A photograph of an offshore wind farm at sea, with several wind turbines visible against a clear sky. The water is calm, and the overall scene is serene.

Seadragon Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Environment Effects Statement / Environmental Impact Statement Phase

August 2023

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai community as the Traditional Custodians of Country where the Seadragon Offshore Wind Project is proposed. We recognise their continuing connection to land (Wurruk), waters (Yarnda), air (Watpootjan), culture and community.

Acknowledgement of Funding Support

The feasibility stage of the Seadragon Offshore Wind project is partially funded by the Victorian Government's Energy Innovation Fund.

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Definitions and Abbreviations

CAG	Community Advisory Group
Cth	Commonwealth
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Victoria)
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EE Act	Environment Effects Act 1987
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
SETFIA	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association
SIV	Seafood Industry Victoria
TRG	Technical Reference Group
Vic	Victoria

1. Introduction

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan outlines Flotation Energy Australia's commitment and approach to engaging and communicating with key stakeholders across government, business, industry, educational organisations and the Gippsland community as it plans and designs its Seadragon Offshore Wind project, referred to in the document as Seadragon. This Plan specifically outlines Flotation Energy's planned consultation during the EES/EIS process including mandatory statutory public notice requirements.

Seadragon Offshore Wind is a 1.5 GW offshore wind project proposed to be in Bass Strait off the Ninety Mile Beach in Gippsland with an onshore connection to the national electricity grid. It has the potential to power the equivalent of 1 million homes with sustainable and affordable energy¹. It is sited within the nation's first area declared suitable for offshore wind developments² and will be one of Australia's first operational offshore projects.

Offshore wind is an emerging industry in Australia and has the capacity to generate significant economic, social and environmental benefit. Offshore wind will support Australia's transition away from fossil fuel energy generation and as such, is likely to gather widespread interest, particularly within Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

Large scale infrastructure projects like Seadragon typically take 6-10 years to plan and construct and are subjected to strict planning regulations, legislation and controls. Subject to approvals and the provision of other enabling infrastructure, the Seadragon

project could commence construction in 2028 and be operational from 2030 onwards.

Community consultation and engagement are key components of the regulatory process and best practice project management. It helps to build understanding of the project and its potential effects. Engagement provides opportunities for proponents to work together with government, industry, business, individuals, landowners and communities to shape a project. For the Seadragon project, this engagement will help bring to life new jobs, skills, investment and other benefits, where possible.

Flotation Energy is committed to playing its part in leading the way to a net zero future and realising long-term benefits for stakeholders. It will be proactive, transparent and timely in its communication and engagement across the life of the project and will use efficient communication approaches which minimise duplication and effort for stakeholders. It will also be flexible to ensure compliance with changing pandemic requirements.

¹ Based on 1.5GW AEP and have 5000 kWh/yr for Victorian Households (2020)

² <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/gippsland-area-announced-as-priority-for-australias-first-offshore-wind-assessment>

This plan provides the framework for capturing diverse stakeholder views that will inform the planning and design of the Seadragon project environmental assessments and statutory approval processes. The plan builds on the consultative work since inception of the project in 2019.

Specifically, this plan establishes how Flotation Energy will:

- > build understanding of the Seadragon Offshore Wind project
 - > identify and address potential project effects and benefits
 - > understand community drivers (i.e., what they value most) and how community benefits could be delivered
 - > establish a conduit for stakeholder knowledge and views to be heard, understood and considered by:
 - o the project team responsible for project planning and design, environmental investigations and assessments, and
 - o the government and decision makers
- > respond to public input
 - > build on previous consultative activities to involve communities and stakeholders in project development and design activities
 - > better understand any concerns about the project and wherever possible address potential or perceived negative impacts of the project on the community
 - > create understanding of the planning process and encourage stakeholder and community participation and input into the environmental assessment and associated statutory approval process

2. The requirement for stakeholder and community engagement

Stakeholder and community engagement is a key activity that will inform Seadragon's project planning and design, environmental surveys and assessment processes.

Flotation Energy commits to working proactively with government, stakeholders and communities to shape the planning, design and delivery of community benefits associated with the Seadragon Offshore Wind project. Hearing what is most important via early, open and respectful engagement will ensure the project offers not just well engineered infrastructure, but best represents the immediate and long-term needs of existing land and marine users. Genuine engagement will enable the desires of project stakeholders and communities to be considered, and ultimately enable the project to deliver long lasting and sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits.

Flotation Energy has been actively consulting with stakeholders since early project investigations commenced in 2019. These early activities have informed initial feasibility processes and decisions, enabled early relationships to be created and provided preliminary insights into potential project impacts and benefits. It has also established the foundation for ongoing consultations.

Key legislation and planning regulation requirements

The Seadragon project is located within land and waters across Victorian and Commonwealth jurisdictions and is subject to strict legislative, planning and regulatory approval processes before it can proceed. These legislative requirements establish a standard of stakeholder engagement required to support government decision making and approvals.

In early 2022, Flotation Energy referred the Seadragon project under the Commonwealth *Environment*

Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to determine the extent and nature of environmental surveys and statutory processes required to assess the project.

Following each referral, it was established that Flotation Energy is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES)³ and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)⁴ for assessment by the relevant Victorian and Commonwealth Ministers.

Preparing an EES/EIS, along with other applications under State and Federal legislation, provides opportunities for stakeholder input and involvement. Decision making associated with approval applications rests with the relevant Ministers and government agencies.

Flotation Energy will prepare a single combined EES/EIS which addresses both Commonwealth and State process requirements. This will provide for a coordinated and efficient process for stakeholders and communities participating in the assessment process. The public will be provided with opportunities to submit their feedback on the EES/ EIS and remain informed about the project's progress and its potential direct or indirect impacts. Flotation Energy will be required to provide a response to formal public submissions on the exhibited EES/EIS (described in further detail below).

The EES/EIS will require an outline of broader community consultation and demonstration of how feedback has been considered and addressed in the

³ The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment issued a decision under section 75 of the EPBC Act that the project is a controlled action and, as such, requires assessment and a decision about whether approval for it should be given under the EPBC Act (22 April 2022).

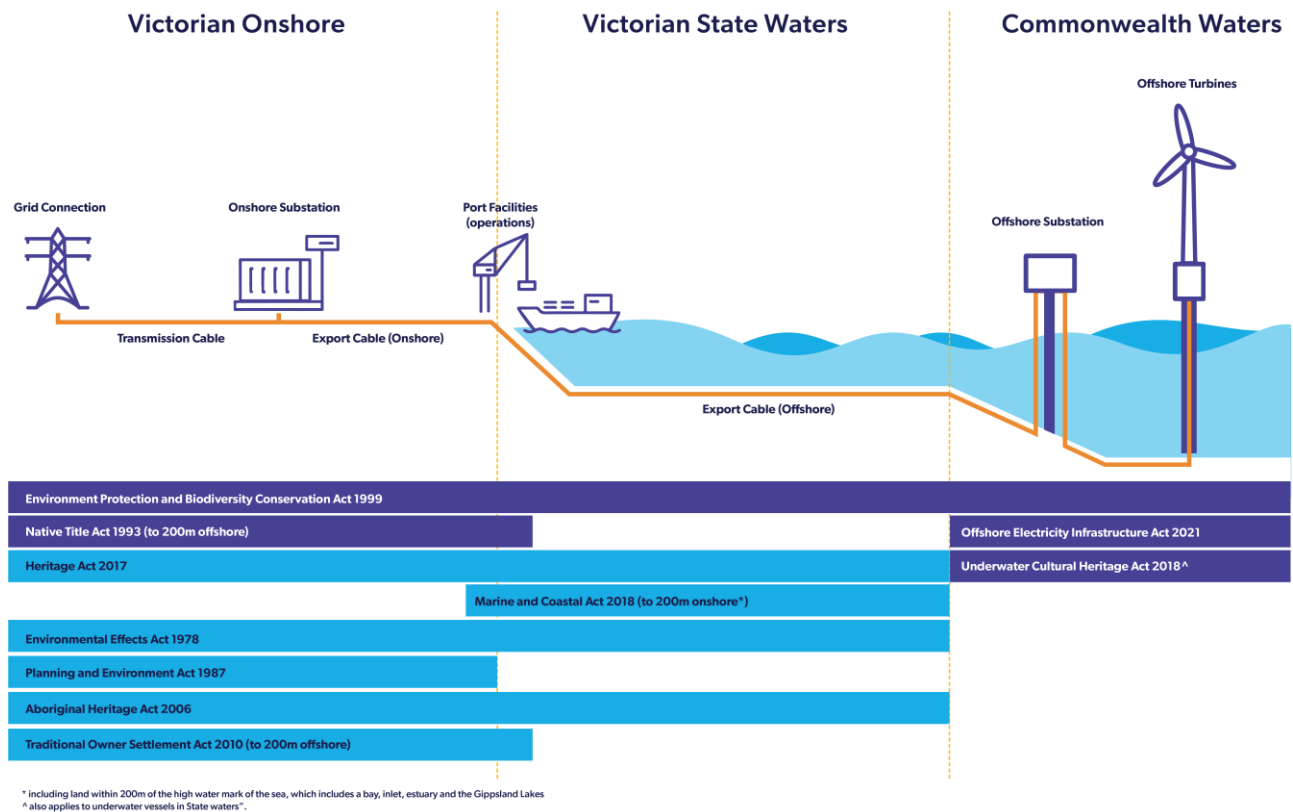
⁴ The Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required to assess the effects of the works proposed within the Victorian onshore and state waters jurisdictions (10 April 2022).

project’s proposed design, delivery and any proposed impact avoidance or mitigations and the final EES/ EIS. This will also fulfil other statutory requirements for consultation (e.g. such as is required for a Planning Scheme Amendment).

The EES/EIS will provide a comprehensive assessment of the project to inform approval applications required to build an offshore wind project. Key planning approvals and milestones required include:

- > Approval under the Victorian *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- > License(s) and associated management plans under the *Commonwealth Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*
- > Consent(s) under the Victorian *Marine and Coastal Act 2019*
- > Approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan(s) under the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

Figure 1: Legislation requirements of the Seadragon Project



Formal opportunities for engagement

Matters to be addressed during the EES/EIS process will be set out in the EES Scoping Requirements issued by the Victorian Minister for Planning and the

EIS Assessment Guidelines issued by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. These will be released concurrently for public comment, with submissions to be considered by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and

DCCEEW. The final EES Scoping Requirements and EIS Assessment Guidelines will be published on each department's website.

When the EES/EIS assessments are completed to the satisfaction of Victorian Minister for Planning and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water, or delegate, they will authorise the combined EES/EIS to be exhibited for public comment. Community members and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to make submissions.

The Seadragon project team, including technical specialists where required, will prepare responses to address public submissions. The responses to submissions on matters of State regulatory responsibility will be presented as tabled documents during public hearings whilst responses to submissions on matters of Commonwealth regulatory responsibility will be considered by the Commonwealth in the approval decision under the EPBC Act.

The Victorian Minister for Planning will likely appoint an Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to consider and report on the matters in the EES/EIS within

Victorian regulatory responsibility, submissions and responses to submissions during public hearings.

The Minister for Planning will consider the IAC report and prepare an assessment to inform statutory approvals decisions for the project. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water, or delegate, will consider the Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment, matters in the EES/EIS within Commonwealth regulatory responsibility, submissions and responses to submissions in considering whether to approve the project.

The relevant Ministers and statutory decision makers will be empowered with final decision making to determine whether the Seadragon project is considered acceptable to proceed and conditions of approval.

Flotation Energy will undertake a multi-channel approach to community engagement prior to and during these formal opportunities for engagement including online face to face public events, emails, newsletters etc.

3. About Flotation Energy’s Seadragon project

The Seadragon project is a 1.5GW offshore wind development that has been under development since 2019. It proposes to install an array of wind turbines to harness the abundance of consistently strong winds in Bass Strait to generate electricity. Energy generated will connect to the National Energy Market via the transmission network.

Bottom fixed turbines are proposed to be located between 20 and 40 kilometres offshore between Paradise Beach and McGauran’s Beach (refer Figure 2). The project is located within the first declared renewable energy zone in Australia and is adjacent to existing oil and gas assets, some of which are expected to be decommissioned in coming years. This proximity offers the potential to pioneer re-use of oil and gas infrastructure by an offshore wind development and utilise existing engineering and environmental data.

The Seadragon project is backed by the international expertise of Flotation Energy. Flotation Energy, a Tepco Renewable Power company, is a leading developer and owner of renewable energy projects worldwide. Flotation Energy has delivered over 3GW of offshore wind projects including the biggest operating floating windfarm in the world – the Kincardine Offshore Wind near Aberdeen in Scotland. Read more at www.seadragonoffshorewind.com

The Seadragon project is expected to generate energy and be operational for a 30-year period.

Figure 2: Proposed Project Area of Interest



Project Aims

The Seadragon project aims to:

- > deliver clean, sustainable and reliable energy to power homes and industry.
- > create jobs and economic benefits to communities including affordable energy.
- > support the development of local supply chains and attract significant infrastructure investment.
- > support Gippsland and Victoria securing its future as a leader in renewable energy generation.
- > support Australia's transition from fossil fuel energy generation towards renewable energy alongside the concurrent reduction of regional oil and gas production.
- > support the achievement of both Commonwealth and Victorian Governments' renewable energy, offshore wind and carbon emission targets.
- > support the sustainability of the natural environment mitigating risks to marine and bird life, native flora and fauna and the land, waterways and oceans.

Timeline for Implementation

Large scale infrastructure projects like Seadragon typically take 6-10 years to plan, obtain required approvals and construct. The estimated timing of the project phases or milestones as outlined in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Seadragon Project Phases



4. The Consultation Framework

Consultation is a key requirement of environmental assessment and approvals, but more importantly facilitates good project planning, design and outcomes. The project's Consultation Framework considers:

The purpose of engagement

The purpose of the engagement program is to gather community and stakeholder views, local knowledge and provide direction to guide the development of the Seadragon offshore wind project.

During the EES/EIS and exhibition phase the objectives are to:

- > inform key stakeholders and the wider community of the project
- > build understanding of and support for the Seadragon project
- > identify and address potential project effects and benefits
- > understand community drivers i.e. what they value most and how community benefits could be derived
- > establish a conduit for stakeholder knowledge and views to be heard, understood and considered by
 - o the project team in planning and design works, investigations and assessments and
 - o the government and decision makers.
- > respond to public input
- > build on previous consultative activities to involve communities and stakeholders in project development and design activities
- > create understanding of the planning process and encourage stakeholder and community participation and input into the EES/EIS process
- > better understand any concerns about the project and wherever possible address potential or perceived negative impacts of the project on the community

Best practice and legislation guidance

Flotation Energy's engagement activities and this plan give due consideration to best practice approaches and legislation requirements including:

- > Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner observations and recommendations (2020)
- > Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments (2021)⁵
- > Clean Energy Council's Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry (2018)⁶
- > *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Vic)
- > DCCEEW's Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (interim guidance) (2023)⁷
- > DELWP EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note (2018)
- > *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic)
- > *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
- > *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic)
- > IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum
- > *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth)
- > Worksafe guidance on COVID-19 safe practices

⁵ August 2021

⁶ [wind-community-engagement-guidelines.pdf](https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/wind-community-engagement-guidelines.pdf)
([cleanenergycouncil.org.au](https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au))

⁷ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/engage-early>

Likely level of community impact/interest

The Seadragon project is considered to have a potential high impact on the community/environment and it has been assessed that an EES/EIS submission is required. With reference to the IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum, the level of community and stakeholder engagement during the EES/EIS process will largely operate within the parameters of informing, consulting, involving and collaborating. The level of community engagement with stakeholders will be informed by the potential level of impact. Refer Figure 4.

All stakeholders and community members can influence the project design and development throughout the entire EES, through opportunities outlined in this Plan (e.g. refer to various methods outlined in Figure 6). They can also influence the project's evolution through formal opportunities such as submission regarding the EES Scoping Requirements and/or following exhibition of the EES / EIS (as described in Section 2):

Figure 4: Potential level of community impact/interest

Potential level of impact	Criteria	Various level of community engagement required
High impact on whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > High impact across community including to the natural environment, livability, economic outcomes or health and safety of residents > High degree of interest across the community > Strong possibility of conflicting perspectives 	Empower Involve Collaborate Consult Inform
High impact on a select area and/or community group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > High impact on a specific neighbourhood, group or specific service or program > Strong possibility of conflicting perspectives at a neighbourhood level or the need for trade-offs among certain groups 	Involve Collaborate
Modest impact on whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Modest impact across the community > Sufficient degree of interest to warrant community engagement > Moderate possibility for conflicting perspectives 	Consult
Modest impact on select area and/or community group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Modest impact on a neighbourhood area, community group(s) or specific facility/service > Small change to a localised facility or service > Modest risk of controversy or conflict at the local level 	Inform

How feedback will be used

Feedback gathered during the consultation period will inform the preparation of the EES/EIS and may influence project planning, design, construction and operational considerations. Feedback will also influence the delivery of any community benefit programs that Flotation Energy seeks to implement.

All feedback received will be documented in a consultation engagement management database. Data will also be collected and recorded using tools available on the project website, by email, social media platforms and website analytics tools.

Feedback and key issues will be considered and addressed as part of the EES/EIS process with outcomes to be reported to the Technical Reference Group and in the final EES report. Furthermore, Flotation Energy will report to and seek guidance from the project's Community Advisory Group (Described in section 5)

Information will be stored in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and complaints handling procedures followed in accordance with Flotation Energy policies.

A summary of participation levels, feedback and ideas from stakeholders and communities to improve the engagement process will be included in public engagement reports, project updates, on the Project webpage, by email or in regular newsletter updates, as appropriate.

Flotation Energy will manage stakeholders' expectations by being clear about the limitations of engagement. We will be open and transparent in explaining the rationale for the proposed project design and how community and stakeholder feedback has influenced the project's design and broader development.

Continuous improvement of the plan

Tools, techniques and activities outlined in this Engagement plan will be assessed continuously and

revised as necessary to ensure that communication and engagement objectives are met. Flotation Energy will measure the performance of the Consultation Plan by analysing:

- > Feedback from people attending sessions and workshops
- > Comments received through the engagement website, emails and phone calls
- > Website visits
- > Number and content of survey responses
- > Sentiment captured through media monitoring.
- > Participation levels and feedback received on the engagement process will be recorded, collected and considered as part of ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of the engagement program during the preparation of the EES/EIS.

Limitations to engagement

In undertaking community engagement, there needs to be a clear understanding of what the community or specific stakeholder is able to influence and what they cannot (i.e., what is negotiable and what is not negotiable). This ensures the process is transparent and assists in avoiding misunderstandings with the community about possible outcomes that may be outside the scope of the process.

Flotation Energy will work with its Community Advisory Group, the project's Technical Reference Group, the wider community and landowners, traditional owners groups and the project team to further update negotiable and non-negotiable considerations as the project planning progresses.

Negotiable

Stakeholder identification and method of engagement

Identification of current and future economic issues, opportunities and needs

Identification of potential community benefits, community benefit program delivery models and timing

Aspects of project location and design (within the Gippsland declared area and boundaries of any licenses obtained by Flotation Energy under the *Offshore Electricity Act 2021*).

Non-negotiable

Project area of interest and footprint - The project must be located within the declared area and within the feasibility licence area when and if issued by the Government.

Engagement activities must comply with EES/EIS process and timeframes set.

Final decision-making rests with the relevant Ministers

Measures of successful engagement

Project engagement will be considered successful when we can demonstrate that we have:

- > met all minimum regulatory requirements for the EES/EIS process
- > managed stakeholder and community expectations and have been clear on the level of influence they have on the project outcomes and decision making (as per IAP2 model)
- > tapped into the local knowledge, industry and business expertise to inform project planning, design and outcomes
- > gathered the views of stakeholders that are representative of the government, community, individuals, business and industry
- > proactively sought, listened, understood and responded to the input and feedback received

- (including but not limited to the Community Advisory Group, Technical Reference Group)
- > adopted a multi-channel approach that maximises the opportunity for Flotation Energy, community and stakeholders to connect easily and efficiently (we will provide a variety of options for individuals to engage including online, face to face, emails, newsletters etc)
 - > established and implemented a complaint handling process with the input of the Community Advisory Group
 - > kept complaints to a minimum through open, timely and transparent engagement and communications
 - > responded to all stakeholder queries and complaints in a timely manner (first response within 2 business days)
 - > supported community's understanding of renewable energy opportunities including the Seadragon project
 - > implemented 'fit for purpose' communications and promoted a variety of avenues for engagement
 - > created broad awareness of Flotation Energy and the Seadragon project and project team
 - > helped to lead the conversation and build community understanding on the role of offshore wind to transition to a net-zero future
 - > strengthened our relationships with the community and project stakeholders
 - > enabled Flotation Energy to make informed decisions about project locations designs and mitigations

Principles of engagement

At all times, Flotation Energy's consultation activities will uphold the principles of the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter.

1. **We will engage respectfully** with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before submitting a development application and finalising the design of the project.
2. **We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive** in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the life of the project.
3. **We will be sensitive to areas of high biodiversity, cultural and landscape value** in the design and operation of projects.
4. **We will minimise the impacts on highly productive agricultural land** and explore opportunities to integrate agricultural production.
5. **We will consult the community on the potential visual, noise, traffic and other impacts** of the project, and on the mitigation options.
6. **We will support the local economy** by providing local employment and procurement opportunities.
7. **We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the project**, and consult them on the options available, including the relevant governance arrangements.
8. **We commit to using the project to support educational and tourism opportunities** where appropriate.
9. **We will demonstrate responsible land stewardship** over the life of the project and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological, cultural and/or agricultural value of the land.
10. **During the life of the project, we will recycle waste materials where feasible** and commit to responsible decommissioning or refurbishment/repowering of the site at the end of the project's life.

Additional principles that will guide our work:

- > **We acknowledge that often stakeholders have differing views** and needs which need to be considered. It may not be possible to satisfy all of these differing views, but we will take them all into account.
- > **We will provide opportunities for involvement.** Effective communication needs to underpin the invitation to provide input and feedback. For people to be involved, they first need to understand the issue, then how they can provide feedback for consideration. To do this our engagement needs to be carefully considered and planned.
- > **We will make consulting with us as convenient as we can.** We will attempt to use a range of engagement techniques so that we can maximise the numbers of people who can be involved. This may include multiple events or techniques. Being involved is an individual's choice and right.
- > **We will provide appropriate and accessible mechanisms so the community and stakeholders can participate if they wish.** Our engagement will be based on mutual respect. This will be demonstrated through our engagement processes and the value we place on community and stakeholder involvement. We expect this to be reciprocated and the community to respect the diversity of views raised in any engagement.
- > **Flotation Energy is a stakeholder too.** We recognise that our employees, board and shareholders are key stakeholders whose views also need to be sought. We are committed to ensuring effective internal engagement as well as community and stakeholder engagement.

5. Stakeholders, their interest and levels of influence

A comprehensive stakeholder listing has been developed to ensure we engage with stakeholders and people in the community who can contribute or can influence and encourage others to participate.

Our stakeholders

Close to 300 stakeholders/groups have been identified as important to this project to date⁸. It is recognised that not all stakeholders will necessarily share the same concerns or have unified opinions or priorities regarding the Seadragon project. Equally every stakeholder or community group will have their own reason(s) to participate in the engagement process - understanding these motives is valuable.

Flotation Energy has and will continue to work with community members and stakeholders to help them understand the EES/EIS process and the potential

impacts of the projects that would be assessed as part of the EES/EIS and will encourage public participation.

Stakeholders for the Project come from a wide cross-section of the community. A number of stakeholder interest groups have been identified Refer Figure 5. Additional stakeholder groups may be added as project planning and engagement activities progress.

Section 9 details stakeholder groups identified, their interest, their expertise level, their level of influence, method of engagement etc.

Figure 5: Stakeholder groups interested in the Seadragon project

Commonwealth Government	Victorian Government	Local Government	Traditional Owners
Regulatory Agencies	Government Departments	Residents and land owners	Asset Owners
Industry and Business	Community and environment interest groups	Fisheries, Marine and Coastal	Recreational and seasonal visitors
Peak bodies and associations	Education	Unions	Media

⁸ Note that this number will increase as some stakeholder groupings such as 'all registered businesses' have multiple entries.

Issue identification and consultation

Flotation Energy has been consulting with the community and stakeholders since 2019. Below is a summary of issues more commonly raised by stakeholders to date. These considerations are likely to remain a focus of engagement and assessment works during the EES/EIS process. Our success relies on assisting our stakeholders to understand the planning process, distinguish the separate processes and identify the opportunities for how community/stakeholders can participate in the planning process.

- 1. Location** – where the project will be located, why the chosen location is along the Gippsland coast near Seaspray and which ports we are considering using.
- 2. Amenity** – how far offshore the turbines will be located, will the community be able to see and hear the turbines from shore.
- 3. Turbines** – how big are the turbines, where will they be manufactured, how are they maintained and what happens when they are decommissioned.
- 4. Connection** – where the project will connect to the grid and concerns about whether any overhead transmission lines are proposed.
- 5. Jobs and supply chain** – interest in the number of local jobs, skills and capability required in offshore wind and supply chains, throughout the project life cycle and especially during construction and operations.
- 6. Construction** – when construction is planned to begin, how long it will take and whether there would be significant noise, exclusions or other inconvenience to local communities.
- 7. Ports** – interest is which Ports are likely to be used for construction and operational phases.
- 8. Creating community benefit** – interest in how this project could benefit and support local communities.
- 9. Protecting the environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage** – understand what are and how this project will mitigate any potential impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage, migratory birds, sea-life and marine biology.
- 10. Understanding the planning process** of large-scale infrastructure projects and how the community can have a say.
- 11. Fishing** – interest in whether the project would impact commercial and recreational fishing.
- 12. Water access and usage** – interest as to whether the project and location of turbines will impact water use and access by recreational swimmers and boaters, emergency services and other seasonal and recreational users.
- 13. Property and land access** – will the project influence or impact property amenity and land access. If so where and how is this managed.
- 14. Renewable energy** – how much energy the project will generate, the reliability of wind as a source of energy, offshore wind's role within Australia's energy transition.

DTP has convened a Technical Reference Group (TRG), to provide technical and statutory advice on the project's environmental impact assessment and EES/EIS to DTP, DCCEEW and the Seadragon project team. Membership of the TRG is drawn from Government agencies, regional authorities, representative bodies and municipal councils that have an interest in the project.

A TRG members site visit took place on 1 March, 2023, coinciding with the first TRG meeting, to provide an opportunity for members to see the proposed project area first hand.

The TRG will meet regularly in a hybrid working model, including both online and in-person meetings. The Seadragon project team will work collaboratively with the TRG. The TRG will be presented with proposed methods, study plans, technical assessment reports and summary documents for their review. This will include the assessment of cumulative impacts (i.e. – associated with other significant existing and probable uses of land and the marine environment) and assessment of project design alternatives. Technical issues will be discussed in detail during TRG meetings. Feedback received during the meetings and on the assessment documents will be recorded and responded to by the Seadragon team and their technical experts. TRG members will have opportunities to review how their feedback has been responded to and to address any outstanding issues with the Seadragon project team.

Updates on community and stakeholder engagement activities and outcomes will be regularly presented to the TRG, through reports and presentations. In particular, the TRG will be updated on stakeholder sentiment, emerging themes and the Seadragon project team is responding or plan to respond to these.

When technical reports based on environmental baseline surveys and impact assessment are at a progressed stage, the outcomes of these will be presented to the community at community engagement sessions. These may be online and/or in person. Presenters will summarise key findings and proposed mitigation measures in a format that is

clear, concise and easy to understand. They will answer and respond to any questions that community members may have on these issues. Feedback from the community at these sessions will be documented and responded to as appropriate.

The EES/EIS will include a concise plain language summary report.

Community Advisory Group

Flotation Energy is establishing a Seadragon Community Advisory Group (CAG). The purpose of the group is to provide a transparent, representative and accessible forum for two-way information sharing between the Seadragon project team and the local community representatives in the project area. The focus for the group will be to:

- > Gain insights from the community
- > Test and validate ideas
- > Consult on processes used to gain inputs, identify next steps and resolve issues; and
- > Identify how benefits from the project can flow back to the community.

Flotation Energy plans to facilitate diverse group participation in terms of members' location, age and gender. It will be important that a broad range of organisations and individuals are involved to ensure that a diverse range of interests are represented by the CAG.

The project area that the CAG will broadly represent includes:

- > Beachside communities from Loch Sport to Yarram;
- > Regional centres and towns of Sale, Yarram, Rosedale and the Latrobe Valley;
- > Localities along Seadragon's proposed transmission corridor and the government coordinated corridor; and
- > Commercial and recreational fishing representatives, including organisations/businesses based in Lakes Entrance.

The CAG will be formed through a combination of invitation and open expressions of interest to the

broader community. The CAG will be facilitated by an Independent Chairperson with the Seadragon team providing secretariat support to the Chairperson. It is intended that CAG meetings commence in the second half of 2023 and then generally quarterly. These meetings will typically be held in person as a preference (subject to any pandemic or public health requirements) with an online link for those who prefer to attend virtually on occasion.

Priority Stakeholder Groups and Partners

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

The proposed Seadragon project is located within Gunaikurnai Country. Flotation Energy acknowledges the Gunaikurnai people as the First Peoples of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land (wurruk), waters (yarnda), air (watpootjan), culture and community.

Flotation Energy is actively partnering with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and seeking their involvement and guidance on cultural heritage and operational considerations during the project design, EES/EIS process, approvals and construction stages.

Flotation Energy and GLaWAC have established a preferred model of working together, and Seadragon has appointed an experienced spatial planning and cultural heritage role to coordinate its activities. This ensures meaningful engagement and respectful and timely interaction that supports Traditional Owner resourcing and project requirements. Representatives from GLaWAC are providing their expertise and early direction to inform the project planning including layout considerations.

Initial engagement has focused on establishing processes to implement strategic assessment of cultural and natural heritage. Cumulative impacts on Country and the proposed Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) are being considered. Early conversations emphasising ways to better consider intangible heritage and cultural perspectives in the project area, through additional survey methods and

cultural values assessments are underway. Engagement with GLaWAC has also emphasised economic development opportunities and mechanisms for generating benefits for local Indigenous people.

GLaWAC is represented as a member of the Seadragon Community Advisory Group. GLaWAC is also a member of the Technical Reference Group, and this will provide formal mechanisms for Traditional Owner feedback to be sought, recorded and incorporated into planning processes and submissions.

Flotation Energy and its specialist consultants will specifically seek GLaWAC's expertise and input on cultural heritage matters during the EES/EIS process and will ensure their feedback is reported in Seadragon's Cultural Heritage Management Plan(s) for assessment and decision by statutory authorities and decision makers. Flotation Energy is engaging with GLaWAC to inform what matters assessed through the EES/EIS, in addition to cultural values, are relevant to them and ensure that they are consulted on these.

Flotation Energy recognises, in addition to Traditional Owners, that Gippsland is home to several First Nations communities that have a special connection to land and waters. These include the peoples of the Bidawal, Bunurong / Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung, Jaithmathang and Monero / Ngarigo Nations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait people from other regions of Australia.

Flotation Energy is actively engaging with the Bunurong Land Council, whose Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) area includes the Port of Hastings. Whilst the Seadragon project is not expected to have any direct impact within Bunurong Country, Flotation Energy understand that the consideration of broader indirect impacts (such as the potential use of the Port of Hastings) is also important. This engagement, alongside the engagement with Victorian Government's First Peoples State Relations and DEECA's Aboriginal Energy team, demonstrates early phase commitments to the wider Aboriginal communities for cultural and economic development in Victoria.

As appropriate Flotation Energy will proactively seek the views of First Nations people during all consultative activities through targeted engagement with individuals and representative groups such as including GLaWAC. It will ensure all engagement activities are culturally safe for Aboriginal people and provide meaningful opportunities for their input. Engagement with First Nations people will be in accordance with published government policy and guidance⁹. Please refer to Section 9 for the detailed list of stakeholders.

Land and asset owners

Establishing a route for energy generated at sea to connect to the electricity grid onshore will likely require the development of an easement(s) and access to private property. Consultation with landowner and asset owners is a priority activity and will be delivered by specialized land managers.

Marine users and fisheries

Flotation Energy recognises that the project will be of particular significance to marine users and the fishing industry, as activities will be undertaken which may influence their activities. To provide timely information and opportunity for the fishing sector to be adequately consulted on project activities, Flotation Energy will consider appointing a

Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) (per the UK model) to undertake specific consultation with that industry.

Hard to reach groups or vulnerable residents

The Seadragon project's area of interest includes the coastal towns along the Gippsland coast with a high tourist population and many seasonal residents.

Ensuring seasonal residents have timely and appropriate access to key project information is important to ensure their views are heard and considered. The project team will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them.


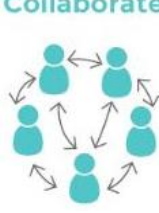



We will engage with local people with cultural and linguistic diversity, aged and isolated people, people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, people with limited or no access to the internet, social media and other forms of communication and people with disabilities who may experience access issues. We will be opening a Visitor Centre in Sale where we can meet with individuals and communities and still continue our outreach program of visiting people in their homes, offering online/telephone meetings and providing interpreter services when needed.

⁹ Including but not limited to DCCEEW's Interim Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals

under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (interim guidance) (2023) and First Peoples - State Relations' Guidance on Engaging Traditional Owners (2022)

Figure 6: Stakeholder engagement methodology

Referencing the IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum, the methodology of engagement for the Seadragon project and example stakeholders is as follows:

	 Empower	 Collaborate	 Involve	 Consult	 Inform
Example Stakeholders	Commonwealth and State Ministers	Traditional Owners Community Advisory Group Technical Reference Group Government agencies	Landowners Industry, peak bodies and representative groups such as Climate Change Networks, Business/Industry Associations	Gippsland residents and communities	Schools Interest parties outside the region Media
Stakeholder engagement goal	To place final decision making in the hands of the stakeholder.	To partner with stakeholders in each stage of the project.	To work directly with the stakeholder throughout the process to ensure that stakeholder concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To obtain stakeholder expertise, advice, information/feedback on perspectives, requirements, analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To provide balanced, objective, accurate and consistent information to assist stakeholders to understand the challenges & opportunity.
Promise to stakeholder	We will implement what you decide.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decision to the maximum extent possible.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the options developed and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decision.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decision.	We will keep you informed.
Example methods of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision making 1:1 meetings EIS and EES Regulatory referrals and requirements Licence applications and referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct email, phone calls and correspondence Briefings, workshops Direct communications Survey – business, industry, peak body 1:1 consultation Communication – report back of consultation outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 consultation Direct email Webinars Briefing sessions Survey – business, industry, peak body Online engagement tool Virtual townhall meetings Communication – report back of consultation outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct email Online survey and engagement tools Project Updates Webinars Drop in /information sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications –Facebook, LinkedIn, newspapers Information sessions

Source: IAP2 Model for Public Participation

6. Key messages

A suite of key messages will be used to guide clear communication with community and stakeholders. These will be developed and refined to meet target audiences over time and as needed.

Key messages include:

- > Flotation Energy is a global leader in offshore wind projects and we are proud and excited to bring this experience to projects in Australia.
- > We want to lead the way towards a net zero future - working hand-in-hand with government, industry, economists, scientists and communities to meet the energy demands of the global community.
- > Offshore wind will play an important role in the transition to renewable and more affordable energy within Australia and worldwide. It is vital to the future of our planet and local communities.
- > We have projects around the world including 'Kincardine', the world's biggest operational floating offshore wind farm in Kincardine off Aberdeen, Scotland.
- > We have brought together a team of local experts with the technical skills, knowledge and passion to lead the move towards sustainable and reliable renewable energy in Australia and on the Gippsland coastline, through our Seadragon project.
- > Seadragon is a 1.5 GW offshore wind project that is proposed to be located 20-40km off the southeast coast of Gippsland between Golden Beach and McGauran's Beach. It will be one of Australia's first offshore wind projects and will help deliver a renewable energy future for households, communities and business across Victoria.
- > Large scale offshore wind projects like Seadragon typically take 6-10 years to plan and construct. There are strict planning and environmental regulations, licenses and approvals processes that must be followed to ensure the project is environmentally, socially, culturally and economically responsible.
- > Flotation Energy received a \$2.3 million grant from the Victorian Government's Energy Innovation Fund. The funds will contribute to completing scoping studies and environmental surveys for the project, including working with oil and gas facility operators to assess the potential for onshore and offshore asset re-use.
- > The scoping works will support the development of a project which, if constructed, could result in an investment of approximately \$6 billion, the creation of over 1,300 jobs and an estimated 30 years of renewable energy operations.
- > We are focused on working with local communities to avoid and minimise any local environmental impacts whilst creating significant economic and social benefits. The Seadragon team looks forward to continuing to meet and work with local communities including First Nations organisations as we progress the development of this renewable energy project.

- > We are currently in the project planning and development phase and have formally commenced scoping for the preparation of a project specific Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – a requirement of the Commonwealth and Victorian Government.
- > The EES/EIS process including baseline environmental surveys are expected to take 2 to 3 years. It includes undertaking comprehensive assessments to determine existing environmental conditions, potential impacts (including cumulative) and benefits, and mitigation actions. It also involves extensive consultation to ensure community and stakeholders are fully informed.
- > The outcomes of the EES/EIS process will inform government approval decision making and approval processes under the Victorian *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and consent under the Victorian *Marine and Coastal Act 2019*.
- > Communities and stakeholders will have opportunity to share their views directly with Flotation Energy and to provide formal feedback regarding the EES/EIS and impact assessment studies. We encourage communities and stakeholders to be involved and we will communicate with you how best to participate.
- > The EES/EIS will be formally exhibited as required under the Acts and public hearings may be held as part of this process. The public will be invited to submit responses to the EES/EIS documenting what they consider relevant to the assessment and effects of the project.
- > Flotation Energy will be proactive in their approach to sharing project information and will create opportunities that maximise community and stakeholder involvement.
- > The Seadragon project team will be out and about across Gippsland hearing first-hand what is important to community and stakeholders. This ensures we work together to shape the Seadragon project and bring to life new jobs, skills, investment and other benefits to Gippsland.

Project contact details

Email: enquiries-Australia@flotationenergy.com

Website: seadragonoffshorewind.com

Phone: TBC

7. Communication and engagement tools

A series of communication and engagement tools are proposed to ensure Flotation Energy hears, understand, responds to and actions as appropriate the views, needs and wants of stakeholders and communication as it develops the Seadragon project.

We will endeavour to use the right tool at the right time to enable ease of participation and stakeholder preferred methods of engagement to be used. We recognise that different engagement methods will be preferred depending on the stakeholder or audience. The tools will also be customised to meet the EES/EIS requirements.

Communication assets and channels

Advertising and Media	Advertisements in traditional media such local papers, radio, television (news) shall be used along with digital media to communicate with community and business groups.
Consultation Summary Reports	Consultation Summary Reports shall be compiled capturing the purpose and scope of consultation, participants, findings, recommendations, course of action, and next steps.
Diagrams and Maps	Diagrams and maps shall form part of all communications to clearly articulate the location of project assets (office locations, wind farm, transmission paths etc), and critical timelines. The website shall contain Interactive Maps that contain assets and visualisation from shore.
Newsletters	Newsletters shall provide project information and updates at key points in the project and will most typically be monthly via electronic or postal means.
Online Engagement Tool	An online community and industry engagement platform shall be used and shall include interactive maps, forums, surveys, to share ideas and feedback.
Posters and Signage	Posters and signage shall be placed in high traffic locations and notice boards to create awareness of the project and information on how to get involved.
Social Media	Facebook and LinkedIn shall be used to provide project information and updates and provide opportunity for interactive discussion. Responsiveness and analytics shall be vital.
Videos	Video content is more easily digested and understood by the audience and allows communication of personality and tone. Videos shall communicate key project information and be shared via social media and the website.
Webinars, Livestreaming and Q&As	Webinars, Livestreaming including Q&A sessions shall be conducted for larger or disparate audiences where in-person meetings are not possible.
Website	The Project-specific website shall serve as a central location of all project information, including news & media, key communications and contact details.

Consultation groups & forums

Community Advisory Group (CAG)	A Community Advisory Group will be established comprising of members from key locations, interest groups, Gunaikurnai and Council representatives. It shall play a key part in understanding community views and needs, including special-needs groups, and provide a conduit for two-way communication.
Collaborative working groups	Flotation Energy will actively participate and support working groups and initiatives that provide mutual benefit. Initiatives such as the Wellington Shire collaborative renewable energy website will provide a one-stop-shop for interested parties wanting to learn more about offshore wind projects.
Education Briefings, Meetings & Workshops	Engagement with schools, TAFE, university, and other specific educational and institutional bodies shall occur with regard to future skills and job opportunities/requirements, which may occur in person or via video conference.
Email and Telephone Communications	The website shall contain means of collecting details of interested persons, forming a record of enquiry, and providing means for the Project Team to make direct/return contact via phone or email.
Landowner Briefings, Meetings & Workshops	The Project Team shall engage very specifically with landowners and near neighbours with respect to transmission line easements and access requirements throughout all stages of the project, which may occur in person or via video conference.
Local Events & Festivals	Pop-ups shall be constructed at events and festivals for project team members to engage with the community in a formal and informal manner to help create awareness and capture community sentiment. They shall be used to promote ongoing communication opportunities in other forums.
Public Information Sessions	Public information sessions shall be held for community members at key locations, which may be in person or via video conference. They shall include drop in sessions, townhall briefings, presentations and interactive group discussions.
Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops	The Project Team shall work closely and collaboratively with marine user groups including recreational and commercial fishers, boaters, and other marine users on the impacts and opportunities for marine users.
Online Engagement Tool	An online community and industry engagement platform shall be used and shall include interactive maps, forums, surveys, to share ideas and feedback.
Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops	Detailed specific engagement shall be undertaken with special interest groups according to need at key milestones. Input shall be sought on specific matters from individuals, groups and organisations with specific interest or knowledge. These may be in person or via video conference.
Surveys & Forms	Surveys and forms shall be used to collect feedback from community and industry stakeholders.
Technical Reference Group (TRG)	A Technical Reference Group has been appointed by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to advise on key statutory and regulatory requirements, which shall work collaboratively with the Project Team in all phases of the project.

8. EES/EIS engagement program

Stakeholder engagement comprises two main elements: communication and consultation. The former is the provision of information to enable stakeholders to understand proposed details of the project, while the latter provides opportunity for stakeholders to provide information and express views which influence the project.

The planned program of engagement activities and timeframes of the EES/EIS process is as follows:



Item	Phase	Estimated Timing	Purpose	Engagement Activities
1	Development of EES/EIS Scoping Requirements and Assessment Guidelines	Q1-Q3 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Build awareness and understanding of the project > Promote opportunity for formal public comment and feedback to DTP and DCCEEW on the draft scopes for the EES/EIS assessments > Inform of the consultation process, identify communication preferences, and encourage participation > Explain the coordinated EIS/EES process and timings > Obtain feedback on community concerns and aspirations for the assessment scopes > Obtain information and knowledge to inform the best options and approach for the EES/EIS assessments > DTP and DCCEEW will respond to feedback through the final EES/EIS Scoping Requirements and Assessment Guidelines, with the final versions published on the departments' websites > Seadragon project team will coordinate with DTP and DCCEEW to understand community feedback on the draft scopes. > Seadragon project team will adapt the study program as necessary to meet the final EES/EIS Scoping Requirements and Assessment Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Consultation Summary Reports > Diagrams and Maps > Project Update / Newsletters > Online Engagement Tool > Posters and signage > Social Media > Webinars, Livestreaming and FAQs > Website > Online engagement tool > Community Advisory Group > Education Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Email and Telephone Communications > Landowner Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Local Events & Festivals > Public Information Sessions > Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Surveys & Forms > Technical Reference Group

Item	Phase	Estimated Timing	Purpose	Engagement Activities
2	Environmental Baseline Surveys and Impact Assessment (including reporting)	Q1 2023 to Q3 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Share key project information including assessments and impact studies > Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to thoroughly understand issues and identify suitable mitigations > Obtain feedback from community and stakeholders > Explain how feedback has been / is being used in project development > Respond to feedback and clearly communicate what can and can't be accommodated and why > Provide information about the EIS/EES process, timings and encourage participation > Identify additional stakeholders who have an interest in the project > Implement refinements/learnings/improvements to consultation approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Consultation Summary Reports > Diagrams and Maps > Project Update / Newsletters > Online Engagement Tool > Posters and signage > Social Media > Webinars, Livestreaming and FAQs > Website > Online engagement tool > Community Advisory Group > Education Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Email and Telephone Communications > Landowner Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Local Events & Festivals > Public Information Sessions > Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Surveys & Forms Technical Reference Group
3	Lodgment of EES/EIS and associated application for approval under State and Federal legislation	Q2 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prepare and submit all required EES/EIS documentation > Advise of submission lodgment with relevant authorities > Present and explain EIS/EES submission – findings and recommendation > Provide early information about next steps including inquiries and hearings (if known). > Explain how feedback helped inform the impact assessments and proposed environmental assessment requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Project Update/Newsletters > Social Media > Direct correspondence – emails, letters

Item	Phase	Estimated Timing	Purpose	Engagement Activities
4	Formal EIS / EES public exhibition, planning hearings and Ministerial Assessments	Q2 to Q4 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Present and explain EIS/EES submission – findings and recommendation > Provide information about the EIS/EES process, timings and how stakeholders can make a submission > Co-exhibition of other draft statutory applications (e.g. Planning Scheme Amendment) > Explain how feedback helped inform the impact assessments and proposed environmental assessment requirements > Opportunity for formal public submissions on the EIS/EES and any co-exhibited draft statutory applications > Respond to submissions and questions as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Consultation Summary Reports > Diagrams and Maps > Project Updates / Newsletters > Online Engagement Tool > Posters and Signage > Social Media > Videos > Webinars, Livestreaming and FAQs > Website > Community Advisory Group > Local Events & Festivals > Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops
5	Ministers' Assessment and Decisions	Q4 2026 (Estimate only)	<p>Inform of application assessments and outcomes. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water's assessment and decision under the EPBC Act. > The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment and decision under the EE Act. > Planning decisions by Victorian decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Project Updates/ Newsletters > Social Media > Webinars, Livestreaming and Q&As > Website > Community Advisory Group > Education Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Landowner Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Public Information Sessions > Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Technical Reference Group

Item	Phase	Estimated Timing	Purpose	Engagement Activities
6	EES/EIS process complete	Q4 2026 - Q1 2027	Explain next project steps and activities including finalizing detailed design, response to conditions, required management plans, financing and procurement, project mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Advertising and Media > Consultation Summary Reports > Diagrams and Maps > Newsletters > Social Media > Videos > Webinars, Livestreaming and Q&As > Website > Community Advisory Group > Education Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Landowner Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Local Events & Festivals > Public Information Sessions > Marine User Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Stakeholder Briefings, Meetings & Workshops > Technical Reference Group

9. Stakeholder categories & key interests

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Commonwealth Ministers	Minister for the Environment, Minister for Energy & Emissions Reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial briefings and engagement Community and stakeholder engagement Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits Legislative and regulatory compliance EES/EIS submission 	Empower
Commonwealth Govt Depts & Agencies	Organisations responsible for developing and implementing legislation governing offshore wind and approvals/regulatory processes, energy infrastructure and planning, NEM management and operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and stakeholder engagement Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits Legislative and regulatory compliance EES/EIS submission NEM operational requirements 	Collaborate
Victorian Ministers	Minister for Planning, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial briefings and engagement Community and stakeholder engagement Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits Legislative and regulatory compliance EES/EIS submission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower Collaborate

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Vic Govt Depts & Agencies	Organisations responsible for policy relating to VRET, tariffs, REZ, approvals/regulatory processes in State Waters and onshore transmission cable routes, Energy Safe Victoria.	<p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory compliance</p> <p>EES/EIS submission</p>	Collaborate
Existing Industry	<p>There are several oil and gas title holders in the area including Esso, GB Energy, Cooper, 3D Oil and CarbonNet.</p> <p>Existing businesses that service and support the oil and gas sector. Electricity infrastructure owners and developers. Other renewable energy projects in the region.</p>	<p>Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery</p> <p>Opportunities for transition of local industries</p> <p>Job creation and business opportunities</p> <p>Supply chain formation</p> <p>Integration with existing offshore and port operations</p>	Involve
Commonwealth Government and Statutory Authorities	Organisations responsible for fisheries management, marine spatial planning, marine safety and navigation, meteorology, defence, civil aviation safety, scientific research, geoscience, infrastructure planning.	<p>Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory compliance</p> <p>Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery</p> <p>Infrastructure planning requirements</p> <p>Maritime and navigation requirements</p> <p>Safety and emergency management</p>	Collaborate

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Victorian Government and Statutory Authorities	Including but not limited to: Country Fire Authority, ports authorities, water authorities, Emergency Management Victoria, SES, Fisheries, Parks Victoria, water police.	<p>Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Minimal environmental impact/ Net environmental benefits</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory compliance</p> <p>Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery</p> <p>Infrastructure planning requirements</p> <p>Maritime and navigation requirements</p> <p>Safety and emergency management</p>	Collaborate
First Nations groups	Organisations representing First Nations Groups, particularly those that have a legal remit for, or an interest in Country and cultural heritage. For the Gunaikurnai this organisation is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Coporation (GLaWAC).	<p>Economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Minimal environmental and cultural impacts through informed and sensitive project layout, design, construction methodologies and mitigations</p> <p>Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery</p> <p>Job and indigenous business opportunities</p> <p>Native Title</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Management Plan</p> <p>Loss, damage, disturbance to local areas of significance</p>	Collaborate Involve Consult

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Business & Enterprise	Organisations with a remit in the broad area of promoting and sustaining commercial business, supply chain opportunities, employment and investment, e.g. Invest Victoria, Latrobe Valley Authority, Regional Development Victoria, Regional Development Australia, GROW Gippsland, Committee for Gippsland.	<p>Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Project advocacy and local procurement policy</p> <p>Opportunities for transition of local industries, businesses and employees</p> <p>Job, business, supply chain opportunities</p> <p>Education and skills requirements</p> <p>Supply chain formation</p> <p>Role of Government to co-ordinate supply chain opportunities</p> <p>Work packages and procurement</p>	<p>Involve</p> <p>Consult</p>
Communities	Organisations or associations engaged in the social or economic life of an area. Eg Chambers of Commerce, Committee for Gippsland	<p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Economic, social, and environmental impacts and benefits of the project</p> <p>Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery</p> <p>Community benefit schemes and outcomes</p> <p>Project rationale, benefits, impacts and timings</p> <p>Affordable energy</p> <p>Project timing</p> <p>Job creation opportunities as relevant to sector, location and timing during either construction and/or operations</p> <p>Use of regional (or other) Ports during construction and operations</p>	<p>Involve</p> <p>Consult</p>
Education	Providers of Secondary, vocational and tertiary education providers and skill development, including universities, TAFEs and schools	<p>Project rationale, benefits and impacts</p> <p>Workforce and training needs, capability and skills development</p> <p>Potential transition of skills from other sectors to offshore wind</p>	<p>Consult</p> <p>Inform</p>

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Environmental	Organisations other than Government bodies with an environmental interest e.g. Gippsland Climate Change Network, Friends of the Earth, Voices of the Valley, Birdlife Australia, Landcare and other local environmental and climate change networks and action groups	<p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Economic, social, and environmental impacts and benefits of the project</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory compliance</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>Net Zero emissions</p> <p>Turbine maintenance and end of life recycling</p> <p>Bird and marine life, impacts during construction and operation</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Visual impacts from shoreline</p> <p>Form of transmission – underground or overhead</p> <p>Number of infrastructure projects in region and co-ordination between them</p>	<p>Involve</p> <p>Consult</p>
Fisheries	Organisations other than Government bodies with an interest in marine or freshwater fisheries, e.g. SIV, SETFIA and specific commercial fishing bodies.	<p>Understanding project rationale and benefits</p> <p>Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on fisheries and the local environment</p> <p>Access to the project site waterways during construction</p> <p>Ongoing access or restrictions of use</p> <p>Impacts on marine life including commercial fisheries and recreational fishers</p>	<p>Involve</p> <p>Consult</p>
Local Councils	Authorities with a local remit and involvement with communities, business, employment and sustainable development.	<p>Project rationale, benefits and impacts</p> <p>Economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of the project</p> <p>Minimal environmental and cultural impact</p> <p>Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery</p> <p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Housing and pressures on community facilities</p>	Collaborate

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Land and asset owners	Individuals or companies who own property in project area of interest and are directly impacted by proposed easements/alignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project rationale, benefits and impacts Compensation, valuations and acquisition Minimal land impact and restricted land use Construction impacts and requirements Land access rights and restrictions Project timing Number of infrastructure projects in region and co-ordination between them 	Consult
Navigation and Shipping	Organisations having a remit for, or interest in, the management of shipping and safe navigation, e.g. AMSA, Maritime Safety Victoria, Australian Hydrographic Office.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on navigation and shipping Access to the project site waterways during construction Ongoing access or restrictions of use Ports and channel access and requirements 	Involve
Media	Organisations with a purpose of reporting information to audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project rationale, benefits and impacts Milestone media opportunities 	Inform
Renewables and Oil and Gas Organisations	Organisations contributing to the development and management of renewable energy and also the Oil and Gas sector, e.g. APPEA, NERA, Clean Energy Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project rationale, benefits and impacts Community and stakeholder engagement Economic, social, and environmental benefits of the project Minimal environmental impact Legislative and regulatory compliance EES/EIS submission Operational requirements 	Involve

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders*	Key Interests	Level of engagement proposed - based on the IAP2 Model of Public Engagement
Trade Unions	Trades Hall Council and affiliated unions	Project rationale, benefits and impacts Economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of the project Opportunities for input into project planning and delivery Community and stakeholder engagement Project advocacy and local procurement policy Opportunities for transition of local industries, businesses and employees Job, business, supply chain opportunities Education and skills requirements Employment conditions and awards	Consult

*Note: this is not an exhaustive list, but rather an example of the types of stakeholders that we will engage with.

Addendum 1 – Schedule Consultation and Engagement Events

[To be updated and inserted monthly / quarterly as required]

Document information

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