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Subject: New submission from EIS Submission
Attachments: Star-of-the-South-Environmental-Assessment.pdf

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Yes

Please provide the full name of the person and/or an organisation you are submitting on behalf of

Surfers for Climate

Your Details

Name

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Email

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Upload your submission and/or supporting documents

- [Star-of-the-South-Environmental-Assessment.pdf](#)

Submission Declaration

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Submitted by: Surfers for Climate
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29 June 2026

RE: Star of the South Environmental Assessment

About Surfers for Climate

Surfers for Climate is an Australian ocean and climate advocacy organisation representing surfers and coastal communities across the country. Our membership includes surfers, ocean lovers and coastal residents who have a direct relationship with the sea, its health, and the communities built around it.

We make this submission as representatives of a community with a demonstrable and longstanding recreational, cultural, and social connection to Australia's coastal waters, including the Gippsland coast and Bass Strait.

Our position

Surfers for Climate supports the Star of the South offshore wind project. We submit that, on the matter of social impact, the project presents a net positive for coastal communities, provided the proponent's commitments to transparent and inclusive community engagement are honoured throughout construction and operation.

Community support for offshore wind

Surfers for Climate's annual Swell Check Survey, which surveyed over 1,085 surfers and ocean users across Australia, found that 75% of respondents strongly or somewhat support offshore wind projects located at least 20 kilometres offshore. 81% said it is extremely important for Australia to increase its renewable energy sources now. 82% strongly agreed that climate change is something we need to act on now.

These results reflect a community that understands the connection between energy transition and ocean health. Surfers don't engage with climate change as an abstraction. They observe warming waters, altered swell patterns, coral bleaching, and coastal erosion directly. When they support offshore wind, they are making a practical calculation about what protects the places they care about.

The Star of the South project, located 10 to 40 kilometres from the Gippsland coast in Commonwealth and Victorian waters, aligns with the locational preferences expressed by our community. Distance from shore was cited as a significant factor in support, and this project's siting reflects that consideration.

Misinformation as a social risk

The Swell Check Survey also identified that misinformation about offshore wind presents a challenge for community cohesion. Respondents noted that misleading claims are circulating in coastal communities, generating unnecessary division and eroding the social licence that projects like this need to proceed constructively.

This is consistent with what Surfers for Climate has observed in our own advocacy work. Organised opposition to renewable energy infrastructure increasingly relies on misleading claims about marine impacts, visual amenity, fishing access, and property values. Where these claims go unchallenged, they can damage social cohesion in coastal towns and undermine genuinely informed community participation in approval processes.

Recreational access

Surfers for Climate notes that the Bass Strait and the Gippsland coast support significant recreational use, including surfing, fishing, boating, and diving. We do not oppose the project on those grounds. We ask that the Inquiry satisfy itself that the Environmental Management Framework contains adequate provisions for recreational access to be maintained or appropriately managed during construction, and that community access impacts are communicated clearly to affected users in advance. However, given the project's location over 10km from the coast, recreational use of beaches shouldn't be an issue.

Conclusion

The surf and ocean community has a direct stake in the energy transition. The Star of the South project represents the kind of large-scale renewable infrastructure that is needed to reduce the fossil fuel emissions driving ocean warming, coral bleaching, and the long-term degradation of the coastal environments that matter most to us.

We support the project's approval, subject to the proponent maintaining the standard of community engagement committed to in their EIS/EES documentation, and subject to adequate provisions for recreational access during construction and operation.

