

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm

Proponent: Star of the South Wind Farm Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

The project comprises an offshore wind farm, supporting electricity transmission assets required to transfer energy generated by the wind farm to the existing electricity transmission network, and modifications to ports and harbours required to support the construction and operation of the wind farm.

The key components of the project are:

- Offshore wind assets consisting of up to 400 wind turbines mounted on towers founded in the seabed and a network of buried or mechanically protected subsea cables. These assets would be within Commonwealth jurisdiction as they are beyond 3 nautical miles from the coast of Victoria.
- Offshore substation platforms installed on foundations and up to 13 buried or mechanically protected subsea cables. The substations would be within Commonwealth jurisdiction with the cables originating within Commonwealth jurisdiction and traversing into Victorian jurisdiction.
- Onshore underground or combined underground/overhead powerlines and up to four substations connecting the windfarm to the National Electricity Market. These assets would be within Victorian jurisdiction.
- Modifications to existing ports and harbour to support project construction and operations. These assets would be within Victorian jurisdiction.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is required for the Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm, specifically the works proposed within Victorian jurisdiction as described in the referral accepted on 7 April 2020.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require assessment. In particular the project as proposed could have significant effects on native vegetation, habitat of terrestrial and aquatic species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and/or DELWP Advisory list, water environments, Aboriginal cultural heritage, the local and regional socioeconomic environment and landscape values.
- An environment effects statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the project's effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and offsetting measures, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

Date of Decision: 11 / 05 / 2020