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Subject: New submission from EIS Submission
Attachments: NTAV-Southern-Star-submission-2026-1.pdf

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Yes

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National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Your Details

Name

[REDACTED]

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- [NTAV-Southern-Star-submission-2026-1.pdf](#)

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26th June, 2026



The Honourable Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Transport and Planning
Via Planning Panels Victoria

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East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Email: conservation@nattrust.com.au
Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

Star of the South EES Submission

T 03 9656 9818

Dear Ms Williams,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Effects Statement for the off-shore wind farm, Star of the South, which is planned for construction off Ninety Mile Beach.

At the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), our vision is to ensure Victoria's diverse natural, cultural, social, and Indigenous heritage is protected, respected, and celebrated. For many years we have classified landscapes of significance to Victorians, including classifying Wilsons Promontory as of National Significance.

Wilsons Promontory and Ninety Mile Beach are of great social importance to Victorians, and we anticipate that the larger offshore turbines being visible to visitors to these sites on the horizon will cause a degree of discomfort for parts of the community. We would note that a photomontage from Wilsons Promontory was not included in the EES Summary or Visual Appraisal, and propose that for clear and transparent communication with the community, this must be included within the proposal for comment prior to any approvals.

The National Trust's Landscape Classification for Wilsons Promontory states that it is essentially a natural landscape, excluding the buildings at Tidal River, and the separately classified Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse. Being surrounded by sea is also noted to 'heighten the sense of remoteness along the 130km of its coastline'.

Recognising that viewsheds from Wilson's Promontory are an important part of our cultural and natural heritage, we strongly encourage consideration of the siting of the reduced number of turbines (147) to respect the deep connection that Victorians feel with the Prom – it's natural beauty and wildness.

We recognise climate change as being the single largest threat to natural and built heritage and support the thoughtful transition to renewable energy sources. A recent report states that Climate Change is directly contributing to the thinning of dunes along Ninety Mile Beach.

We applaud the level of consultation carried out by Star of the South, and particularly the detailed investigations into Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, marine ecosystems, native vegetation and built heritage. Our Landscape Reference Group has also noted the impermanent nature of renewable energy infrastructure of this type: it is not seen as causing irreversible damage to a landscape or viewshed when there are well documented plans for decommissioning, and when the impacts on biodiversity are carefully avoided wherever possible.

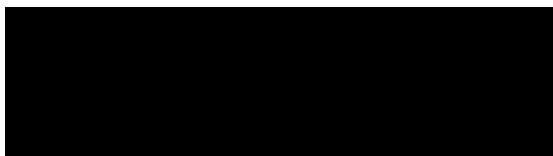
To many people, wind turbines also provide a sign of hope and protection for our environment: a visible sign of action on climate change. To this end, we support this proposal with the following conditions:

- Siting of the turbines be carried out to reduce impact on viewshed from Wilsons Promontory as far as possible, noting that as the number of turbines has been reduced, presumably the footprint of the project may also be reduced.
- That Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (particularly within the dunes and intertidal areas) continue to be carefully mapped and protected.
- That where native vegetation must be removed, and offsets are created, that they are created in the same area and landscape, strengthening existing fragmented remaining pockets of habitat and biodiversity.
- Recognise that within the on shore cable easements, ecology will be disrupted due to soil disturbance and vegetation removal, and this should form part of the planning of remediation or offsets. Biodiversity is deeper than the surface level plants, especially if 100 large trees are removed, as this will alter microclimates and habitat provision.
- In marine areas, we applaud the avoidance of rocky reefs in the cable corridors, but propose that all sea grass areas should also be avoided for their unique habitat values.
- Suggest that one blade of the turbines is painted to reduce bird strike in line with international scientific reports.
- There is a degree of uncertainty in the report around suitable port facilities to support construction, and we would not support damage to the fragile wetland and mangrove populations near the Port of Hastings if this were required.

We look forward to hearing the next steps on this project.

If you have any further queries regarding this please contact the National Trust on 9656 9879.

Yours sincerely,

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