

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING #31 – 5 FEBRUARY 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

## 2. STANDING ITEMS AND ACTIONS

- Apologies
- New Wellington Shire Council member
- Minutes and action items
- Declaration of potential conflicts
- Community sponsorship discussion from CAG#30

## 3. WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE PROJECT

## 4. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

## 5. BRIEF FOCUS TOPIC

2024 CAG member survey - Discussion and applied actions

## 6. BREAK

## 7. FOCUS TOPIC

VicGrid Gippsland transmission study area update

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- Other questions or feedback
- Key messages
- Suggestions for future agenda items
- Next meeting – Thursday 3 April 2025

## 9. MEETING CLOSE

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON THE PROJECT

- Ecologists have been on site surveying native plants and animal habitat in our transmission investigation area



## EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Gippsland Offshore Wind Days, November sessions
- Innovocean, Sydney
- Offshore Wind Australia Conference, Sydney
- Women in Offshore Wind, Sydney
- Arawata Landcare Group
- SeaDays Festival, Port Welshpool
- Pearl Park Music Festival, Foster
- TAFE Gippsland Skills & Jobs Centre - Staff



# WHAT'S COMING UP

## SOIL SURVEYS

We'll be collecting soil samples along parts of our proposed transmission investigation area from **Monday 3 February**.

Survey areas will be in private and public land.

## EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Gippsland Offshore Wind Days, March sessions - Collaborative engagement with other Gippsland offshore wind developers + VicGrid + Offshore Wind Energy Victoria
- Toora Town Triathlon & Family Day
- South Gippsland Jobs Expo, Leongatha

## GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS

HOSTED BY:



The central graphic features a light blue header with the title 'GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS' in bold dark blue text. Below this is a dark teal bar with 'HOSTED BY:' in white. The main body is white and contains a grid of logos for various stakeholders, including SOUTHERLY TEN, RWE, CORIO, Orsted, NAVIGATOR NORTH, Iberdrola Australia, BlueMACKEREL, OW OCEAN WINDS, GippslandDawn OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT, and GIPPSLAND SKIES OFFSHORE WIND.

## GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS

<b>MAR 12</b>	<b>PORT ALBERT</b> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm Port Albert Mechanics Institute
<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>GOLDEN BEACH</b> - 4:00 - 6:00 pm Golden Beach Community Centre
<b>MAR 22</b>	<b>SALE</b> - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Sale Botanic Gardens
<b>MAR 27</b>	<b>LEONGATHA</b> - 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Leongatha Memorial Hall

The right-hand graphic has a light blue header with the title 'GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS'. Below the header is a list of four events, each in a dark teal box with white text. The events are: MAR 12 at Port Albert Mechanics Institute, MAR 13 at Golden Beach Community Centre, MAR 22 at Sale Botanic Gardens, and MAR 27 at Leongatha Memorial Hall.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY UPDATES – ALL MEMBERS

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



# 2024 CAG MEMBER SURVEY

BRIEF FOCUS TOPIC

# CAG ANNUAL CHECK-IN

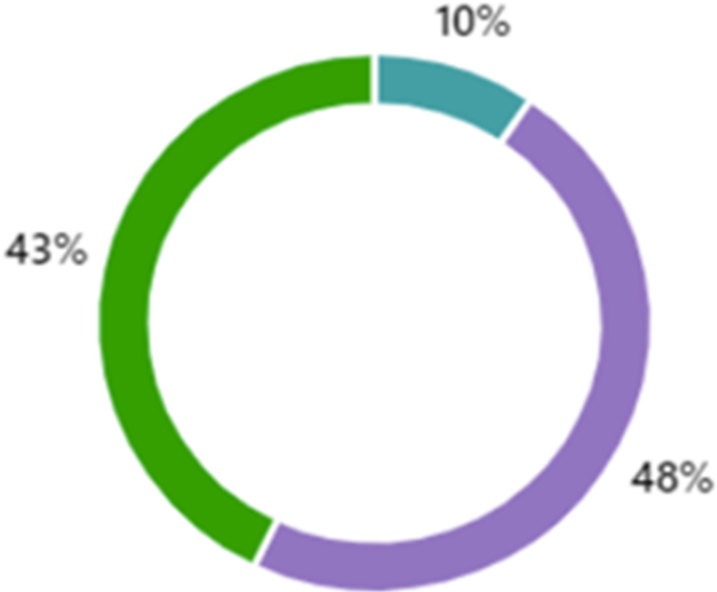
Thanks for participating in the project as a valued CAG member and completing our 2024 member survey.

## Here's what you told us:

- Meeting content remains relevant and interesting
- Members are happy with the way meetings are run

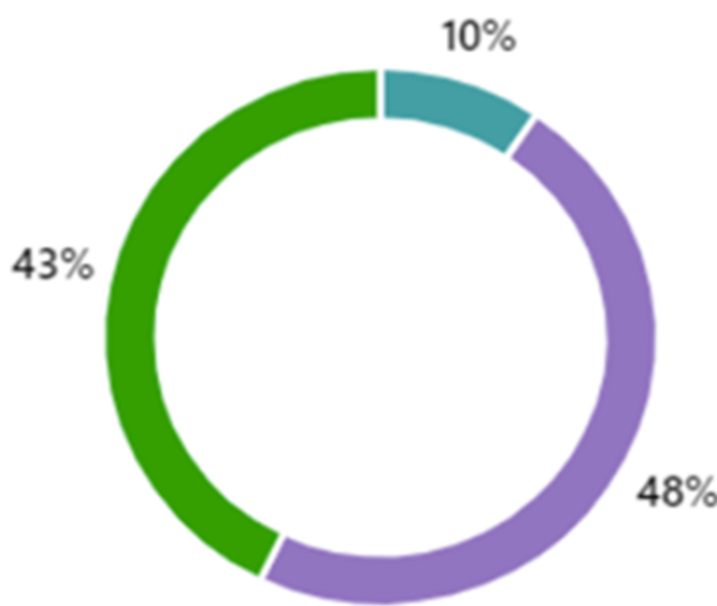
1. I find the information presented and the issues discussed in the meeting relevant and interesting.

Strongly disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neutral	2
Agree	10
Strongly agree	9



2. I am satisfied with the Chairperson and the way meetings are run.

Strongly disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neutral	2
Agree	10
Strongly agree	9



# CAG ANNUAL CHECK-IN

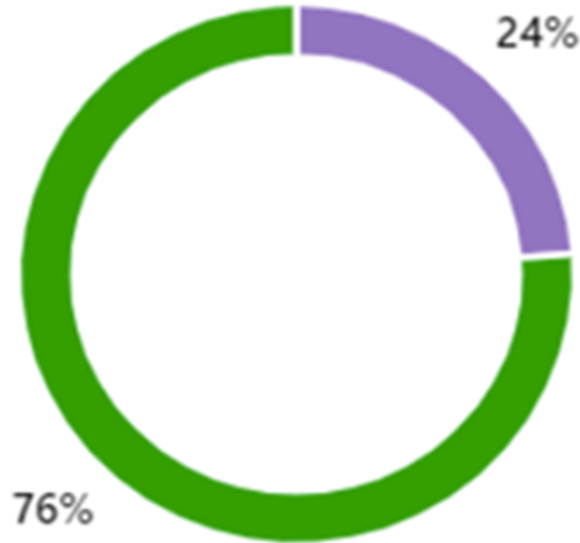
Thanks for participating in the project as a valued CAG member and completing our 2024 member survey.

**Here’s what you told us:**

- Members are happy with the volume, quality and ease of access of communication from the project team in-between meetings
- Email is the preferred communication tool, followed by phone and SMS alerts

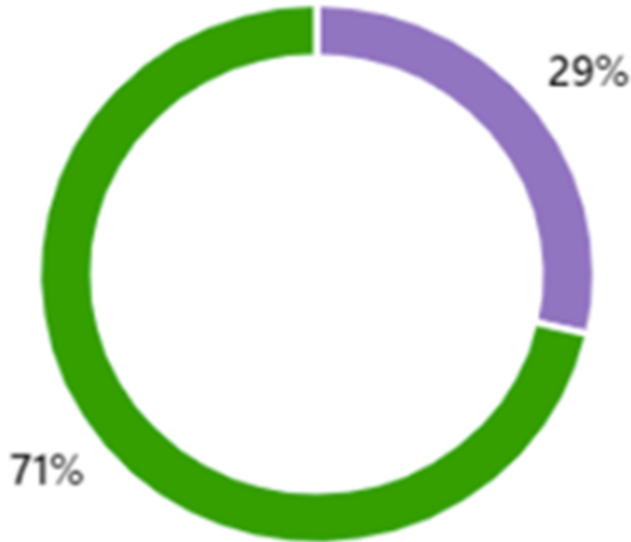
3. I find that meeting invitations, agendas, minutes, and presentations are supplied on time and are easy to access.

● Strongly disagree	0
● Disagree	0
● Neutral	0
● Agree	5
● Strongly agree	16



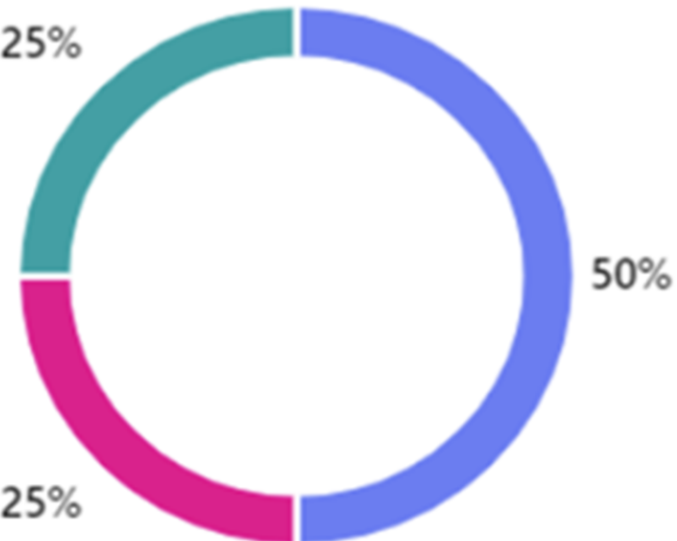
4. I am satisfied with the quantity and quality of communication from the project team in between meetings.

● Strongly disagree	0
● Disagree	0
● Neutral	0
● Agree	6
● Strongly agree	15



5. Which communication tools do you find most helpful? (select all that apply)

● Emails	20
● Phone calls	10
● SMS alerts	10



# CAG ANNUAL CHECK-IN

## Here's your top suggested improvements:

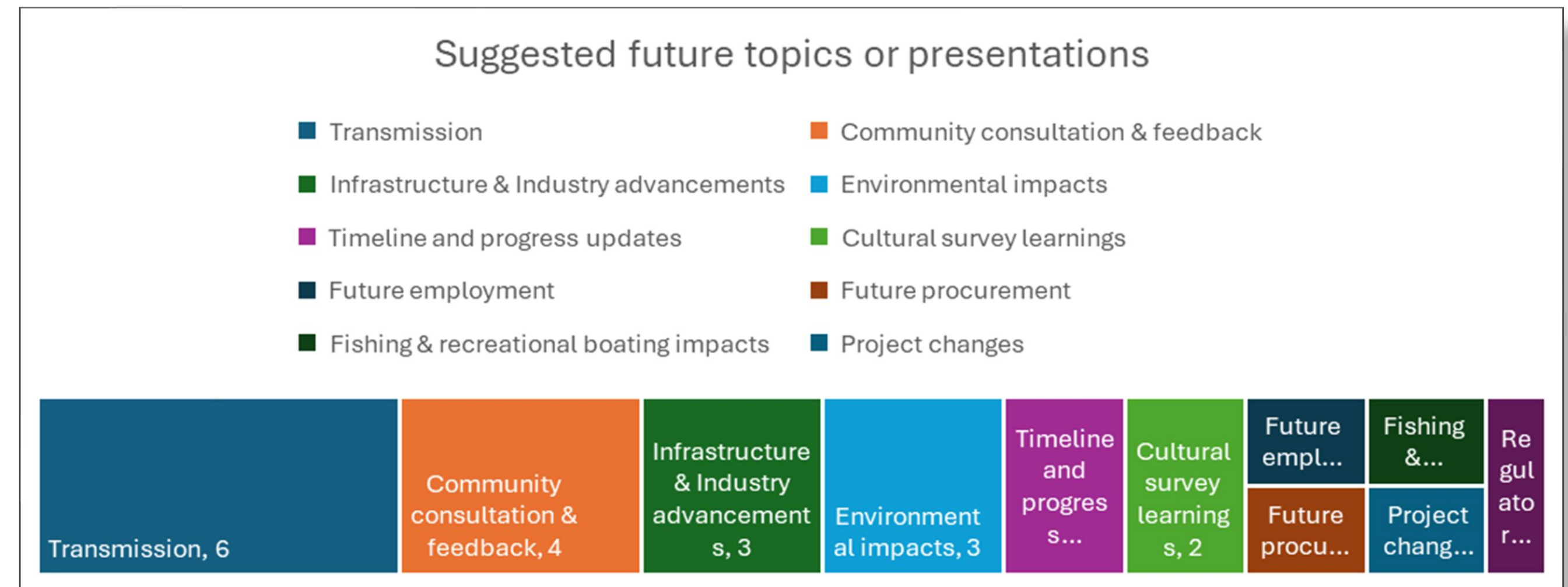
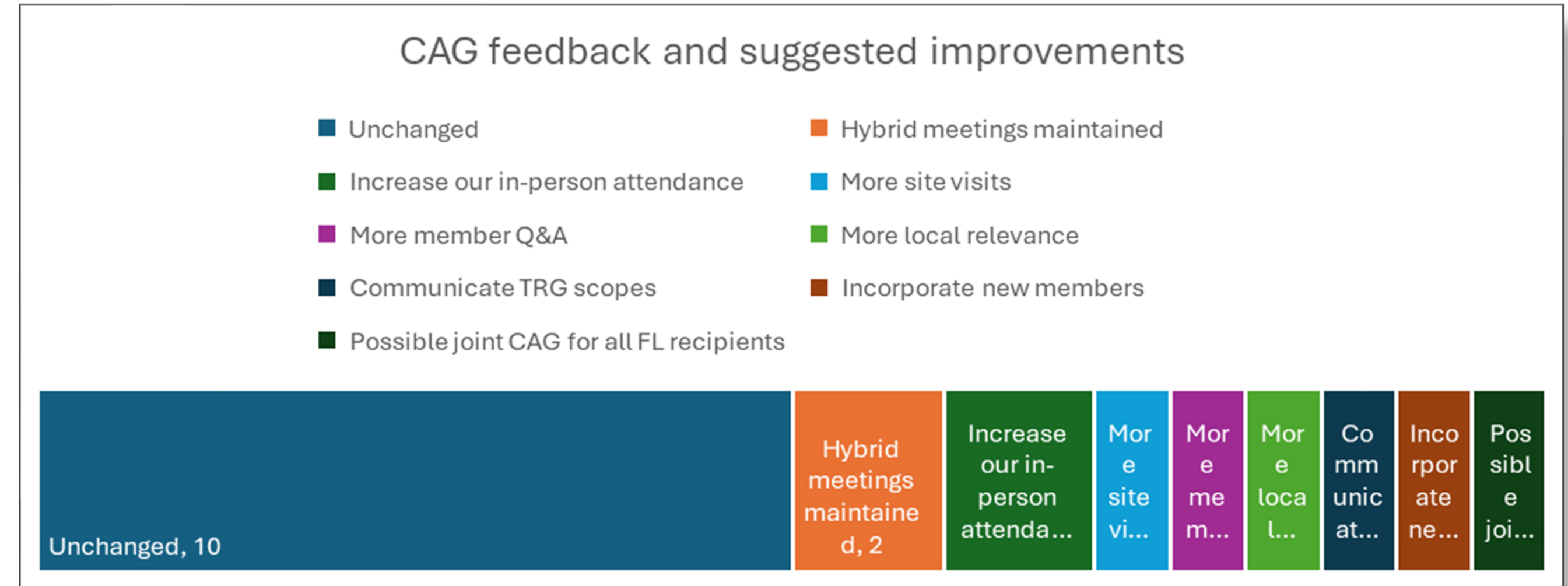
- Don't alter what we're doing with the CAG
- Retain hybrid meetings – we will as we understand the travel and time commitment required by CAG members can restrict your ability to attend in-person
- Increase our in-person attendance – we agree that remote attendance offers a lesser experience for all meeting attendees, including those in the room

## Top future topics or presentations:

1. Transmission
2. Community consultation & feedback
3. Infrastructure & Industry advancement and Environmental impacts

## Changes implemented to the CAG in 2025

- Reducing the number of meetings by one to seven.



BREAK

# VicGrid briefing

**Star of the South – Community Advisory Group**

5 February 2025



# Acknowledgement of Country


We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners as the original custodians of land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

VicGrid is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

# Introduction

## **We're meeting with you today to share an update on:**

- Study area update including current landholder surveys and Rosedale hub
  - Transmission study area refinement process
  - Environmental assessments
  - Support for the Gippsland Transmission Community Roundtable
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# What we've done to date



Used the options assessment to select a study area for further investigation – announced in March 2024.



Selected 500 kV transmission technology.



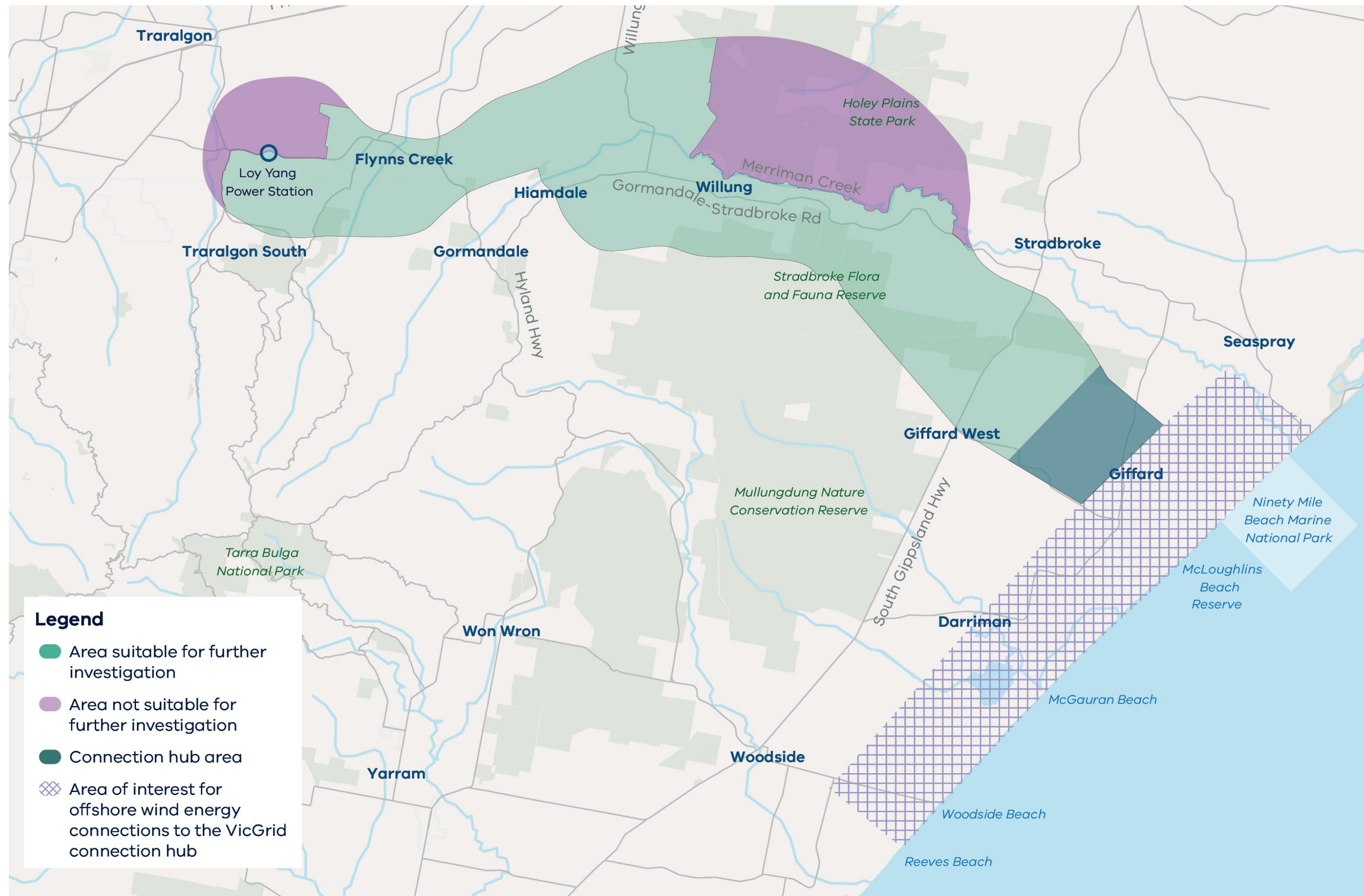
Community and Landholder Engagement



Started work on Environment Effects Statement (EES) to assess potential effects of the project.



# Refining the study area



## The study area

The study area, announced in March 2024

## Our work to refine the study area

VicGrid has completed an analysis to identify areas suitable for the first 2 GW of offshore wind transmission.

## What is shown on this map?

- Areas not suitable for further investigation
- Areas suitable for investigation

# Refining the study area

VicGrid will apply criteria and use a scoring system to understand and compare potential impacts and identify suitable land for infrastructure.

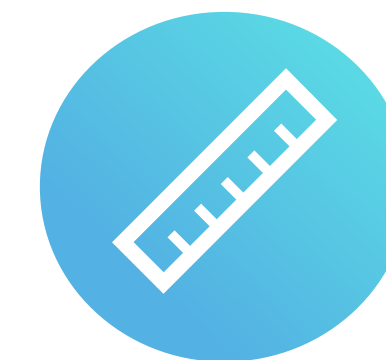
## Refinement criteria to assess areas suitable for further investigation



Visual amenity for sensitive places



Land uses and zones



Land size



Landscape visual amenity



Buildings, tracks and other infrastructure



Biodiversity



Waterways



Cultural heritage



Technical and constructability

# Planning and environment assessments

- Victorian Minister for Planning declared the project 'public works' under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.
- VicGrid is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES).
- VicGrid has also submitted a referral to the Commonwealth Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to evaluate the potential impacts of the project on matters of national environmental significance.
- Draft EES Scoping Requirements expected to be released for consultation in the coming weeks.

Input from Traditional Owners and First Peoples, landholders, communities and local stakeholders plays a key role in preparation of the EES.

# Steps to assess the project's effects



# How we're sharing information with the community

- Establishment of the Rosedale hub at the Rosedale Neighbourhood house, Thursdays 10.00am – 6.00pm (until end-March)
- Supporting Gippsland Community Roundtable – includes representation from local council and groups in the region
- E-news to subscribers
- Engage Victoria and website updates
- Interactive map
- Pop-ups at Gippsland offshore wind events and in the study area
- Landholder Liaison Officers located in the region to visit landholders on request



## Meet Gippsland's offshore wind developers

Offshore wind energy is a new opportunity to continue electricity generation in Gippsland, bringing jobs and investment to the region.

Come and meet the developers behind Gippsland's proposed offshore wind projects. Meet locals already working in the industry, hear about project plans, view maps and share your ideas and feedback.

Government agencies VicGrid, Offshore Wind Energy Victoria and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will also be there to answer questions about transmission and energy plans.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### Proposed Gippsland offshore wind projects

- Star of the South (Southern Ten)
- Kut-Wit Bratawaling (Southern Ten)
- Great Eastern Offshore Wind (Corio Generation)
- Gippsland Down (Bluefoot Energy)
- Navigator North (Origin and RES)
- Gippsland 01 (Orsted)
- Gippsland 02 (Orsted)
- Gippsland Skies (AGL, Direct Infrastructure, Mainstream Renewable Power, Reventus Power)
- Aurora Green (Bendrola Australia)
- Blue Mackerel (JERA Nex/Parkwind)
- Kent Offshore Wind (RWE)
- High Sea Wind (Ocean Winds)

Seaspray	Friday 8 November 4:30–6:30 pm Finger food provided. Free bus from the Golden Beach General Store, departing at 5 pm and leaving Seaspray at 6:30 pm. To book your seat contact <a href="mailto:erin.lord@gipgin.com.au">erin.lord@gipgin.com.au</a> or 0400 074 678.	Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club
Foster	Wednesday 13 November 3–6 pm Free BBQ provided	Manna Gum Community House
Traralgon	Thursday 14 November 4–6 pm Free BBQ provided	Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Meeting Room 1 & 2
Yarram	Saturday 23 November 8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Yarram Agricultural Show



# Working with landholders

Feedback from landholders will provide important information about important areas and features in the study area.

## How we're reaching landholders

- Recent doorknock program to reach those we've not been in touch with to gain correct and preferred contact methods.
- Landholder pack mailed to all properties in the study area, including:
  - update on our work to refine the study area
  - survey
  - refinement factsheet



Questions

# OTHER BUSINESS

# OTHER BUSINESS

Other questions and feedback?

Suggestions for future agenda items

- Email / call Jason or Paul

**Next meeting – 4pm to 6pm**  
**Thursday, 3 April 2025**  
Sale (Venue TBC)

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Date (subject to change)	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
Wednesday, 28 May 2025	Yarram (Venue TBC)	(TBC)
Thursday, 24 July 2025	South Gippsland (Venue TBC)	(TBC)

Thank you for your participation



PROJECTS BY



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