aerial surveys
- Tagging
- Population counts
- Shorebird monitoring
- At-sea observations



MANAGING IMPACTS

USING ROBUST DATA FROM THE MESP WE CAN START TO UNDERSTAND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Steps to
reducing
impacts



1

Avoid

2

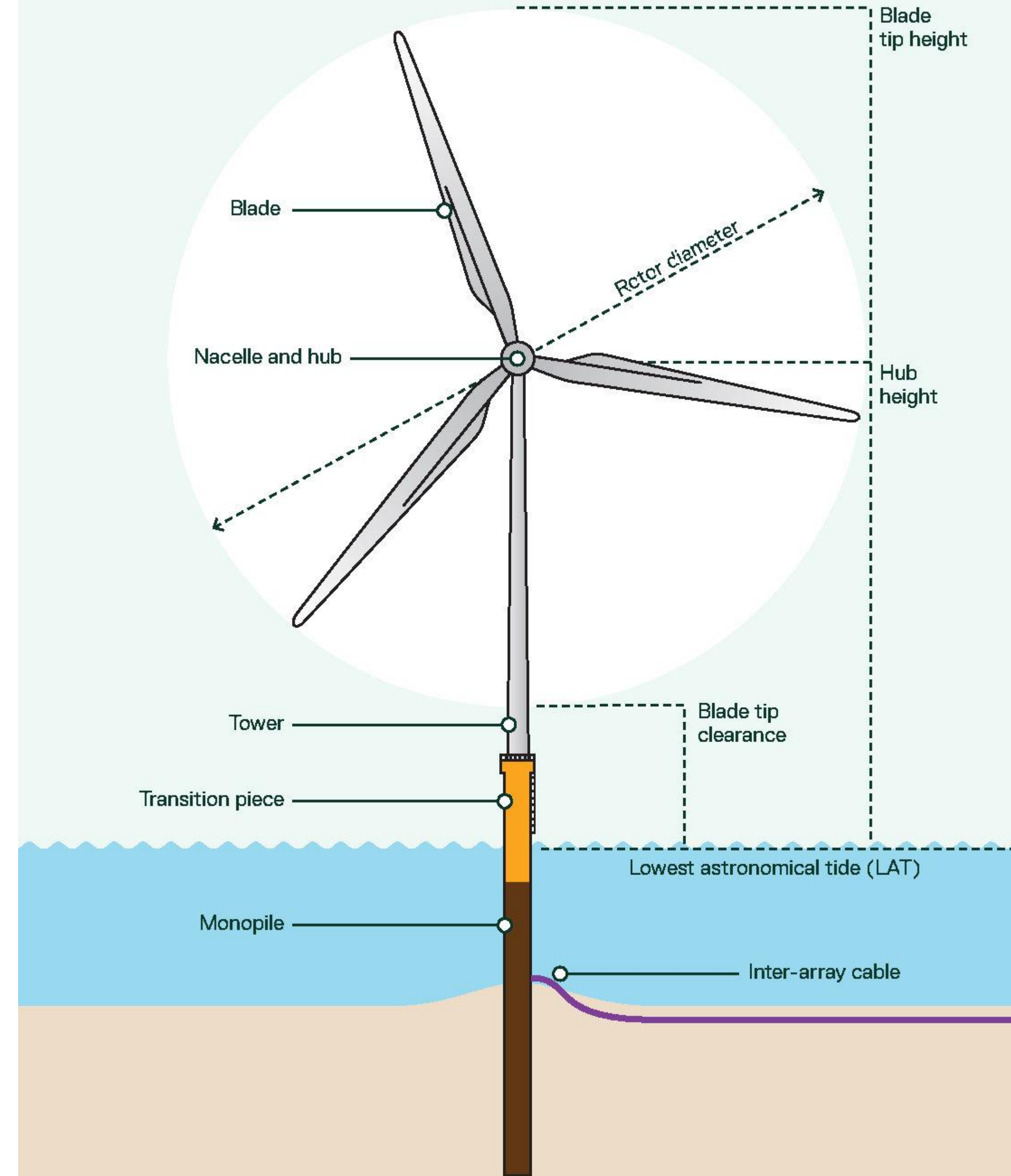
Minimise

3

Manage or Offset

EXAMPLES FROM OVERSEAS

- Installation of fewer larger turbines – rather than more smaller turbines
- Raising the air gap – above 30m
- Avoiding areas for development with high densities of seabirds – foraging and nesting sites.



Not to scale

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO AVOID IMPACTS

RAISING THE AIR GAP: 25M TO 35M

Increasing blade tip clearance to a minimum of 35m to allow additional space for foraging birds.

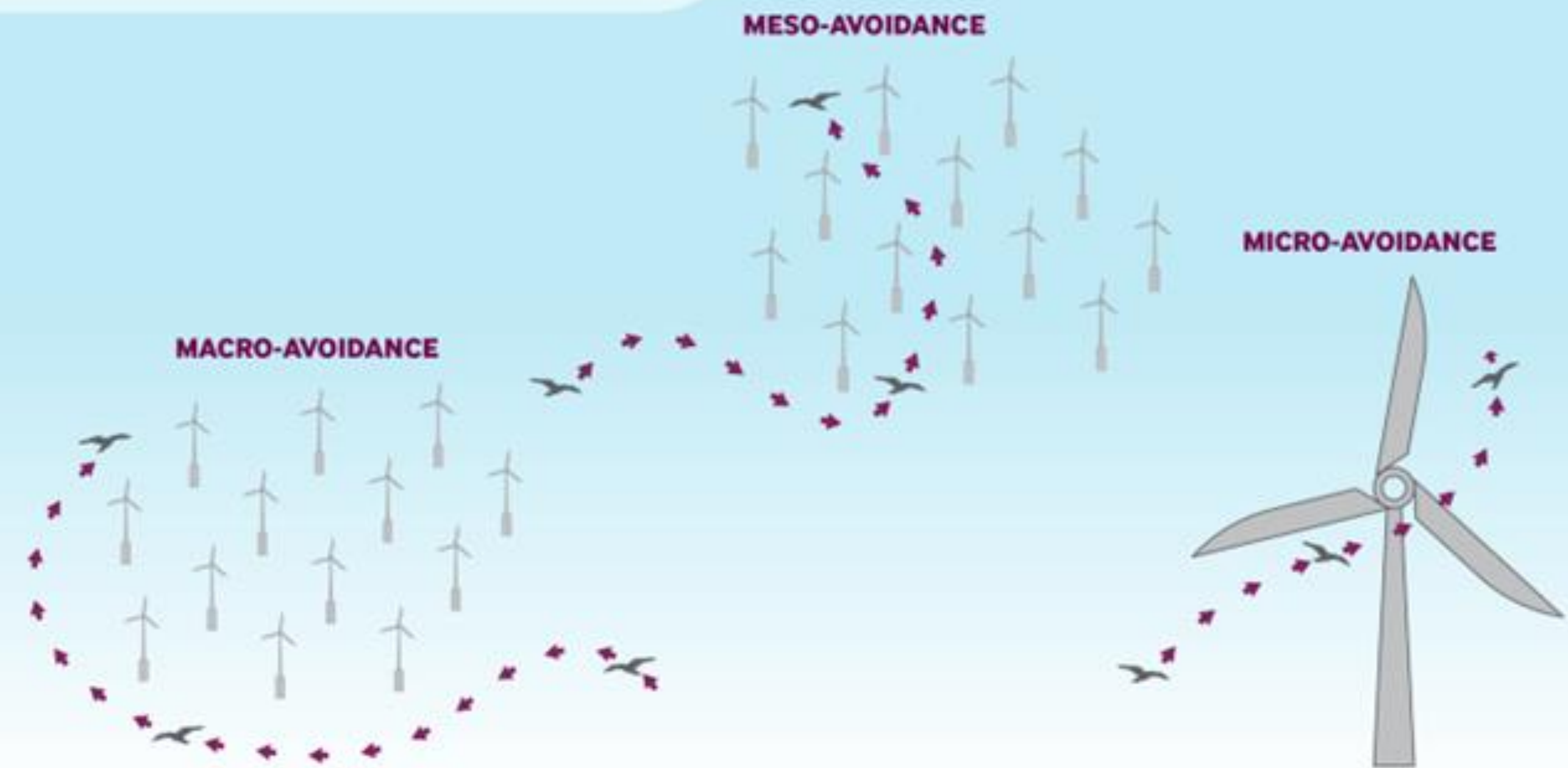


LEARNINGS FROM EMERGING LITERATURE

- Birds show high capacity to avoid turbines.
- Onshore and offshore wind farms are not always comparable.



Types of avoidance behaviour



DETERRENT EXAMPLES FROM OVERSEAS

- Sound
- Lighting
- Painting of a blade



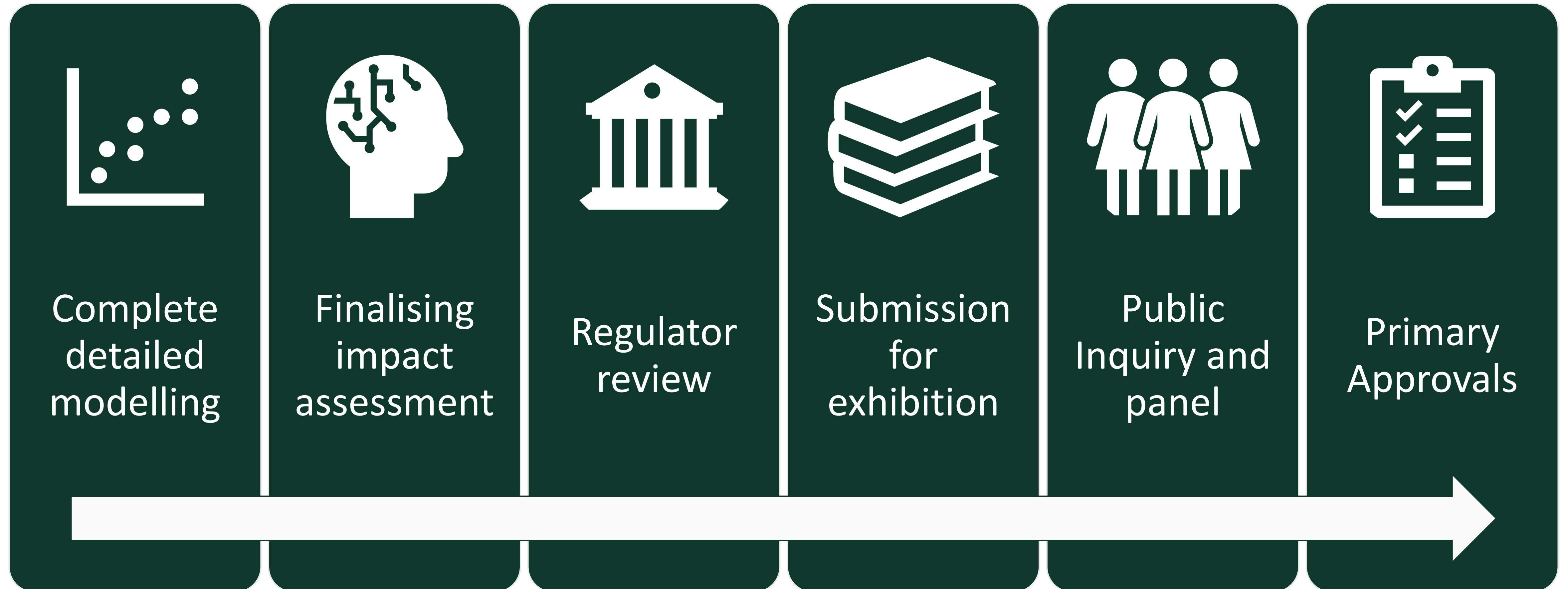
THINKING AHEAD

- How will we learn about bird behaviour throughout the life of the project?
- What technology might be available for future monitoring?



NEXT STEPS

IF EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY, WE HOPE TO HAVE APPROVALS AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE DECADE



BREAK

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON THE PROJECT

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival – Market Day
- Australia's Offshore Wind Opportunity, Parliament House Canberra
- TAFE Gippsland and Gippsland East LLEN – Youth Careers Expo, Bairnsdale
- South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN – Careers Expo, Korumburra
- Infrastructure Partners Australia Victorian Energy Breakfast Series
- Committee for Wellington



WHAT'S COMING UP

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Australia Wind Energy 2024
- Australian Clean Energy Summit
- Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN – Job Skills Expo
- Catholic College Sale – Career Expo
- Maffra Secondary College – Careers and Information Expo
- Federation University Open Day 2024
- Energy Australia – Yallourn Training and Careers Fair

VicGrid's Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) consultation



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY UPDATES – OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

- What are you hearing?
- What are the hot topics in your local area?
- Would you like to give a more in-depth update at the next meeting on an upcoming event?



OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

& FORWARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Other questions and feedback?

- Suggestions for future agenda items
- List on the CAG Member Teams Page 'files'
 - Email / call Jason

**Next meeting – 1pm to 3pm,
21 August**
Tour of Ausnet's terminal stations

Date (subject to change)	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
26 Sept. 2024	Sale (Venue TBC)	(TBC)
6 Nov. 2024	Yarram (Venue TBC)	(TBC)

Thank you for your participation



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