STAR OF THE SOUTH



EIS/EES CONSULTATION PLAN

MARCH 2026



CONTENTS

1. Introduction 3

1.1. Background 3
1.2. Purpose of this plan 3
1.3. Stakeholder and community consultation and feedback to date 4
1.4. The environmental assessment process 6

2. About the project 8
3. Communication and consultation framework 11

3.1. Objectives 11
3.2. Relevant legislation and best practice guidance 12
3.2.1. IAP2 spectrum 12
3.3. Communication and consultation approach 13
3.3.1. Principles 13
3.4. How feedback is used 13

4. Traditional owners 15
5. Stakeholders 15
6. Key messages 16

6.1. The project 16
6.2. Environmental assessment process 17

7. Communication and consultation 18

7.1. Communications tools 18
7.2. Consultation activities 18
7.2.1. Dedicated landholder engagement 19
7.2.2. Dedicated marine user engagement 19
7.2.3. Hard to reach and vulnerable groups 19
7.3. Program 20

8. Recording, monitoring and evaluation 22

8.1. Recording feedback 22
8.2. EIS/EES Consultation Report 22
8.3. Evaluation 22

Appendix A – Stakeholder list 23
Appendix B – Engagement program, Q1 2026 29
Appendix C – Public review period engagement overview 31

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Star of the South (the project) is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project, proposed to be located off the south coast of Gippsland.

At up to 2.2 GW, Star of the South could power 1.2 million homes, create up to 6,000 Australian jobs across its life, and invest billions in the local economy.

The project involves installing up to 150 wind turbines in the sea and a transmission connection to the grid.

In April 2020 the project was referred under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act).

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (now Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water) issued a decision that the project is a 'controlled action' and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required to assess the effects of works proposed within Victorian jurisdiction.

As a result, the project is being assessed under both jurisdictions, through a coordinated process which considers potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of the project against the respective Commonwealth and State environmental legislation and regulations. The project will need:

- Approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Planning approval under the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Marine and coastal consent under the Victorian Marine and Coastal Act 2019
- An approved cultural heritage management plan under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

The project is being developed with investment from Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Cbus Super.

1.2. Purpose of this plan

Consultation is a key aspect of the environmental assessment process. It helps build understanding of the project and its potential effects and enables the knowledge and views of stakeholders to be considered in the project's development and assessment, and by the government in its assessment and approval decisions.

The EIS/EES Consultation Plan (the plan) applies to the period of EIS/EES preparation and public review period which is anticipated to take place between 2020-2026. It sets out how the project team will:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the proposed project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for participation
- Help people understand the project and the EIS/EES process
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS/EES, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight, and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Use and respond to public input
- Build on previous consultation to involve communities and stakeholders in project development.

1.3. Stakeholder and community consultation and feedback to date

Consultation has played an important role in the project's development to date and will continue across the project's life.

Recognising the diversity in communications and engagement needs and preferences, Star of the South used a wide range of communications tools and consultation methods as outlined in **Figure 1**.

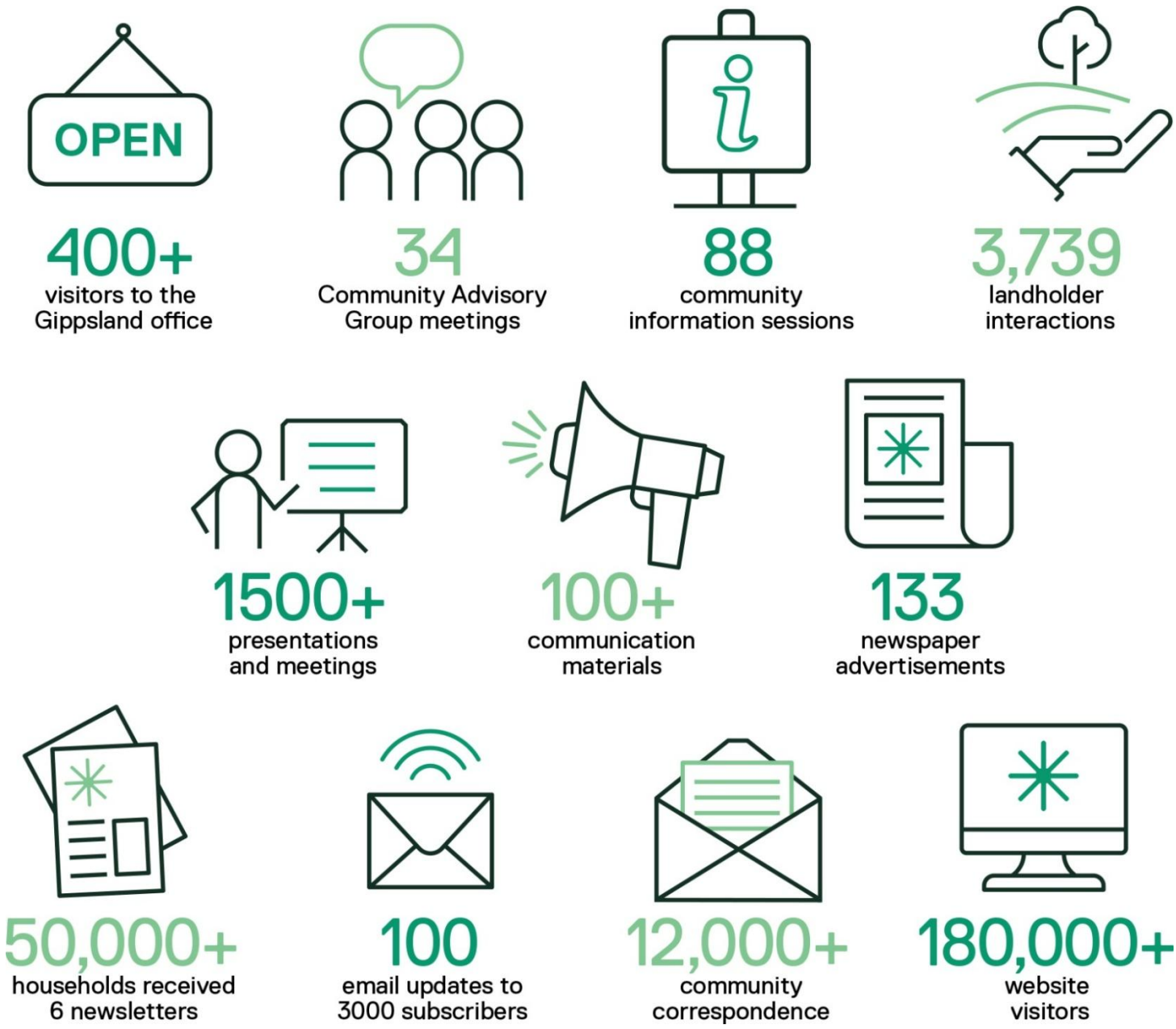


Figure 1: Communications and engagement snapshot 2018 - 2025

Key issues and topics of interest raised by communities and stakeholders to date are:

- Jobs, supply and economic opportunities
- Climate and environmental benefits
- How environmental impacts will be identified, assessed and managed
- How impacts to private property will be managed
- How commercial and recreational fishing and boating could be affected by the project
- The visual impact of offshore infrastructure
- How construction will be managed
- Support for renewable energy and new forms of power generation in Gippsland
- The role of offshore wind in the grid.

Feedback to date has been used to inform:

- The project team's understanding of local values, issues and ideas
- Planning and delivery of site investigations
- The decision to use underground transmission cables
- Assessment of transmission corridors and shore crossing options and selection of a preferred route
- Aspects of the wind farm's early design and layout principles
- Consultation methods and communication channels.



1.4. The environment assessment process

A Commonwealth EIS will assess relevant aspects of the project across the entire project area, both on land and offshore.

A Victorian EES will assess relevant aspects of the project within Victorian jurisdiction, on land and up to three nautical miles offshore.

Both the EIS and EES will assess direct and indirect impacts of the project's construction, operation and decommissioning, both on its own and in combination with other proposed developments (cumulative assessment).

Combined EIS/EES documentation will be prepared so that accessing information and participating in consultation processes is as straightforward as possible.

The environmental assessment process provides a pathway to some of the approvals required for an offshore wind project. Additional approvals under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act) are also required.

The project components considered under existing Victorian and Commonwealth regulations are shown in **Figure 2**. Key steps in the integrated EIS/EES process are shown in **Figure 3**.

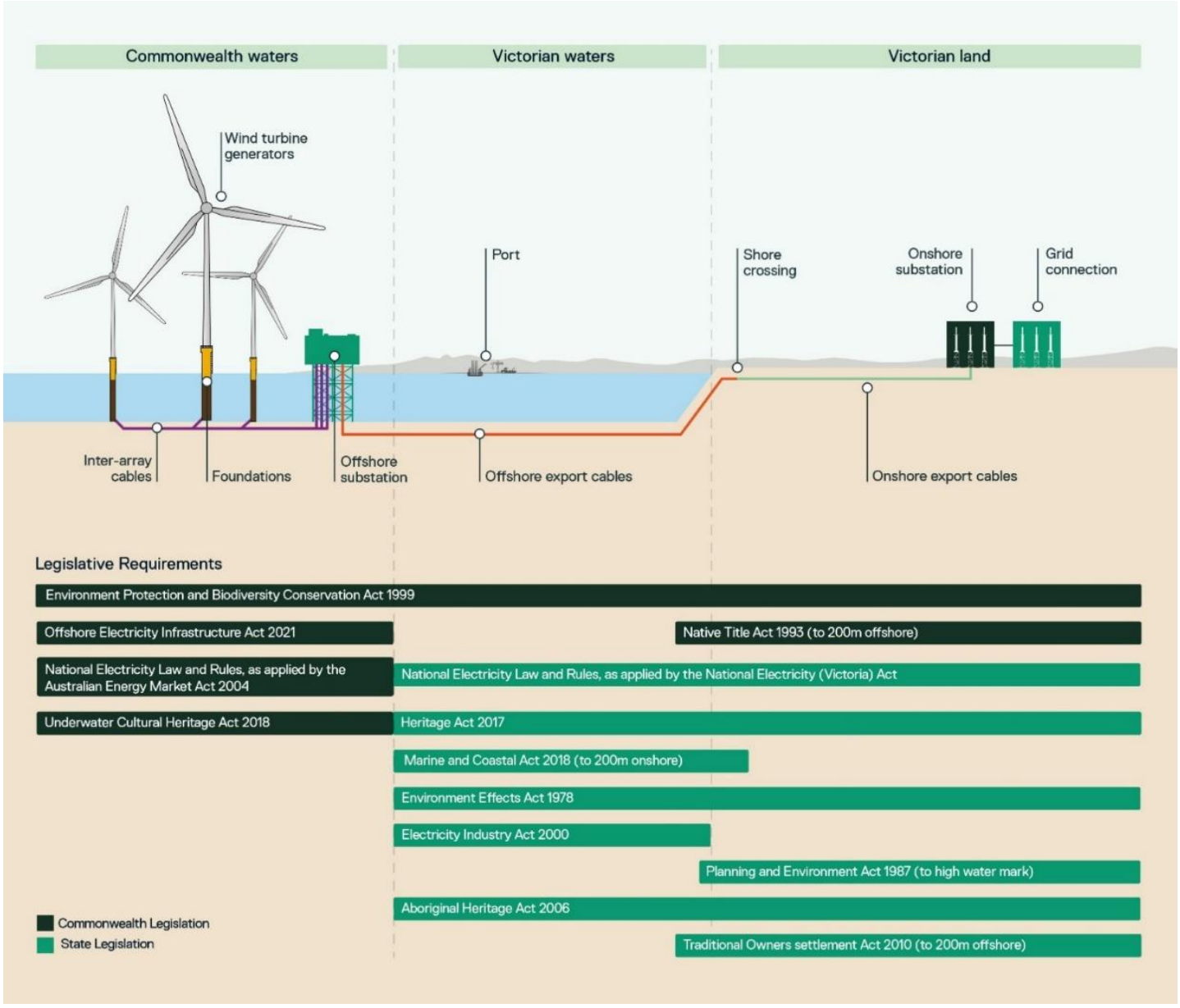


Figure 2: Project components considered under applicable regulations



Figure 3: Key steps in the environmental assessment process

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT



Star of the South is a proposed offshore wind project. It would harness strong offshore wind to generate clean, reliable electricity at sea. This electricity would be transmitted to the grid via a transmission system comprising offshore substations and underground cables which cross the shore near Reeves Beach and connect to the proposed VicGrid 2 GW Gippsland Transmission Project in Giffard.

The project is located within a 586 km^2 licence area extending approximately 10 km to 40 km off the Gippsland coast, shown in Figure 3. This site offers:

- Good offshore wind conditions with consistent and strong winds
- Suitable water depths for fixed-bottom foundations
- Proximity to existing transmission infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley
- Proximity to a local workforce, leading education and training providers, and supply chain with electricity generation experience, and oil and gas maritime experience
- Proximity to existing ports for construction and operations
- Distance from sensitive environmental areas, major shipping channels and commercial oil and gas fields.

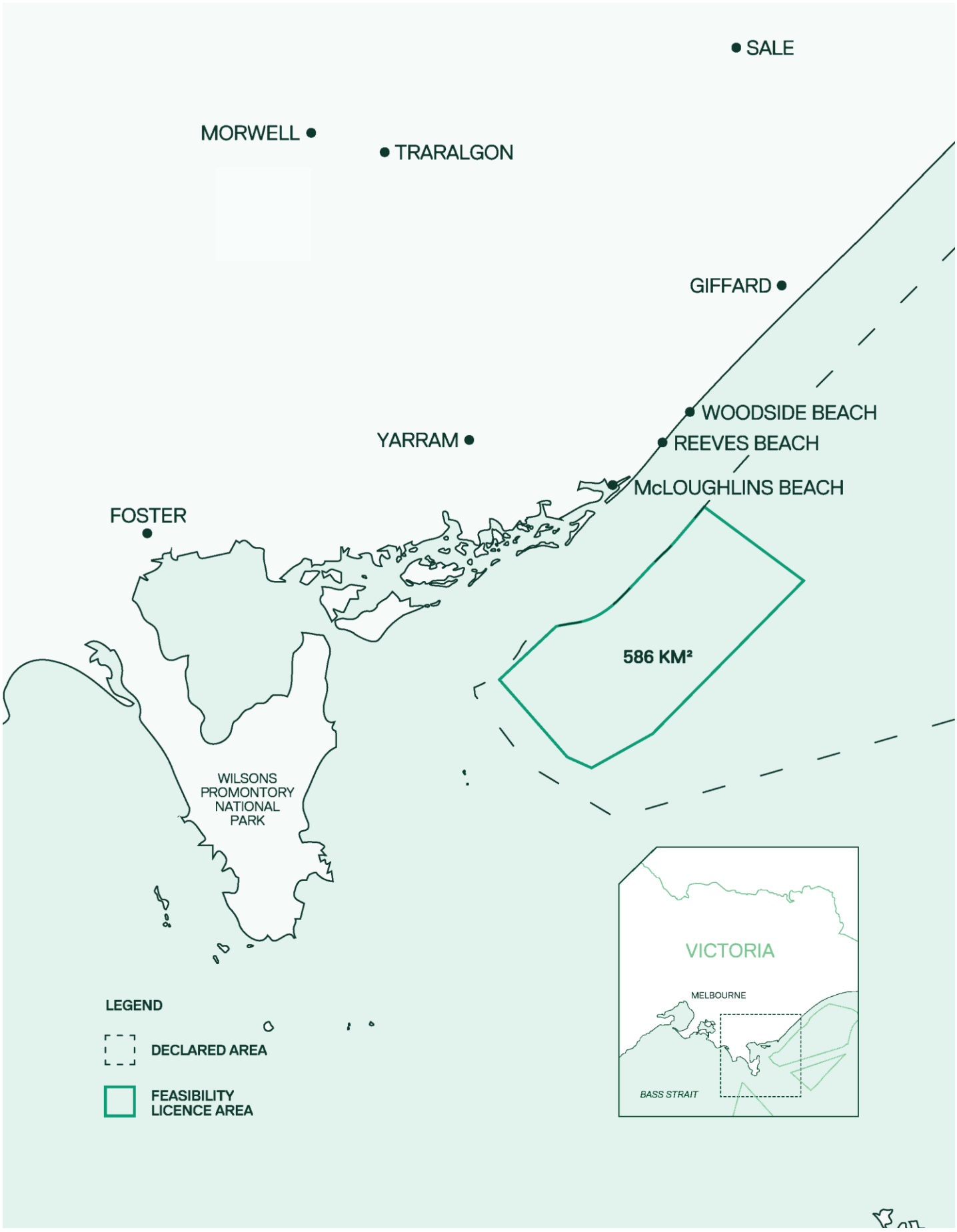


Figure 4: Project location

The project is made up of the following main components:

- **Offshore wind turbines:** Yield electrical power from the wind
- **Offshore substations:** Collects and transforms electricity from 66 kV to 275 kV for transmission
- **Foundations:** Structural support for wind turbines and substations
- **Inter-array cables:** Network of subsea cables connecting strings of wind turbines to an offshore substation
- **Offshore export cables:** Transmit electricity from the offshore substation/s to land
- **Shore crossing:** Trenchless crossings under the shore to connect offshore export cables with the onshore underground cable system
- **Underground cable system:** Transfers electricity to the grid connection point.

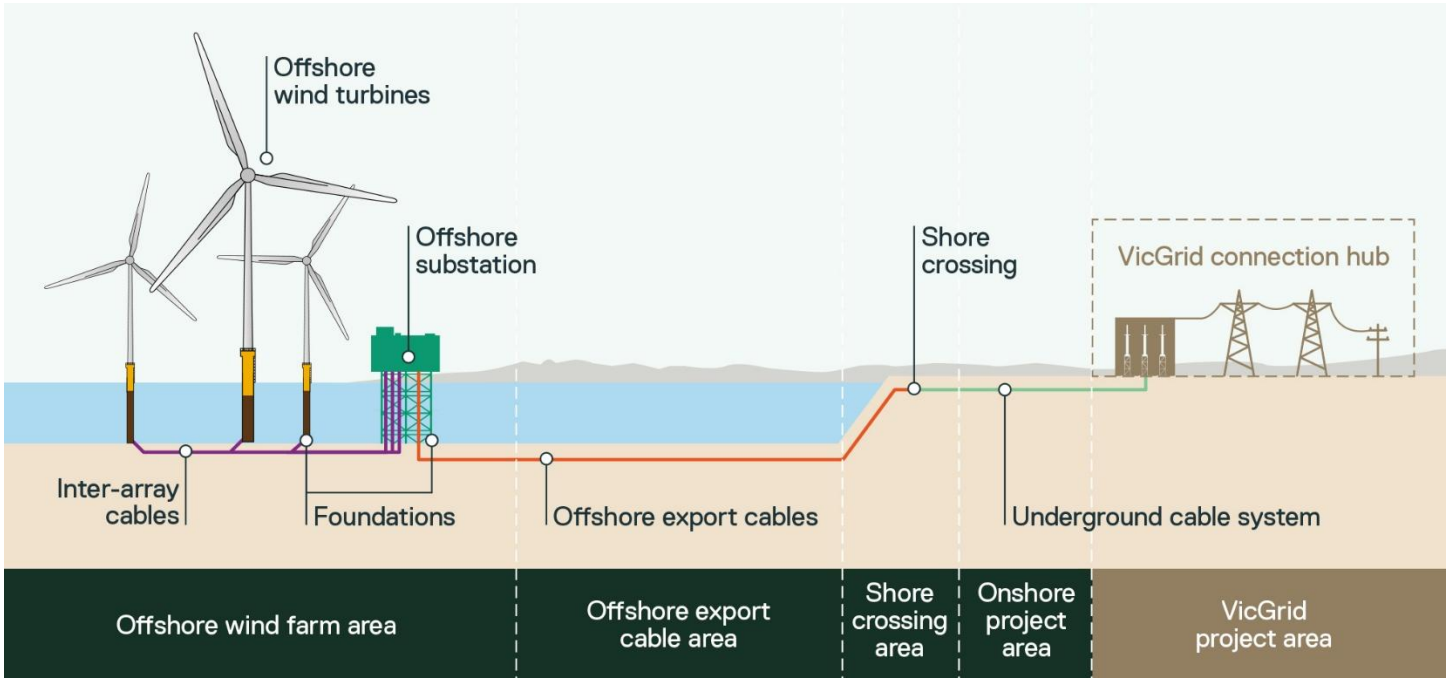


Figure 5: Project components

3. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

3.1. Objectives

During EIS/EES preparation and the public review period, communication and consultation objectives are to:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities to participate
- Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project's development and planning to improve outcomes
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS/EES, to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Help people understand the project and participate, by ensuring communication materials are clear and accessible
- Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.



3.2. Relevant legislation and best practice guidance

This plan has been developed with awareness and consideration of the following legislative requirements and best practice guidance:

- Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (Cth)
- Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act) (Cth)
- Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Vic)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Vic)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum (see more below)
- Victorian Auditor General's Office – Public Participation Better Practice Guide 2015
- Victorian Government Public Engagement Framework (2021)
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner - Considerations for Offshore Wind Industry on Community Engagement
- Department of Transport and Planning - Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects and associated advisory note on Preparing an EES Consultation Plan (2023)
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Community engagement associated with renewable energy infrastructure review (Dec 2023)
- Clean Energy Council – Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry, 2018.

3.2.1. IAP2 spectrum

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision. (*Source: IAP2 Federation*)

The IAP2 Spectrum is an internationally recognised tool for planning public participation. It includes varying levels of public participation, ranging from:

- **Inform** – To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- **Consult** – To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Involve** – To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate** – To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- **Empower** – To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

Consultation during EIS/EES preparation and the public review period will involve informing people about the project and consulting or involving communities and stakeholders in decisions about key aspects of the project and the management of potential impacts. Because the project is subject to legislative, safety, technical and operational requirements, opportunities to delegate decisions to the public through the EIS/EES phase are not expected.

3.3. Communication and consultation approach

The project has been founded and developed with the belief that early, sincere and respectful engagement is an essential component of successful project development.

Project planning will involve some complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. We will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities, with a view to achieving greater mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

3.3.1. Principles

Consultation is guided by the following principles:

Principle	What this means during EIS/EES preparation and public review
Open	• Listen with an open mind • Be open and honest about considerations, impacts and opportunities • Explain how and why decisions are being made and how input is used to inform decisions
Responsive	• Prompt acknowledgement of queries or concerns • Respond to issues, no matter how large or small
Flexible	• Be flexible in our approach to avoiding or mitigating impacts where possible • Be flexible about how and when we accept feedback so that timely input can shape the project to achieve beneficial outcomes • Seek feedback on our communication and consultation approach and make any necessary adjustments in response to feedback
Inclusive	• Seek to identify and involve a broad and diverse range of stakeholders in planning and decisions • Communicate in plain English and an accessible format • Use a range of communication methods to reach different audiences through their preferred channels • Use established local networks and groups to keep people informed
Transparency and integrity	• Be respectful and honest in all interactions • Share information that allows stakeholders and communities to provide informed feedback • Adhere to all relevant laws and requirements
Accountable	• Provide key points of contact within the project team for queries or concerns • Take ownership for issues which may arise, particularly those that could have an impact on communities or stakeholders • Provide access to senior team members and technical specialists at information sessions.

3.4. How feedback is used

Community and stakeholder feedback will inform various aspects of the project and preparation of the EIS/EES:

Stage	How feedback is used
Design	• Informs options development and assessment • Considered in project scope refinement • Considered in locating and micro-siting infrastructure

Planning and environmental assessment	• Enhances our understanding of the local environment, potential issues and opportunities • Considered in preparing impact assessments • Considered in developing measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts • Informs communication and consultation approach • Informs performance requirements for construction, operation and decommissioning
Construction and operations	• Considered in construction methodology, timing and impact mitigation • Informs communication and consultation approach.

The EIS/EES will document feedback received through consultation and the project team's response.

We will be clear about which aspects of the project's development and assessment can be shaped by community feedback, when and why we're seeking feedback and how it will be used.

In instances where it is not possible to incorporate community or stakeholder preferences, the reasons will be clearly explained and the rationale and process for decision-making shared.

4. TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners and hold native title over parts of the proposed project area.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and will be responsible for evaluating and approving the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We understand that providing accurate and timely information to the Gunaikurnai people is a necessary and important responsibility of the project.

Star of the South takes a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners and will seek involvement on a range of topics beyond Cultural Heritage, such as native title, project design, construction and procurement.

The project is committed to a continual and open dialogue with First Nations communities.

5. STAKEHOLDERS

The project is expected to attract interest in the Gippsland region and potentially more broadly across Victoria and Australia.

The following broad types of stakeholders have an interest in the project:

- Australian and Victorian Government Ministers and Members of Parliament
- Australian and Victorian Government departments and agencies
- Local government
- Commercial fisheries – individuals and representative bodies
- Recreational fishers and boaters – individuals and representative bodies
- Residents of Gippsland
- Landholders and communities along the south coast of Gippsland and along the project's transmission route
- Emergency services
- Local community groups
- Environment groups
- Electricity market operators, regulators and participants
- Industry and business representatives
- Global and local supply chain
- Local tourism businesses and agencies
- Hard to reach and vulnerable members of the community
- Education institutions
- Media outlets.

A stakeholder list is provided in Appendix A.

6. KEY MESSAGES

Key messages assist in providing clear and consistent information about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for public involvement. This plan will be refined and re-published as needed to incorporate updated messages as the project and EIS/EES preparation progresses.

6.1. The project

- Star of the South is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project, proposed to be located 10 km off the Gippsland coast.
- It has the potential to generate up to 2.2 GW of new capacity, enough to power up to 1.2 million homes.
- It would provide large-scale, renewable energy to support Victoria's clean, secure and affordable energy future.
- The project involves installing wind turbines out in the sea and using the strong and consistent ocean winds to generate electricity.
- The project would transmit electricity to the VicGrid transmission hub near Giffard, which would then connect into the National Electricity Market to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.
- A major infrastructure project, Star of the South would provide a $3 billion direct boost into the Gippsland economy, create thousands of jobs during construction and hundreds of long-term Gippsland jobs during operation.
- If the project receives all necessary approvals, construction could begin later this decade to support Victoria's offshore wind target of 2 GW by 2032.
- To find out more please contact us on 1800 340 340, info@staroftheSouth.com.au, staroftheSouth.com.au or by following the Star of the South Project on Facebook.



6.2. Environmental assessment process

- The project is being assessed through a coordinated Commonwealth Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES).
- The EIS/EES is being coordinated to make finding information and participating in the process as easy as possible.
- An EIS/EES is a comprehensive assessment of potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of a project.
- The scope of the EIS was determined by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and the scope of the EES by the Victorian Minister for Planning.
- Developing an EIS/EES involves:
  - Studies to understand existing conditions
  - Assessments to determine potential impacts
  - Identifying measures to avoid or minimise any impacts
  - Consultation with stakeholders and communities.
- A Technical Reference Group (TRG) was convened by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to advise during the preparation of the EIS/EES. The group includes government agencies, Traditional Owners, regional authorities and councils. The TRG will continue to advise on the preparation of the EIS/EES until it is exhibited for public review.
- There will be opportunities for community and stakeholder input to the EIS/EES as studies and impact assessments are undertaken, and throughout its preparation.
- The completed EIS/EES will be exhibited for public comment, and community members and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to make a submission.
- Following public review of the EIS/EES, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments will consider the environmental effects of the project.
- Outcomes of the EIS/EES process will inform government approval decisions including planning approval under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018.
- The project will also need a licence to construct, operate and decommission an offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021.
- A range of communication tools will be used to share project information and updates, to promote opportunities for participation in the EIS/EES process, and to share findings about the project's potential impacts and proposed measures to avoid or minimise these effects.



7. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Consultation activities and methods will be tailored to suit the project and EIS/EES phase, the matters being discussed and stakeholder preferences. Activities and methods used will evolve to ensure ongoing relevance and in response to feedback.

7.1. Communications tools

Advertising and media	**Advertisements, news coverage and interviews in local newspapers, radio and TV channels and on digital news and social media channels will be used to reach a broad audience across the Gippsland region and Victoria.**
Website	The project's website provides a central location for information and updates about the project - staroftheSouth.com.au.
Videos	Videos are used to communicate information in an engaging and accessible way for a broad audience and shared with the media, posted on social media, the project website and used in presentations to stakeholder and community groups.
Social media	Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube are used to communicate project information and updates, promote discussion and respond to enquiries. Key dates and activities, such as information sessions and public review, will be advertised on social media channels.
Printed and electronic newsletters	Newsletters provide project updates and information about how to get involved. Print newsletters are sent to residents across the project area, available from the project's Gippsland office in Yarram and displayed in local shops, libraries and other public spaces where possible. E-newsletters are distributed monthly to subscribers.
Information materials	A suite of project information materials is available on the project website and in hard copy at events, information sessions and the project's community hub. Hard copy information packs are sent via post upon request and to those who have nominated to receive updates by mail. Materials are updated regularly, as the project's development and environmental assessments progress.
Maps and visual aids	Maps and other visual aids such as diagrams, photographs and illustrations are used to show the project location, components, appearance and processes.
3D visualisations	3D images and videos will be used to communicate visual aspects of the project.
Posters and signage	Posters and signs in local communities, such as on community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the project and opportunities to participate.

7.2. Consultation activities

Public information sessions	Information sessions will be held to explain the assessment and consultation process, provide access to the project team and technical specialists, and accept feedback about potential concerns and suggestions from communities and stakeholders. At the formal public review stage, information sessions will be held to display and discuss EIS/EES documentation. Sessions may be held in person and/or via webinar or live online Q&A.
Community Advisory Group	Comprising local community members from different locations, members of special interest groups, Council representatives and project team members, this group facilitates two-way communication and provides local advice to the project team, including on issues being assessed as part of the EIS/EES. Meetings may be held in person and/or via video conference. Community Advisory Group meetings commenced in October 2020 and will continue after the EIA process.
Stakeholder briefings,	Briefings are undertaken to provide information about the project and updates at milestones. Meetings and workshops are held to address and seek input on specific matters from individuals, groups and

meetings and workshops	organisations with local or specialist knowledge. Briefings, meetings and workshops may be held in person or via video conference.
Local office	The project's Gippsland office in Yarram is open to the public and provides a place where people can drop in to find information, ask questions and provide feedback or raise any concerns. It also provides a space to display information and hold community meetings, events and presentations.
Community presentations	Presentations are given to community groups with an interest in the project to share information and promote opportunities to get involved. Community presentations may be held in person or via video conference.
Local festivals, events and information displays	The project's participation in local events provides an opportunity for informal engagement and information sharing to raise awareness of the project, the EIS/ EES process and opportunities to participate.
Consultation website – 'Get involved'	The project has a dedicated website for online consultation - staroftheSouth. com.au/getinvolved Online feedback methods include surveys, public Q&A, interactive maps, quick polls and a suggestions board.
Community surveys and feedback forms	Surveys and forms are used to collect data and feedback at information sessions, the project's community hub and online.
Social research	Social research is undertaken annually to measure community awareness, views and communication preferences, and to complement formal and informal consultation activities.
Schools engagement	Engagement with local schools will be undertaken where possible to involve young people in discussions about the project and future. Schools engagement may be undertaken online or in person.
Telephone, email and online Q&A enquiries	Community enquiries are received via a free-call number, email, through a website form, online Q&A, social media and in person at the project's Gippsland office. All enquiries are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager system.
Technical Reference Group (TRG)	Convened by government to coordinate advice between statutory decision makers and the project team throughout the EIS/EES process. The project team will work collaboratively with members of the TRG, sharing information, seeking advice and considering their input in preparation of the EES.

7.2.1. Dedicated landholder engagement

The project has a dedicated team to work with landholders where an easement is required for the project's transmission system. This team will regularly meet with landholders and provide updates through email, phone calls and meetings. A dedicated landholder engagement team is available for all landholder enquiries.

7.2.2. Dedicated marine user engagement

Recognising the interests of this important cohort, the project is working with commercial fisheries, recreational fishers, boaters and other marine users, representative groups and regulators, to share and seek information, promote opportunities for participation and resolve issues raised.

7.2.3. Hard to reach and vulnerable groups

The project team will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them. The best approach will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

7.3. Program

An overview of communication and consultation activities are outlined below. See Appendix B for a more detailed and current program or Appendix C for an overview of engagement to support the upcoming public review of the EIS, EES and draft PSA. For up-to-the-moment information please visit staroftheSouth.com.au.

EIS/EES phase and indicative timing	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	**Activities**
2020-2023 **Scoping requirements and assessment guidelines** **Site investigations and baseline environmental studies**	• Build awareness and understanding of the project, the coordinated EIS/EES process and next steps • Explain how to get involved in consultation and encourage participation • Obtain feedback on community concerns and aspirations for consideration in project development • Gather information and local knowledge to inform baseline studies and impact assessments • Identify consultation and communication preferences • Promote opportunity for public comment on EES scoping requirements and EIS assessment guidelines	• Online consultation • Stakeholder briefings and meetings • Community presentations • Live stream information updates and Q&As • Project community hub • Technical Reference Group • Landholder engagement • Emails and phone calls • Social research • Schools engagement • Community Advisory Group (held every 6-8 weeks) • Local events and festivals • Newsletters (print and e-news) • Website and social media • Videos • Media and advertising • Information materials and maps • Consultation summary report
2024-2025 **EIS/EES preparation, including impact assessments and 26 technical studies** *Note:* Design refinements incorporated to reflect updated project licence area, reduced transmission corridor and reduced number of turbines.	• Provide information about the coordinated EIS/EES process and encourage participation • Explain how feedback has been / is being used in project development • Obtain feedback on specific matters to inform project development and refinement • Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to thoroughly understand issues and identify suitable mitigations • Identify and implement improvements to consultation approach	As above, plus: • Information sessions and webinars • Stakeholder workshops • 3D visualisations • Consultation summary report • Community Advisory Group • Technical Reference Group
2026 **EIS/EES public review**	• Continue to promote the coordinated process and involvement in EIS/EES process and formal consultation • Present and explain EIS/EES findings and proposed mitigations • Provide information about how to make a submission on draft EIS/EES and next steps	• EIS/EES displayed publicly • Formal submission process (managed by government) • Stakeholder meetings and briefings • Community presentations • Information sessions and webinars

	• Explain how feedback helped inform the impact assessments and proposed mitigations • Respond to submissions as required	• Project community hub • Emails and phone calls • Community Advisory Group • Local and industry events and festivals • Newsletters (print and e-news) • Website and social media • Videos • Media and advertising • Information materials and maps • EES Consultation Report
2027 **EIS/EES processes complete**	• Report back on environmental impact assessment outcomes and approvals • Explain next steps	• Stakeholder briefings and meetings • Community presentations • Project community hub • Emails and phone calls • Community Advisory Group • Newsletters (e-news) • Website and social media • Media and advertising • Information materials

8. RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The effectiveness of communication and consultation activities will be continually assessed and adjusted as needed, to ensure the objectives set out in this plan are being achieved.

This plan may be modified and updated as preparation of the EIS/EES progresses in order to make improvements, in response to feedback and preferences expressed by participants, to reflect program updates, and/or to ensure a tailored approach is taken to address any emerging issues and opportunities. Any material updates to this plan must be endorsed by the project's Technical Reference Group.

8.1. Recording feedback

Stakeholder interactions and feedback (both formal and informal) are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager database. This database holds stakeholder information and enables the project team to record and classify enquiries, feedback or complaints to enable accurate record keeping and reporting.

Feedback received through formal consultation is also analysed and reported in consultation summary reports.

Any complaints are managed in accordance with the project's Complaint Handling Procedure which is available on the project website.

8.2. EIS/EES Consultation Report

A report outlining consultation undertaken, feedback received and how we responded to that feedback will be produced and included as part of the EIS/EES, in accordance with the EIS assessment guidelines and EES scoping requirements.

8.3. Evaluation

Performance against the communication and consultation framework objectives set out in this plan will be measured through:

- Feedback from the people we engage with
- Social research findings relating to awareness, support and satisfaction
- Quantity and content of survey responses
- Quantity and content of enquiries
- Website and social media statistics relating to reach, engagement and sentiment
- Media monitoring
- Quick polls
- Feedback forms in the project's local office and community hub.

APPENDIX A – STAKEHOLDER LIST

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Decision makers	Australian Government • Minister for the Environment • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • Offshore Infrastructure Regulator	• Planning process complies with legislation and requirements • Involvement in project development and assessment • Optimal outcomes for environment and community • Preparation of robust EIS/EES • Broader regulatory requirements for offshore wind • Community and stakeholder consultation
	Victorian Government • Minister for Planning • Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change • Department of Transport and Planning • Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	
	Statutory decision makers / Technical Reference Group • Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (IAU) and Planning • First Peoples State Relations • Environment Protection Authority • Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action • Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation • Heritage Victoria • Regional Roads Victoria • South Gippsland Shire Council • Wellington Shire Council • West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	
Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding and avoiding/ minimising potential adverse impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Native Title • Cultural Heritage Management Plan • Opportunities for indigenous businesses and job seekers
	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	
Australian Government	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
	Australian Hydrographic Office	
	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	Bureau of Meteorology	• Community consultation process
	Civil Aviation Safety Authority	
	CSIRO	
	Department of Defence	
	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	
	Department of Industry, Science and Resources	
	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts	
	Geoscience Australia	
	Members of Parliament	
	Net Zero Economy Authority	
	Offshore Infrastructure Regulator	
	Regional Development Australia	
Victorian Government and statutory authorities	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Community consultation process
	Earth Resources	
	Emergency Management Victoria	
	First Peoples State Relations	
	Gippsland Ports Authority	
	Gippsland Water	
	Latrobe Valley Authority	
	Members of Parliament	
	Offshore Wind Energy Victoria	
	Parks Victoria	
	Port of Hastings Development Authority	
	Regional Development Victoria	
	State Emergency Service	
	South Gippsland Water	
	Transport Safety Victoria	
	VicGrid	
	Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	
	Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	
	Victorian Department of Transport and Planning	
	Victorian Fisheries Authority	
	Victorian Fisheries Authority	
Local Government	Councillors, executive and officers from the following councils:	• Understanding project rationale and benefits

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	• Latrobe City Council • South Gippsland Shire Council • Wellington Shire Council	• Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts on council land and assets, the local environment and for local residents and businesses • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy • Community consultation process
Directly affected or adjacent landholders, licence holders and asset owners	AusNet Services Basslink CarbonNet Crown land managers Commercial fishing licence and quota holders Mining tenement holders Petroleum/gas tenement holders Private landholders	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on land, licence and/or asset • Involvement in decisions which may affect land, licence and/or asset • Minimising impacts on land, licence and/or asset during construction and operation • Co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)
Local community, business and tourism	Chambers of Commerce Coast Guards Charter and tour boat operators Guardians of Nooramunga Local businesses and industry Prom Campers Group Residents of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley Resident / Progress / Ratepayer associations Responsible Renewables Rotary clubs Sporting clubs Surf Life Saving clubs Tourism agencies and operators Yacht clubs	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area • Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts • Opportunities to provide input to the project • Clear information and updates about the project • Maximising local benefits from the project • Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers
Local environment groups	Birdlife East Gippsland Friends of the Prom Gippsland Climate Change Network Gippsland Environment Group Greening Australia Phillip Island Nature Park Prom Area Climate Action Victorian Waders Study Group Yarram Yarram Landcare Group	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area • Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts • Opportunities to provide input to the project • Clear information and updates about the project • Maximising local benefits from the project

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Broader community	Victorian community	• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Ability to access clear project information • Effects on electricity prices and supply
	Electricity consumers	
Commercial fishing	Abalone Victoria	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on fisheries and the local environment • Access to the project site, co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)
	Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association	
	Bass Strait Scallop Fishermen's Association	
	Commonwealth Fisheries Association	
	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	
	Individual commercial fishers with an interest in the project area	
	Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative	
	Port Franklin Fisherman's Association	
	San Remo Fisherman's Co-op	
	Seafood Industry Australia	
	Seafood Industry Victoria	
	Small Pelagic Fishery Industry Association	
	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association	
	Southern Shark Industry Alliance	
	Sustainable Shark Fishing Association	
	Tuna Australia	
	Victorian Bays and Inlets Fisheries Association	
	Victorian Rock Lobster Industry Association	
Recreational fishing	Australian Anglers Association (Victoria)	• Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on recreational fishing and boating, landside facilities and the local environment • Access to the project site, co-existing • Opportunities to improve fishing
	Australian National Sportfishing Association	
	Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation	
	Boating Industry Association of Victoria	
	Future Fish Foundation	
	Game Fishers Association of Victoria	
	Gippsland Angling Clubs Association	
	Individual recreational fishers with an interest in the project area	
	Local fishing clubs	
	VR Fish	
Energy market operators and regulators	Australian Energy Market Commission	• Understanding project scope, capacity and operations • Grid connection • Safety • National Electricity Market operations
	Australian Energy Market Operator	
	Clean Energy Regulator	
	Energy Security Board	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	Energy Safe Victoria	
Industry groups, peak bodies and NGOs	Clean Energy Council	• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy • Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers
	Committee for Gippsland	
	Trade Unions	
	Victorian Trades Hall Council	
	Victorian Farmers Federation	
NGOs	Australian Conservation Foundation	• Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery
	Australian Marine Conservation Society	
	Australian Forests and Climate Alliance	
	Australian Youth Climate Alliance	
	Birdlife Australia	
	Blue Whale Study	
	Climate Action Network	
	Climate Change Council	
	Dolphin Research Institute	
	Environment Victoria	
	Friends of the Earth	
	Greenpeace	
	Humane Society International	
	Marine Mammal Foundation	
	Ocean Impact Organisation	
	Ocean Decade Australia	
	Parents for Climate Change	
	Pew Institute	
	Rewiring Australia	
	Sea Shepherd	
	Sunrise Project	
	Surfers for Climate Change	
	Victorian National Parks Association	
Educational institutions	Australian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy	• Clear information and updates about the project • Future workforce needs and opportunities
	Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN	
	Broadening Horizons Gippsland	
	Federation University	
	Gippsland East LLEN	
	Gippsland TAFE	
	Gippsland Tech School	
	Local training providers	
	Local primary and secondary schools	
	South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
	Victorian Skills Commissioner	
Media	Gippsland media (print, TV, radio, online)	• Clear information and updates about the project • Involvement in key milestone media opportunities
	Victorian and Australian media (print, TV, radio, online)	
	Specialist media	

APPENDIX B – ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, Q1 2026

EIS/EES phase	Indicative timing	Engagement purpose	Engagement activities	Stakeholders
Lead up to public review period	January-March 2026	• Continue to build awareness and understanding of the project, the coordinated EIS/EES process and next steps • Prepare stakeholders and communities for public review and submissions phase • Explain how feedback is being used in project development • Identify and implement improvements to consultation approach	**Stakeholder briefings and meetings**	• Community Advisory Group • Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation • Councils • Fishing representative bodies
			Gippsland office • Open to the public Tuesday and Wednesday or on request	Community
			Events • South Gippsland Bass Coast Careers Expo • Gippsland Lakes Boat Show • Deadly in Gippsland • Longford Community Market • Port Albert pop-up stalls • Port Welshpool pop-up stalls • Sea Days Festival • Gippsland Lakes Boat Show • Wellington Sustainability Festival	Local community and businesses
			Landholder engagement • Direct phone calls and emails	Landholders
			Fisheries engagement • Direct phone calls and emails • Communication via representative bodies	Fishing stakeholders

	Enquiry management	Community
	Regular communication • Website • Social media • E-news updates • Information materials • Newspaper advertising	All

APPENDIX C - EIS/EES PUBLIC REVIEW ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Star of the South's Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES), and a draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) will be publicly exhibited for 30 business days during 2026. Exact timing is yet to be determined.

During the public review period, this documentation will be available to read or download online and hard copies will also be available to view in community venues across Gippsland.

Engagement objectives for this phase are to:

- Make all documents readily available and accessible
- Present information clearly (using inclusive language) and in a range of formats to enable informed submissions
- Plan, promote and deliver engagement activities which meet the needs of a wide range of stakeholders and communities
- Ensure the process for making a submission is well understood.

Public display

The EIS, EES and draft PSA will be made available in hard copy at public venues across Gippsland during the public review period. Locations will be widely communicated in the lead up to and during the public review period.

Engagement

A range of engagement events will be held during the public review period across Gippsland and online. The purpose of these events is for community members to access documentation; discuss the project, assessment findings and next steps with the project team; and obtain advice on making a submission. To meet the needs and availability of a wide range of communities and stakeholders, events will be scheduled on different days and times and in different formats.

The project's usual contact channels will continue to operate, including phone, email, social media channels, and the Gippsland office in Yarram open to the public.

Advertising and promotion

The public review period, where to view the EIS, EES and draft PSA, engagement events and how to make a submission will be promoted using a range of communications tools, including:

- Print advertising (national, state and local)
- Posters and postcards in local venues
- Newsletter distributed to Gippsland households
- Facebook
- Media
- Stakeholder channels.

The timeframes for public review period, process for submissions and other details will be communicated as they become available.