

# EIS/EES CONSULTATION PLAN

JUNE 2025



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background

The Star of the South project (the project) is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project, proposed to be located off the south coast of Gippsland.

At up to 2.2 GW, Star of the South could power around 1.2 million homes, create up to 6,000 Australian jobs across its life, and invest billions in the local economy.

The project involves installing up to 150 wind turbines in the sea, along with supporting infrastructure to transmit clean energy to the electricity network.

In April 2020 the project was referred under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and the Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978 (EE Act).

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (now Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water) issued a decision that the project is a 'controlled action' and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required to assess the effects of works proposed within Victorian jurisdiction.

As a result, the project is being assessed under both jurisdictions, through a coordinated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA will assess potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of the project against the respective Commonwealth and State environmental legislation and regulations. The project will need:

- Approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Planning approval under the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Marine and coastal consent under the Victorian Marine and Coastal Act 2019
- An approved cultural heritage management plan under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

The project is led by Southerly Ten, a specialist offshore wind energy developer by leading fund manager Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP).

## 1.2. Purpose of this plan

Consultation is a key aspect of the environmental assessment process. It helps build understanding of the project and its potential effects and enables stakeholder knowledge and views to be considered by the project team in project development and assessments, and by the government in its assessment and approval decisions.

The EIS/EES Consultation plan (the plan) applies to the period of EIS/EES preparation and exhibition which is anticipated to take place between 2020-2025. It sets out how the project team will:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the proposed project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for participation
- Help people understand the project and the EIS/EES process
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS/EES, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight, and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Use and respond to public input
- Build on previous consultation to involve communities and stakeholders in project development.

## 1.3. Stakeholder and community consultation and feedback to date

Consultation has played an important role in the project's development to date.

The project team began early discussions with Gippsland communities and interested stakeholders in 2017. Formal consultation during 2019 and 2020 sought to involve people in the project's early development and obtain feedback about specific activities and aspects of the project. Engagement is ongoing and will continue throughout the life of the project.

Key issues and topics of interest raised by communities and stakeholders to date are:

- Jobs, economic and industry benefits from the project
- How environmental impacts will be identified, assessed and avoided or minimised
- Environmental benefits from the project
- How impacts to private property will be minimised
- Any changes to commercial and recreational fishing and boating that could result from the project
- The visual impact of the offshore wind farm
- How construction will be managed to avoid or minimise impacts on communities, landholders, marine users and the local environment
- Support for renewable energy and new forms of power generation in Gippsland
- Effectiveness, cost and reliability of renewable energy.

Feedback to date has been used to inform:

- The project team's understanding of local values, issues and opportunities
- Planning and delivery of site investigations
- The decision to use underground transmission cables
- Assessment of potential transmission corridors and shore crossing
- Consultation methods and communication channels.



A Commonwealth EIS will assess relevant aspects of the project across the entire project area, both on land and offshore. A Victorian EES will assess relevant aspects of the project within Victorian jurisdiction, including transmission infrastructure on land and offshore elements within three nautical miles of the coast.

The EIS/EES will assess direct and indirect impacts associated with the project on its own and in combination with other proposed developments. Combined documentation will be prepared so that accessing information and participating in consultation processes is as straightforward as possible.

While the environmental impact assessment process provides a pathway to some of the approvals required for an offshore wind project, additional Commonwealth licences and approved Management Plan under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act) to build, operate and decommission the project will also be needed.

The project components considered under existing Victorian and Commonwealth regulations are shown in **Figure 1**. Key steps in the integrated EIS/EES process are shown in **Figure 2**.

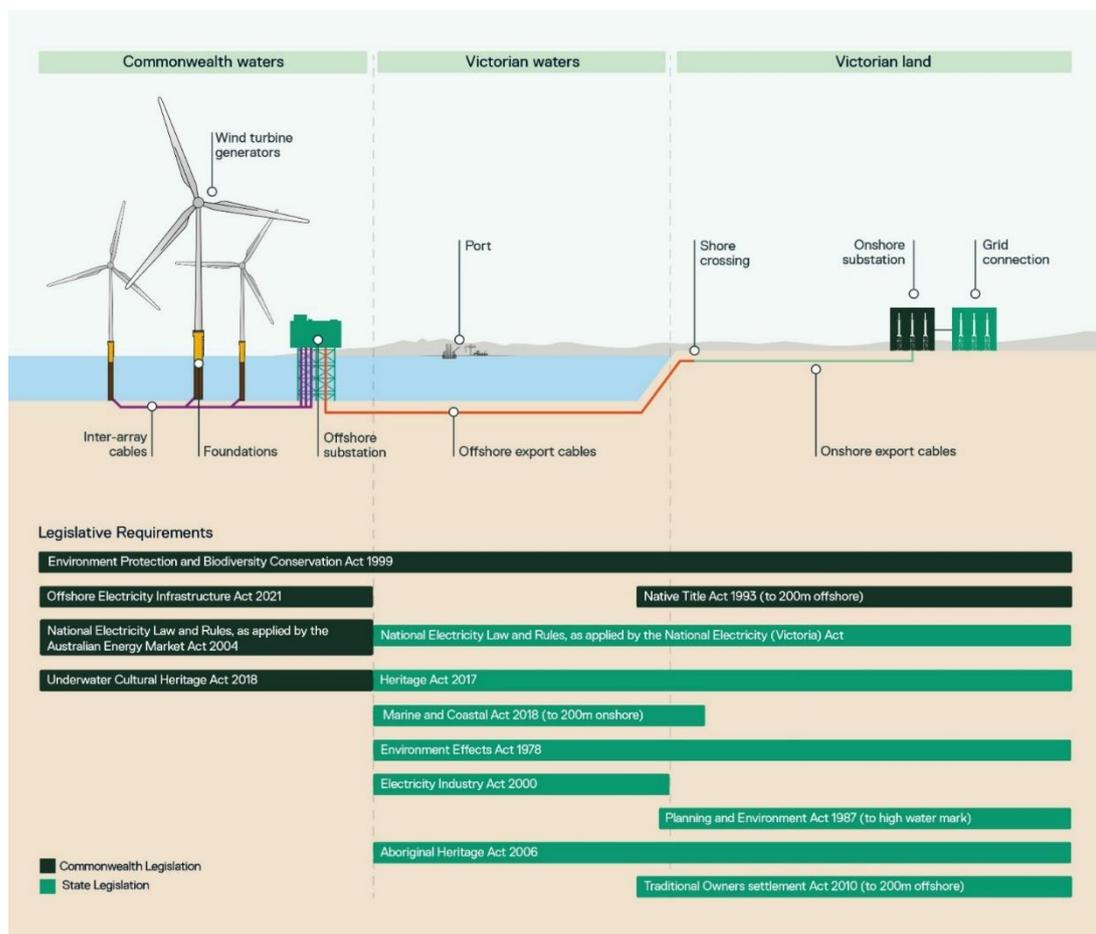


Figure 1: Project components considered under applicable regulations



Figure 2: Key steps in the integrated EIS/EES process

## 2. ABOUT THE PROJECT



Star of the South is a proposed offshore wind farm which would transmit electricity, via offshore cables, to shore in the vicinity of Reeves Beach. Onshore transmission infrastructure will then transmit electricity from the coast to a grid connection hub being developed by VicGrid near Giffard.

The project is proposed to be located approximately 10 km off the south coast of Gippsland within a 586 km<sup>2</sup> area, shown in Figure 3. This site offers:

- Good offshore wind conditions with consistent and strong winds
- Suitable water depths for fixed-bottom foundations
- Proximity to existing transmission infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley
- Proximity to a local workforce, leading education and training providers, and supply chain with electricity generation experience, and oil and gas maritime experience
- Proximity to existing ports for construction and operations
- Distance from sensitive environmental areas, major shipping channels and commercial oil and gas fields.

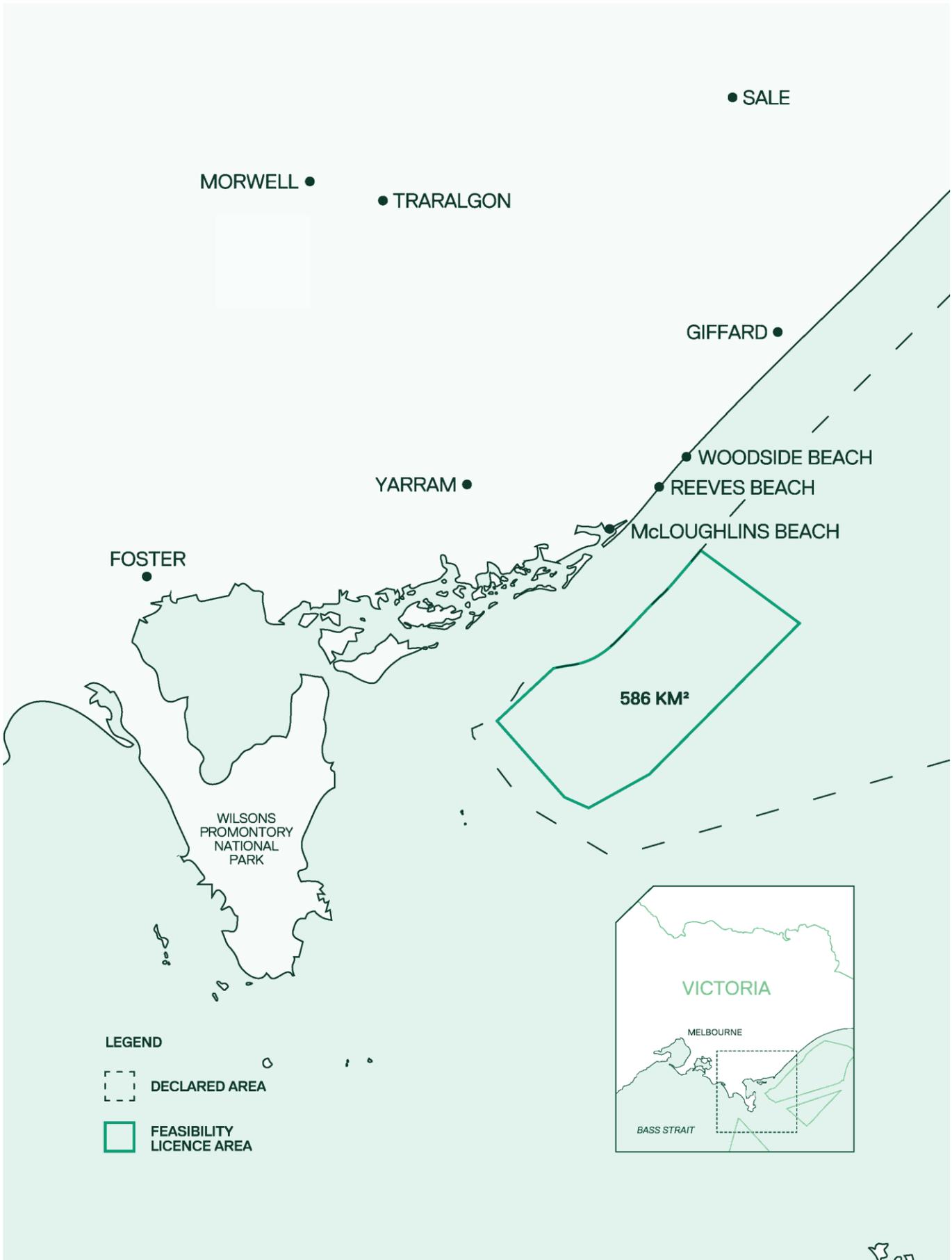


Figure 3: Proposed project location

The project is made up of the following main components:

- **Turbines:** Yield electrical power from the wind
- **Turbine foundations:** Structural support for the wind turbine
- **Inter-array cables:** Network of subsea cables connecting strings of wind turbines to an offshore substation
- **Offshore substations:** Collects and transforms electricity from 66 kV to 275 kV for transmission
- **Export cables:** Transmits electricity from the offshore substation/s to the land
- **Onshore substations:** Transforms electricity for transmission
- **Onshore transmission:** Transfers electricity to the grid connection point
- **Ports:** Supports a variety of construction and operational activities

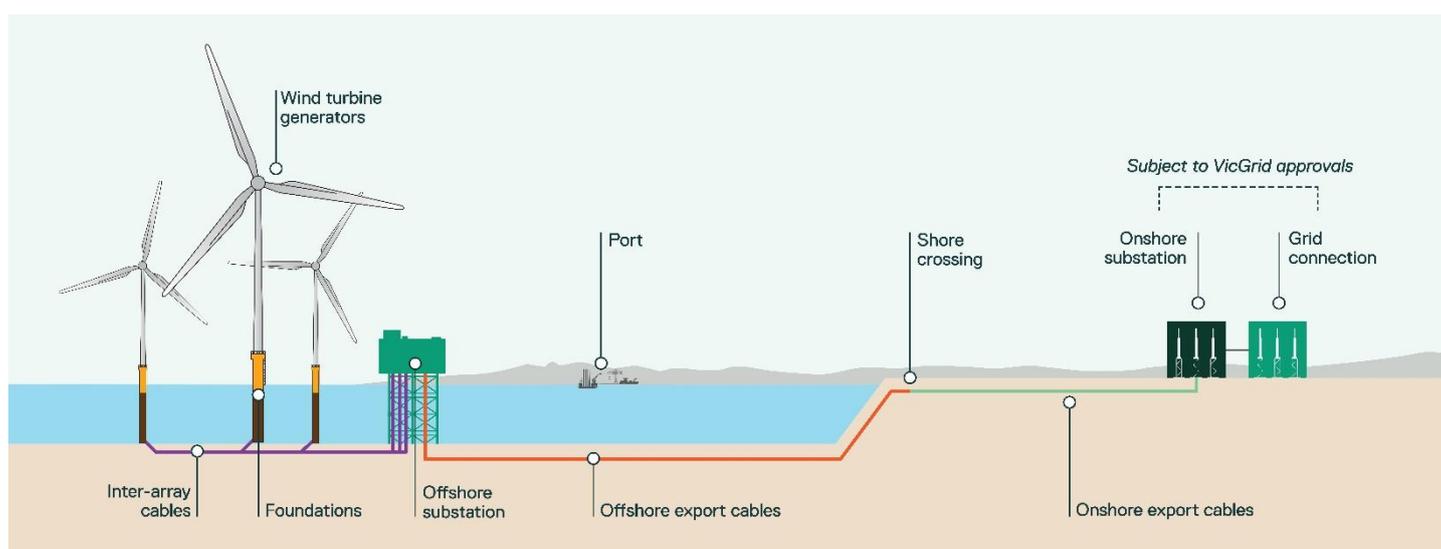


Figure 4: Project components

## 3. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

### 3.1. Objectives

During EIS/EES preparation and exhibition, our communication and consultation objectives are to:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities to participate
- Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project's development and planning to improve outcomes
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS/EES, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Help people understand the project and participate, by ensuring communication materials are clear and accessible
- Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.



## 3.2. Relevant legislation and best practice guidance

This plan has been developed with awareness and consideration of the following legislative requirements and best practice guidance:

- Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (Cth)
- Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act) (Cth)
- Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Vic)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Vic)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum (see more below)
- Victorian Auditor General's Office – Public Participation Better Practice Guide 2015
- Victorian Government Public Engagement Framework (2021)
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner - Considerations for Offshore Wind Industry on Community Engagement
- Department of Transport and Planning - Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects and associated advisory note on Preparing an EES Consultation Plan (2023)
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Community engagement associated with renewable energy infrastructure review (Dec 2023)
- Clean Energy Council – Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry, 2018.

### 3.2.1. IAP2 spectrum

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision. (Source: IAP2 Federation)

The IAP2 Spectrum is an internationally recognised tool for planning public participation. It includes varying levels of public participation, ranging from:

- **Inform** – To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- **Consult** – To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Involve** – To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate** – To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- **Empower** – To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

Consultation during EIS/EES preparation and exhibition will involve informing people about the project and consulting or involving communities and stakeholders in decisions about key aspects of the project and the management of potential impacts. Because the project is subject to legislative, safety, technical and operational requirements, opportunities to delegate decisions to the public through the EIS/EES phase are not expected.

## 3.3. Communication and consultation approach

The project has been founded and developed with the belief that early, sincere and respectful engagement is an essential component of successful project development.

Project planning will involve some complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. We will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities, with a view to achieving greater mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

### 3.3.1. Principles

Consultation is guided by the following principles:

Principle	What this means during EIS/EES preparation and exhibition
<b>Open</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen with an open mind</li> <li>• Be open and honest about considerations, impacts and opportunities</li> <li>• Explain how and why decisions are being made and how input is used to inform decisions</li> </ul>
<b>Responsive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prompt acknowledgement of queries or concerns</li> <li>• Respond to issues, no matter how large or small</li> </ul>
<b>Flexible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be flexible in our approach to avoiding or mitigating impacts where possible</li> <li>• Be flexible about how and when we accept feedback so that timely input can shape the project to achieve beneficial outcomes</li> <li>• Seek feedback on our communication and consultation approach and make any necessary adjustments in response to feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to identify and involve a broad and diverse range of stakeholders in planning and decisions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate in plain English and an accessible format</li> <li>• Use a range of communication methods to reach different audiences through their preferred channels</li> <li>• Use established local networks and groups to keep people informed</li> </ul>
<b>Transparency and integrity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be respectful and honest in all interactions</li> <li>• Share information that allows stakeholders and communities to provide informed feedback</li> <li>• Adhere to all relevant laws and requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Accountable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide key points of contact within the project team for queries or concerns</li> <li>• Take ownership for issues which may arise, particularly those that could have an impact on communities or stakeholders</li> <li>• Provide access to senior team members and technical specialists at information sessions.</li> </ul>

### 3.4. How feedback is used

Community and stakeholder feedback will inform various aspects of the project and preparation of the EIS/EES:

Stage	How feedback is used
<b>Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informs options development and assessment</li> <li>• Considered in project scope refinement</li> <li>• Considered in locating and micro-siting infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Planning and environmental assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhances our understanding of the local environment, potential issues and opportunities</li> <li>• Considered in preparing impact assessments</li> <li>• Considered in developing measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts</li> <li>• Informs communication and consultation approach</li> <li>• Informs performance requirements for construction, operation and decommissioning</li> </ul>
<b>Construction and operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considered in construction methodology, timing and impact mitigation</li> <li>• Informs communication and consultation approach.</li> </ul>

The EIS/EES will document feedback received through consultation and the project team’s response.

We will be clear about which aspects of the project’s development and assessment can be shaped by community feedback, when and why we’re seeking feedback and how it will be used.

In instances where it is not possible to incorporate community or stakeholder preferences, the reasons will be clearly explained and the rationale and process for decision-making shared.

## 4. TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners and hold native title over parts of the proposed project area.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and will be responsible for evaluating and approving the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We understand that providing accurate and timely information to the Gunaikurnai people is a necessary and important responsibility of the project.

Star of the South takes a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners and will seek involvement on a range of topics beyond Cultural Heritage, such as native title, project design, construction and procurement.

The project is committed to a continual and open dialogue with First Nations communities.

## 5. STAKEHOLDERS

The project is expected to attract interest in the Gippsland region and potentially more broadly across Victoria and Australia.

The following broad types of stakeholders have an interest in the project:

- Australian and Victorian Government Ministers and Members of Parliament
- Australian and Victorian Government departments and agencies
- Local government
- Commercial fisheries – individuals and representative bodies
- Recreational fishers and boaters – individuals and representative bodies
- Residents of Gippsland
- Landholders and communities along the south coast of Gippsland and along the project's transmission route
- Emergency services
- Local community groups
- Environment groups
- Electricity market operators, regulators and participants
- Industry and business representatives
- Global and local supply chain
- Local tourism businesses and agencies
- Hard to reach and vulnerable members of the community
- Education institutions
- Media outlets.

A detailed stakeholder analysis is provided in Appendix A.



## 6. KEY MESSAGES

Key messages assist in providing clear and consistent information about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for public involvement. This plan will be refined and re-published as needed to incorporate updated messages as the project and EIS/EES preparation progresses.

### 6.1. The project

- Star of the South is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project, proposed to be located 10 km off the Gippsland coast.
- It has the potential to generate up to 2.2 GW of capacity.
- It would provide large-scale, renewable energy to support Victoria's clean, secure and affordable energy future.
- The project involves installing wind turbines out in the sea and using the strong and consistent ocean winds to generate electricity.
- The project would transmit electricity to the VicGrid transmission hub near Giffard, which would then connect into the National Electricity Market to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.
- A major infrastructure project, Star of the South would provide a \$3 billion direct boost into the Gippsland economy and create thousands of jobs during construction and hundreds of long-term Gippsland jobs during operation.
- If the project receives all necessary approvals, construction could begin around later this decade to deliver on the Victorian Government's offshore wind target of 2 GW by 2032.
- To find out more please contact us on 1800 340 340, [info@starofthesouth.com.au](mailto:info@starofthesouth.com.au), [starofthesouth.com.au](http://starofthesouth.com.au) or by following the Star of the South Project on Facebook.



## 6.2. Environmental assessment process

- The project is being assessed through a coordinated Commonwealth Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES).
- The EIS/EES is being coordinated to make finding information and participating in the process as easy as possible.
- An EIS/EES is a comprehensive assessment of potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of a project.
- The scope of the EIS was determined by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and the scope of the EES by the Victorian Minister for Planning.
- Developing an EIS/EES involves:
  - Studies to understand existing conditions
  - Assessments to determine potential impacts
  - Identifying measures to avoid or minimise any impacts
  - Consultation with stakeholders and communities.
- A Technical Reference Group (TRG) was convened by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to advise during the preparation of the EIS/EES. The group includes government agencies, Traditional Owners, regional authorities and councils. The TRG will continue to advise on the preparation of the EIS/EES until it is exhibited for public review.
- There will be opportunities for community and stakeholder input to the EIS/EES as studies and impact assessments are undertaken, and throughout its preparation.
- The completed EIS/EES will be exhibited for public comment, and community members and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to make a submission.
- Following public exhibition of the EIS/EES, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments will consider the environmental effects of the project.
- Outcomes of the EIS/EES process will inform government approval decisions including planning approval under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018.

- The project will also need a licence to construct, operate and decommission an offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021.
- A range of communication tools will be used to share project information and updates, to promote opportunities for participation in the EIS/EES process, and to share findings about the project's potential impacts and proposed measures to avoid or minimise these effects.

## 7. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Consultation activities and methods will be tailored to suit the project and EIS/EES phase, the matters being discussed and stakeholder preferences. Activities and methods used will evolve to ensure ongoing relevance and in response to feedback.

### 7.1. Communications tools

<b>Advertising and media</b>	<b>Advertisements, news coverage and interviews in local newspapers, radio and TV channels and on digital news and social media channels will be used to reach a broad audience across the Gippsland region and Victoria.</b>
<b>Website</b>	The project's website provides a central location for information and updates about the project - <a href="http://starofthesouth.com.au">starofthesouth.com.au</a> .
<b>Videos</b>	Videos are used to communicate information in an engaging and accessible way for a broad audience and shared with the media, posted on social media, the project website and used in presentations to stakeholder and community groups.
<b>Social media</b>	Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube are used to communicate project information and updates, promote discussion and respond to enquiries. Key dates and activities, such as information sessions and public exhibition, will be advertised on social media channels.
<b>Printed and electronic newsletters</b>	Newsletters provide project updates and information about how to get involved. Print newsletters are sent to residents across the project area, available from the project's Gippsland office in Yarram and displayed in local shops, libraries and other public spaces where possible. E-newsletters are distributed monthly to subscribers.
<b>Information materials</b>	A suite of project information materials is available on the project website and in hard copy at events, information sessions and the project's community hub. Hard copy information packs are sent via post upon request and to those who have nominated to receive updates by mail. Materials are updated regularly, as the project's development and environmental assessments progress.
<b>Maps and visual aids</b>	Maps and other visual aids such as diagrams, photographs and illustrations are used to show the project location, components, appearance and processes.
<b>3D visualisations</b>	3D images and videos will be used to communicate visual aspects of the project.
<b>Posters and signage</b>	Posters and signs in local communities, such as on community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the project and opportunities to participate.

## 7.2. Consultation activities

<b>Public information sessions</b>	Information sessions will be held to explain the assessment and consultation process, provide access to the project team and technical specialists, and accept feedback about potential concerns and suggestions from communities and stakeholders. At the formal exhibition stage, information sessions will be held to display and discuss EIS/EES documentation. Sessions may be held in person and/or via webinar or live online Q&A.
<b>Community Advisory Group</b>	Comprising local community members from different locations, members of special interest groups, Council representatives and project team members, this group facilitates two-way communication and provides local advice to the project team, including on issues being assessed as part of the EIS/EES. Meetings may be held in person and/or via video conference. Community Advisory Group meetings commenced in October 2020 and will continue after the EIA process.
<b>Stakeholder briefings, meetings and workshops</b>	Briefings are undertaken to provide information about the project and updates at milestones. Meetings and workshops are held to address and seek input on specific matters from individuals, groups and organisations with local or specialist knowledge. Briefings, meetings and workshops may be held in person or via video conference.
<b>Local office</b>	The project's Gippsland office in Yarram is open to the public and provides a place where people can drop in to find information, ask questions and provide feedback or raise any concerns. It also provides a space to display information and hold community meetings, events and presentations.
<b>Community presentations</b>	Presentations are given to community groups with an interest in the project to share information and promote opportunities to get involved. Community presentations may be held in person or via video conference.
<b>Local festivals, events and information displays</b>	The project's participation in local events provides an opportunity for informal engagement and information sharing to raise awareness of the project, the EIS/ EES process and opportunities to participate.
<b>Consultation website – 'Get involved'</b>	The project has a dedicated website for online consultation - <a href="http://starofthesouth.com.au/getinvolved">starofthesouth.com.au/getinvolved</a> Online feedback methods include surveys, public Q&A, interactive maps, quick polls and a suggestions board.
<b>Community surveys and feedback forms</b>	Surveys and forms are used to collect data and feedback at information sessions, the project's community hub and online.
<b>Social research</b>	Social research is undertaken annually to measure community awareness, views and communication preferences, and to complement formal and informal consultation activities.
<b>Schools engagement</b>	Engagement with local schools will be undertaken where possible to involve young people in discussions about the project and future. Schools engagement may be undertaken online or in person.
<b>Telephone, email and online Q&amp;A enquiries</b>	Community enquiries are received via a free-call number, email, through a website form, online Q&A, social media and in person at the project's Gippsland office. All enquiries are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager system.
<b>Technical Reference Group (TRG)</b>	Convened by government to coordinate advice between statutory decision makers and the project team throughout the EIS/EES process. The project team will work collaboratively with members of the TRG, sharing information, seeking advice and considering their input in preparation of the EES.

### 7.2.1. Dedicated landholder engagement

The project has a dedicated team to work with landholders where an easement is required for the project's transmission system. This team will regularly meet with landholders and provide updates through email, phone calls and meetings. A dedicated landholder engagement team is available for all landholder enquiries.

### 7.2.2. Dedicated marine user engagement

Recognising the unique needs of this important cohort, the project is working with commercial fisheries, recreational fishers, boaters and other marine users, representative groups and regulators, to share and seek information and promote opportunities for participation.

### 7.2.3. Hard to reach and vulnerable groups

The project team will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them. The best approach will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



## 7.3. Indicative program

Planned communication and consultation activities are shown below. For up-to-the-moment information please visit the project website.

EIS/EES phase and indicative timing	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	Activities
<b>2020-2023</b> <b>Scoping requirements and assessment guidelines</b> <b>Site investigations and baseline studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build awareness and understanding of the project, the coordinated EIS/EES process and next steps</li> <li>• Explain how to get involved in consultation and encourage participation</li> <li>• Obtain feedback on community concerns and aspirations for consideration in project development</li> <li>• Gather information and local knowledge to inform site investigations onshore transmission options assessment</li> <li>• Identify consultation and communication preferences</li> <li>• Promote opportunity for public comment on EES scoping requirements and EIS assessment guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online consultation</li> <li>• Stakeholder briefings and meetings</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Live stream information updates and Q&amp;As</li> <li>• Project community hub</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• Emails and phone calls</li> <li>• Social research</li> <li>• Schools engagement</li> <li>• Community Advisory Group (held every 6-8 weeks)</li> <li>• Local events and festivals</li> <li>• Newsletters (print and e-news)</li> <li>• Website and social media</li> <li>• Videos</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media and advertising</li> <li>• Information materials and maps</li> <li>• Consultation summary report</li> </ul>
<p><b>2024 – mid-2025</b>  <b>EIS/EES preparation, including impact assessments and 25 technical studies</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b>  <b>Design refinements incorporated to reflect updated project licence area, reduced transmission corridor and reduced number of turbines and onshore substations.</b></p> <p><b>A detailed breakdown of activities can be found in Appendix B.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information about the coordinated EIS/EES process and encourage participation</li> <li>• Explain how feedback has been / is being used in project development</li> <li>• Obtain feedback on specific matters to inform project development and refinement</li> <li>• Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to thoroughly understand issues and identify suitable mitigations</li> <li>• Identify and implement improvements to consultation approach</li> </ul>	<p>As above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sessions and webinars</li> <li>• Stakeholder workshops</li> <li>• 3D visualisations</li> <li>• Consultation summary report</li> <li>• Community Advisory Group</li> <li>• Technical Reference Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Late 2025 – mid-2026</b>  <b>Formal EIS/ EES exhibition and submissions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote the coordinated process and involvement in EIS/EES process and formal consultation</li> <li>• Present and explain EIS/EES findings and proposed mitigations</li> <li>• Provide information about how to make a submission on draft EIS/EES and next steps</li> <li>• Explain how feedback helped inform the impact assessments and proposed mitigations</li> <li>• Respond to submissions as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS/EES displays</li> <li>• Formal submission process (managed by government)</li> <li>• Stakeholder meetings and briefings</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Information sessions and webinars</li> <li>• Project community hub</li> <li>• Emails and phone calls</li> <li>• Community Advisory Group</li> <li>• Local and industry events and festivals</li> <li>• Newsletters (print and e-news)</li> <li>• Website and social media</li> <li>• Videos</li> <li>• Media and advertising</li> <li>• Information materials and maps</li> <li>• EES Consultation Report</li> </ul>
<p><b>2026</b>  <b>EIS/EES process complete</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back on EIA assessment outcomes and approvals</li> <li>• Explain next steps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder briefings and meetings</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Project community hub</li> <li>• Emails and phone calls</li> <li>• Community Advisory Group</li> <li>• Newsletters (e-news)</li> <li>• Website and social media</li> <li>• Media and advertising</li> <li>• Information materials</li> </ul>

## 8. RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of communication and consultation activities will be continually assessed and adjusted as needed, to ensure the objectives set out in this plan are being achieved.

This plan may be modified and updated as preparation of the EIS/EES progresses in order to make improvements, in response to feedback and preferences expressed by participants, to reflect program updates, and/or to ensure a tailored approach is taken to address any emerging issues and opportunities. Any material updates to this plan must be endorsed by the project's Technical Reference Group.

### 8.1. Recording feedback

Stakeholder interactions and feedback (both formal and informal) are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager database. This database holds stakeholder information and enables the project team to record and classify enquiries, feedback or complaints to enable accurate record keeping and reporting.

Feedback received through formal consultation is also analysed and reported in consultation summary reports.

Any complaints are managed in accordance with the project's Complaint Handling Procedure which is available on the project website.

### 8.2. EIS/EES Consultation Report

A report outlining consultation undertaken, feedback received and how we responded to that feedback will be produced and included as part of the EIS/EES, in accordance with the EIS assessment guidelines and EES scoping requirements.

### 8.3. Evaluation

Performance against the communication and consultation framework objectives set out in this plan will be measured through:

- Feedback from the people we engage with
- Social research findings relating to awareness, support and satisfaction
- Quantity and content of survey responses
- Quantity and content of enquiries
- Website and social media statistics relating to reach, engagement and sentiment
- Media monitoring
- Quick polls
- Feedback forms in the project's local office and community hub.

# APPENDIX A – DETAILED STAKEHOLDER LIST

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
<b>Decision makers</b>	Australian Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister for the Environment</li> <li>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</li> <li>Offshore Infrastructure Regulator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning process complies with legislation and requirements</li> <li>Involvement in project development and assessment</li> <li>Optimal outcomes for environment and community</li> <li>Preparation of robust EIS/EES</li> <li>Broader regulatory requirements for offshore wind</li> <li>Community and stakeholder consultation</li> </ul>
	Victorian Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister for Planning</li> <li>Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change</li> <li>Department of Transport and Planning</li> <li>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</li> </ul>	
	Statutory decision makers / Technical Reference Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</li> <li>Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (IAU) and Planning</li> <li>First Peoples State Relations</li> <li>Environment Protection Authority</li> <li>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</li> <li>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>Heritage Victoria</li> <li>Regional Roads Victoria</li> <li>South Gippsland Shire Council</li> <li>Wellington Shire Council</li> <li>West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority</li> </ul>	
<b>Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners</b>	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>Understanding and avoiding/ minimising potential adverse impacts</li> <li>Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> <li>Native Title</li> <li>Cultural Heritage Management Plan</li> <li>Opportunities for indigenous businesses and job seekers</li> </ul>
	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	
<b>Australian Government</b>	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts</li> <li>Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> </ul>
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
	Australian Hydrographic Office	
	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	<p>Bureau of Meteorology</p> <hr/> <p>Civil Aviation Safety Authority</p> <hr/> <p>CSIRO</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Defence</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts</p> <hr/> <p>Geoscience Australia</p> <hr/> <p>Members of Parliament</p> <hr/> <p>Net Zero Economy Authority</p> <hr/> <p>Offshore Infrastructure Regulator</p> <hr/> <p>Regional Development Australia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community consultation process</li> </ul>
<b>Victorian Government and statutory authorities</b>	<p>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions</p> <hr/> <p>Earth Resources</p> <hr/> <p>Emergency Management Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>First Peoples State Relations</p> <hr/> <p>Gippsland Ports Authority</p> <hr/> <p>Gippsland Water</p> <hr/> <p>Latrobe Valley Authority</p> <hr/> <p>Members of Parliament</p> <hr/> <p>Offshore Wind Energy Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Parks Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Port of Hastings Development Authority</p> <hr/> <p>Regional Development Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>State Emergency Service</p> <hr/> <p>South Gippsland Water</p> <hr/> <p>Transport Safety Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>VicGrid</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Department of Transport and Planning</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Fisheries Authority</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Fisheries Authority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> <li>• Community consultation process</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government</b>	<p>Councillors, executive and officers from the following councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latrobe City Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> </ul>

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Gippsland Shire Council</li> <li>• Wellington Shire Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts on council land and assets, the local environment and for local residents and businesses</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> <li>• Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy</li> <li>• Community consultation process</li> </ul>
<b>Directly affected or adjacent landholders, licence holders and asset owners</b>	<hr/> AusNet Services <hr/> <hr/> Basslink <hr/> <hr/> CarbonNet <hr/> <hr/> Crown land managers <hr/> <hr/> Commercial fishing licence and quota holders <hr/> <hr/> Mining tenement holders <hr/> <hr/> Petroleum/gas tenement holders <hr/> <hr/> Private landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on land, licence and/or asset</li> <li>• Involvement in decisions which may affect land, licence and/or asset</li> <li>• Minimising impacts on land, licence and/or asset during construction and operation</li> <li>• Co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)</li> </ul>
<b>Local community, business and tourism</b>	<hr/> Chambers of Commerce <hr/> <hr/> Coast Guards <hr/> <hr/> Charter and tour boat operators <hr/> <hr/> Guardians of Nooramunga <hr/> <hr/> Local businesses and industry <hr/> <hr/> Prom Campers Group <hr/> <hr/> Residents of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley <hr/> <hr/> Resident / Progress / Ratepayer associations <hr/> <hr/> Responsible Renewables <hr/> <hr/> Rotary clubs <hr/> <hr/> Sporting clubs <hr/> <hr/> Surf Life Saving clubs <hr/> <hr/> Tourism agencies and operators <hr/> <hr/> Yacht clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area</li> <li>• Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to the project</li> <li>• Clear information and updates about the project</li> <li>• Maximising local benefits from the project</li> <li>• Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers</li> </ul>
<b>Local environment groups</b>	<hr/> Birdlife East Gippsland <hr/> <hr/> Friends of the Prom <hr/> <hr/> Gippsland Climate Change Network <hr/> <hr/> Gippsland Environment Group <hr/> <hr/> Greening Australia <hr/> <hr/> Phillip Island Nature Park <hr/> <hr/> Prom Area Climate Action <hr/> <hr/> Victorian Waders Study Group <hr/> <hr/> Yarram Yarram Landcare Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area</li> <li>• Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to the project</li> <li>• Clear information and updates about the project</li> <li>• Maximising local benefits from the project</li> </ul>
<b>Broader community</b>	Victorian community	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	Electricity consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts</li> <li>• Ability to access clear project information</li> <li>• Effects on electricity prices and supply</li> </ul>
<b>Commercial fishing</b>	<p>Abalone Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association</p> <hr/> <p>Bass Strait Scallop Fishermen’s Association</p> <hr/> <p>Commonwealth Fisheries Association</p> <hr/> <p>Fisheries Research and Development Corporation</p> <hr/> <p>Individual commercial fishers with an interest in the project area</p> <hr/> <p>Lakes Entrance Fishermen’s Cooperative</p> <hr/> <p>Port Franklin Fisherman’s Association</p> <hr/> <p>San Remo Fisherman’s Co-op</p> <hr/> <p>Seafood Industry Australia</p> <hr/> <p>Seafood Industry Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Small Pelagic Fishery Industry Association</p> <hr/> <p>South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association</p> <hr/> <p>Southern Shark Industry Alliance</p> <hr/> <p>Sustainable Shark Fishing Association</p> <hr/> <p>Tuna Australia</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Bays and Inlets Fisheries Association</p> <hr/> <p>Victorian Rock Lobster Industry Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on fisheries and the local environment</li> <li>• Access to the project site, co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)</li> </ul>
<b>Recreational fishing</b>	<p>Australian Anglers Association (Victoria)</p> <hr/> <p>Australian National Sportfishing Association</p> <hr/> <p>Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation</p> <hr/> <p>Boating Industry Association of Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Future Fish Foundation</p> <hr/> <p>Game Fishers Association of Victoria</p> <hr/> <p>Gippsland Angling Clubs Association</p> <hr/> <p>Individual recreational fishers with an interest in the project area</p> <hr/> <p>Local fishing clubs</p> <hr/> <p>VR Fish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale and benefits</li> <li>• Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on recreational fishing and boating, landside facilities and the local environment</li> <li>• Access to the project site, co-existing</li> <li>• Opportunities to improve fishing</li> </ul>
<b>Energy market operators and regulators</b>	<p>Australian Energy Market Commission</p> <hr/> <p>Australian Energy Market Operator</p> <hr/> <p>Clean Energy Regulator</p> <hr/> <p>Energy Security Board</p> <hr/> <p>Energy Safe Victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project scope, capacity and operations</li> <li>• Grid connection</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• National Electricity Market operations</li> </ul>

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
<b>Industry groups, peak bodies and NGOs</b>	Clean Energy Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> <li>• Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy</li> <li>• Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers</li> </ul>
	Committee for Gippsland	
	Trade Unions	
	Victorian Trades Hall Council	
	Victorian Farmers Federation	
<b>NGOs</b>	Australian Conservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts</li> <li>• Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</li> </ul>
	Australian Marine Conservation Society	
	Australian Forests and Climate Alliance	
	Australian Youth Climate Alliance	
	Birdlife Australia	
	Blue Whale Study	
	Climate Action Network	
	Climate Change Council	
	Dolphin Research Institute	
	Environment Victoria	
	Friends of the Earth	
	Greenpeace	
	Humane Society International	
	Marine Mammal Foundation	
	Ocean Impact Organisation	
	Ocean Decade Australia	
	Parents for Climate Change	
	Pew Institute	
	Rewiring Australia	
	Sea Shepherd	
Sunrise Project		
Surfers for Climate Change		
Victorian National Parks Association		
<b>Educational institutions</b>	Australian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear information and updates about the project</li> <li>• Future workforce needs and opportunities</li> </ul>
	Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN	
	Broadening Horizons Gippsland	
	Federation University	
	Gippsland East LLEN	
	Gippsland TAFE	
	Gippsland Tech School	
	Local training providers	
	Local primary and secondary schools	
	South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN	
	Victorian Skills Commissioner	
	Gippsland media (print, TV, radio, online)	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Media	Victorian and Australian media (print, TV, radio, online) Specialist media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear information and updates about the project</li><li>• Involvement in key milestone media opportunities</li></ul>

# APPENDIX B – DETAILED ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2025

Timing	Description of activity
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pearl Park Music Festival, Foster</li> <li>○ Sea Days Festival, Port Welshpool</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email (<i>info@southerlyten.com.au</i>)</li> <li>• Gippsland office (<i>located in Yarram, open Tuesdays and Wednesdays or by appointment</i>)</li> <li>• Community number (<i>1800 340 340, staffed during working hours</i>)</li> <li>• Project website (<i>www.starofthesouth.com.au</i>)</li> <li>• Social media channels (<i>Facebook and LinkedIn</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting (transmission)</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• Newspaper advertising</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore wind developer community information sessions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Port Albert</li> <li>○ Golden Beach</li> <li>○ Sale</li> <li>○ Leongatha</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Toora Triathlon &amp; Family Fun Day 2025</li> <li>○ South Gippsland Jobs Expo 2025</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Presentations to local groups</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultivating Communities - Tarra Festival Event</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting (Environmental approvals update)</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> </ul>

Timing	Description of activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Middle of Everywhere - Jobs &amp; Careers Fair</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting (onshore transmission update)</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Trade &amp; Tech Fit career expo, Melbourne</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting (EIS/EES process)</li> <li>• Newspaper advertisements</li> <li>• Offshore wind developer community information sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Toora</li> <li>◦ Loch Sport</li> <li>◦ Woodside</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 2025 Futures Expo</li> <li>◦ Jobskills Expo 2025</li> <li>◦ Catholic College Sale Pathways Expo</li> <li>◦ Maffra Secondary College Careers and Information Expo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES development</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> </ul>

Timing	Description of activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gippsland New Energy Conference</li> <li>○ 2025 Gippy Youth New Energy Summit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES documentation</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES documentation</li> <li>• Landholder engagement</li> <li>• First Nations engagement</li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EES/EIS exhibition events across Gippsland</li> <li>• EES/EIS material displays</li> <li>• Briefings and meetings – EIS/EES exhibition</li> <li>• Webinars on specific EIS/EES topics</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Local and national advertising</li> <li>• Hardcopy newsletter to 53,000 Gippsland homes</li> <li>• Community Advisory Group meeting (EIS/EES briefing)</li> <li>• Attendance at local and industry events and festivals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yarram Agricultural Show</li> </ul> </li> <li>• E-newsletter</li> <li>• Information materials, videos and maps</li> <li>• Project email</li> <li>• Gippsland office</li> <li>• Community number</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Social media channels</li> </ul>