

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Southerly Ten
Subject: New submission from EIS Submission
Attachments: Star-of-the-South-submission-Fishermen-Direct-Pty-Ltd.docx

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Representative Information

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

Yes

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

Fishermen Direct Pty Ltd

Your Details

Name

Grant Leeworthy

Address

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Confirm Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

How would you like to make your submission?

- I would like to upload it as an attachment

Upload your submission and/or supporting documents

- [Star-of-the-South-submission-Fishermen-Direct-Pty-Ltd.docx](#)

Submission Declaration

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

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FISHERMEN DIRECT PTY LTD



**HARVESTING, RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES
RESOURCES**

8 Old Waratah Rd Fish Creek VIC 3959

M: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE STAR OF THE SOUTH WINDFARM PROPOSED BY SOUTHERLY TEN,

Dear Star of the South Windfarm proponents and relevant Government agencies,

Fishermen Direct Pty Ltd have taken a peaceful approach to the proposed development of offshore wind energy in South Gippsland in spite of the series potential impacts on our business. We have seven crew and family living in Port Welshpool and Welshpool with my wife and I living in Fish Creek. Our existing employment impact is right throughout South Gippsland.

Our business harvests fish, bivalves and cephalopods from Corner Inlet and the offshore waters around Wilson's Promontory and further east around the Seal Island Group and into the proposed wind farm site. We have not been "fishing for compensation" and we note that displacing effort from the wind farm site will also impact surrounding fishers. We have five vessels currently with another under construction.

Our business owns two Victorian Inshore Trawl licences TR6 and TR44 and we have built and launched a vessel over the covid period and have been held back by AMSA requirements. As a small business, overcoming these obstacles is difficult and time consuming and we have little government support. We have finally come up with a way to overcome these obstacles and fully engage in trawl fishing as well as purse seining.

We also operate a Victorian Central Zone Octopus trapping permit and are awaiting this permits reissue from the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

We are deeply concerned with how the Victorian Fisheries Authority have held us out from participating in the Ocean Fishery for 20 years. This restriction on trade has been illegal.

More concerning was the recent reduction in Octopus catch to the Victorian Inshore Trawl operators particularly to us as recent entrants. Having invested hundreds of thousands of dollars, we were even denied our right to be heard in VCAT which has been legislated for in the Fisheries Act 1995 (s. 136 and 137).

We are wondering if these moves by various government agencies to restrict our fishing effort have been to reduce compensation payable to wind developers?

This is more bizarre when we have aimed to peacefully coexist with the wind industry.

Thus far no work has been offered to many local fishermen and most water based work has been given to Western Australian businesses and Melbourne or Warrnambool based consultants or scientists.

We are concerned for the wildlife in the area as we do value the natural environment and sea birds and cetaceans are important to us.

We are wondering how the wind farm will be approved when we have not even had our right to be heard on basic fisheries applications in the State of Victoria?

Some will say these are separate issues but for our community they are not. Instead of support for our small family businesses, we have had compliance effort to bully and harass fishermen including our family. We ask if the VMS system was introduced to pave the way for the windfarms? This caused immense harm to our family.

The nature and structure of the Port Welshpool community will change dramatically as a result of the wind farm with carpet baggers showing up with grand designs for temporary worker camps and floating barges. We wonder if we will just be displaced by this rush of economic development? We had planned to move to Port Welshpool and subsidiary crime (attempted murder) prevented us due to the social impact of Fisheries decisions such as the imposition of the VMS. Our free lifestyle will be changed forever with no guarantee of anything that helps our community.

We ask: That the Victorian Fisheries Authority (soon to change their name to Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Recreation Victoria) stop all harassment of commercial fishing families in our area and start to compensate us for the loss of rights we have experienced.

Our families' matter. Fishermen matter and while we aim to work with the offshore wind energy sector, we need direct support and engagement in work with real capacity building activities.

AMSA also need to be engaged so we can upskill ready for the offshore wind industry.

Whales need to be protected.

Seabirds need to be safe and I appreciate the efforts you have gone to on this. I just hope they are enough as Shearwaters and Albatross sp. Are magnificent parts of our local ecosystem that we love.

Flinders Island Aboriginal communities also need direct consultation as they potentially will be directly impacted.

Best regards,

Grant Leeworthy

Managing Director

Fishermen Direct Pty Ltd

