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Representative Information

Are you making this submission on behalf of someone else and/or an organisation?

No

Your Details

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Kevin Mackin

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Phone Number

[REDACTED]

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Your Submission

I support the Star of the South Offshore Wind Project and, on balance, support the Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the associated draft Amendment C12 well to the Wellington Planning Scheme.

Having reviewed the EES documentation, I consider it to be a comprehensive and well-prepared assessment of the project's likely environmental, social and economic impacts. It demonstrates a serious commitment to identifying potential impacts, evaluating alternatives and proposing practical mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management measures. While no project of this scale is without impacts, I believe the EES provides a strong foundation for informed decision-making and ongoing environmental management.

My support is based on the substantial long-term socio-economic opportunities the project presents for Yarram and the surrounding district. As one of the communities closest to the project and associated onshore infrastructure, Yarram is uniquely positioned to benefit from employment, local business growth, investment, population retention and improved regional resilience during both construction and the decades of operation that follow.

However, my support is conditional upon community benefit arrangements being genuinely hyper-local. The communities that experience the greatest visual, social and infrastructure impacts should receive the greatest share of the long-term benefits. In this case, that means the Wellington Shire Coastal Ward and the South Gippsland Shire Coastal-Promontory Ward.

The primary beneficiaries of the electricity generated by Star of the South will be metropolitan Melbourne, the Latrobe Valley and Victoria as a whole through increased renewable energy supply and improved energy security and jobs. By contrast, the communities living closest to the project will bear the greatest direct impacts associated with construction, changed landscapes, increased activity and ongoing infrastructure. Equity therefore requires that these communities receive a proportionately greater share of community benefit funding, economic development initiatives and legacy investments.

I encourage the Inquiry to recognise this principle when considering recommendations relating to community benefit frameworks. Hyper-local investment in community infrastructure, tourism, environmental restoration, skills development, education and local economic diversification will help ensure that those communities most affected also become those that are most strengthened by the project.

Accordingly, I respectfully submit that the Inquiry support the Star of the South Project, recognising the quality and robustness of the EES while also recommending that long-term community benefits be directed primarily to those coastal communities that will experience the project's most significant and enduring impacts.

Submission Declaration

✓ This submission does not contain any material that could be regarded as defamatory or offensive to any person

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