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Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Southerly Ten
Subject: New submission from EIS Submission
Attachments: Star-of-South-Submission.pdf

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Representative Information

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No

Your Details

Name

David Gibson

Address

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Confirm Email Address

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Phone Number

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Submission in Support of

Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm

Draft Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) &
Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES)

Submitted by: [Your Full Name]

[Redacted Address]

Date: 30 May 2026

Email: [Your Email Address]

Submission relates to: Both the Commonwealth EIS and Victorian EES

1. Introduction

I am writing as a resident of the Gippsland region to express my strong support for the Star of the South offshore wind farm project and to provide comments on the draft Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) currently on public exhibition.

I welcome this opportunity to contribute to what is a genuinely landmark environmental assessment process — the first of its kind for offshore wind in Australia. The Star of the South project represents a critical step in Australia's clean energy future, and I believe the project developers, Southerly Ten, have undertaken a thorough and diligent assessment process that deserves support from both levels of government and the broader community.

2. Strong Support for Approval

I unequivocally support the granting of approvals for the Star of the South offshore wind farm under both the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and the Victorian Environment Effects Act. My support is based on the following grounds:

3. Climate and Clean Energy Benefits

3.1 Australia's Most Critical Clean Energy Infrastructure

Australia is in the midst of an urgent energy transition. With approximately 90% of coal-fired generation capacity forecast to retire by 2035, our grid requires large-scale,

reliable replacement generation of enormous scale. Star of the South — with a proposed capacity of up to 2.2 GW — is uniquely positioned to fill a significant portion of that gap.

The project would be capable of powering approximately 1.2 million homes and supplying up to 20% of Victoria's electricity needs. These are not marginal contributions — they represent transformational additions to our clean energy supply. Critically, wind monitoring data confirms that Bass Strait winds are strong during evening peak demand periods, meaning the project would generate electricity precisely when it is most needed by Victorian households and businesses.

3.2 Contribution to National Emissions Targets

Star of the South alone has the potential to deliver approximately 10% of the emissions reductions required to reach Australia's 2035 climate target. At a time when meeting our international commitments under the Paris Agreement has never been more urgent, approving projects of this scale and maturity is essential.

As a Gippsland resident, I am acutely aware of the local and regional impacts of climate change — from changed rainfall patterns affecting agriculture, to increasing bushfire risk, to the long-term economic vulnerability of communities that depend on fossil fuel industries. Approving Star of the South is not just an energy decision; it is a climate resilience decision for this region and for Australia.

3.3 Energy Security and Price Stability

Independent modelling by energy consultants Jacobs has found that offshore wind generation from Gippsland would reduce wholesale electricity prices for Victorian consumers. The geographic proximity of Star of the South to major load centres reduces transmission losses and costs compared with alternative renewable energy sources located further from population centres. Approving this project is therefore in the direct financial interest of Victorian electricity consumers.

4. Economic Benefits for Gippsland

4.1 Jobs and Investment

Star of the South represents one of the most significant economic development opportunities Gippsland has seen in a generation. The economic case for this project is compelling and well-documented:

- Up to 2,000 direct jobs in Victoria during construction, including approximately 760 positions in Gippsland itself
- 200 ongoing local operations and maintenance jobs over the project's approximately 30-year operational life
- An estimated \$3 billion contribution to the Gippsland regional economy over the project's lifetime
- An estimated \$8 billion contribution to the broader Australian economy over the project's lifetime

These figures represent transformative, long-term economic activity for a region that has faced genuine economic challenges in recent years. Unlike the boom-and-bust cycles associated with some industries, the long operational lifespan of offshore wind infrastructure creates durable, skilled employment that builds lasting capacity in the local workforce.

4.2 Supply Chain and Local Business Opportunities

The scale of the Star of the South project creates substantial opportunities for local Gippsland businesses across a wide range of sectors, including marine services, engineering, logistics, construction, hospitality, and professional services. The developer's commitment to using local ports — particularly at Barry Beach Marine Terminal and Port Anthony — as the Gippsland Operations Base would anchor long-term economic activity in the region and provide a foundation for Gippsland to become a hub for Australia's nascent offshore wind industry.

I note the strong support expressed by South Gippsland Shire Council for the use of these port facilities. Local government leadership on this issue reflects genuine community enthusiasm for the economic opportunities this project presents.

4.3 Industry Diversification and Long-Term Resilience

Gippsland has historically been associated with fossil fuel industries. The Star of the South project offers this region the opportunity to lead Australia's transition to a new

energy economy — to become a centre of excellence for offshore wind, rather than simply witnessing that industry develop elsewhere. The knowledge, skills, and infrastructure built through this project would position Gippsland businesses and workers to participate in a global offshore wind market that is expanding rapidly.

Approving this project sends a powerful signal that Gippsland is open for clean energy investment and ready to be a leader in Australia's energy future.

4.4 Benefits for Traditional Custodians

I also note and support the agreement between Southerly Ten and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), which provides for Gunaikurnai people to be active participants in the project — with access to jobs, training, economic opportunities, and a meaningful role in protecting Country and cultural heritage. This approach to First Nations engagement reflects best practice and represents an important dimension of the project's social licence.

5. Quality and Rigour of the Environmental Assessment

I commend Southerly Ten and the assessment teams for the extraordinary depth and rigour of the environmental assessment process. The combined EIS and EES documentation — running to approximately 2,500 pages across the main documents, and some 15,000 pages inclusive of all technical reports — represents a multi-year, scientifically credible body of work covering marine mammals and turtles, offshore ornithology, benthic ecology, fish and invertebrates, shipping and navigation, fisheries, coastal processes, and visual and social impacts, among other matters.

Notably, the developers have committed to key design decisions that reflect genuine environmental sensitivity, including avoiding high-profile reef habitats on the seafloor and using a no-trench cable landing method to protect beach and dune environments. These are not cosmetic concessions — they demonstrate a project team that has internalised environmental stewardship as a core project value.

With more than 13,000 offshore wind turbines now operating across 20 countries, there is a substantial international evidence base demonstrating that well-designed and carefully managed offshore wind projects can coexist with healthy marine ecosystems. I am confident that the level of scientific scrutiny applied to this project will support appropriate environmental management.

6. Conclusion and Recommendation

Star of the South is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project. It has been developed over many years with extraordinary rigour, community engagement, and scientific care. As a Gippsland resident, I am proud that this groundbreaking project is proposed for my region, and I strongly urge decision-makers at both the Commonwealth and Victorian levels to grant the approvals necessary for it to proceed.

The climate, energy security, economic, and community benefits of this project are profound and enduring. The time for offshore wind in Gippsland is now, and Star of the South is ready to lead the way.

I respectfully request that my submission be considered in full by the relevant Commonwealth and Victorian decision-making authorities and the Victorian Inquiry panel.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name]



30 May 2026