

A photograph of an offshore wind farm at sea. The sky is a clear, light blue, and the water is a deep blue with gentle ripples. Several wind turbines are visible, with one in the foreground being the most prominent. The turbines are dark in color, and their blades are spread out. The overall scene is serene and modern.

Seadragon Offshore Wind Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan

February 2022



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DRAFT B	Updated at time of environmental referrals
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Rev 1	Updated Feb 2022 / Attachment to EEA and EPBC Referrals
Rev 2	Updated Feb 2022 – revised references to EEA referral / decision process

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
APPEA	Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association
CCUS	Carbon Capture Use and Storage
CRG	Community Reference Group
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (Cth)
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Vic)
DISER	Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources (Cth)
EES	Environmental Effects Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
NEM	National Electricity Market
NERA	National Energy Resources Australia
NOPSEMA	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Authority
REZ	Renewable Energy Zones
RSRG	Regulatory Stakeholder Reference Group
TRG	Technical Reference Group
VRET	Victorian Renewable Energy Target

Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Executive Summary

This stakeholder engagement plan is written to support the development of an offshore wind farm project located in Bass Strait off Ninety Mile Beach in Gippsland. The Seadragon Offshore Wind Project (the Project) will be one of the first offshore wind projects in Australia, and potentially the first to use floating turbines and /or incorporate re-use oil and gas assets. It will supply ~1.5 GW of renewable power to the National Electricity Market and potentially act as an enabler for local hydrogen and CCUS projects.

As a large renewable energy infrastructure project, there is likely to be widespread interest from many individuals, organisations and communities, especially those in Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. Flotation Energy Pty Ltd is strongly committed to proactive and ongoing communication and consultation with relevant organisations, individuals and communities who may have an interest in the project. This provides an opportunity for stakeholders to provide information and express views which influence the development and to share in the benefits of the development.

It is important to note that under current COVID 19 guidance on stakeholder engagement there will be a requirement for additional flexibility in the consultation process. Amendments to the approaches discussed within this document will be subject to change to follow relevant planning advice updates and COVID compliance.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Seadragon Offshore Wind Project

The Seadragon Offshore Wind Farm is a 1.5 GW offshore wind development, utilising bottom fixed and potentially floating offshore wind turbines. Turbines will be in the Bass Strait, between 10 and 50km offshore of Seaspray and Golden Beach on Victoria’s southeast coast. The selected development area is, in part, adjacent to existing oil and gas assets some of which will be decommissioned in the coming years.

The Project will be developed as a standalone project providing up to 1.5GW of clean green electricity to the National Electricity Market (NEM), connecting to the transmission network in the Latrobe Valley and, capable of powering some 1 million Victorian homes¹. The location also offers the potential for the first re-use of oil and gas infrastructure by an offshore wind development. Further, the project can draw on over 50 years of oil and gas development, including a significant volume of environmental and engineering data, which provides early insight into the environmental values of the area and supports engineering studies.

This project aims to be an example of businesses working together towards an energy transition for mutual benefit, and for the benefit of the State of Victoria and local communities. It will create regional jobs and a new offshore industry for an existing, capable and technical offshore workforce as the oil and gas fields wind down.

The project will connect to the National Electricity Market (NEM) in Gippsland, helping to replace the Latrobe Valley thermal coal generators due to retire in the coming decades, and maintain the region’s critical contribution to the energy market. Offshore wind has approximately double the uptime of onshore wind thereby supporting grid stability. The presence of more than one offshore wind project in the Gippsland area will accelerate the development of local supply chains supporting offshore wind and attract significant infrastructure investment, further driving down the cost of delivered energy.

1.2 Project Timeline

The development of the Gippsland project will follow a five-stage process:

1. Development Phase 2019 to 2027*
 - a. Works required to obtain approvals to construct the project
 - b. Detailed engineering works
2. Construction and installation phase, 2028 to 2030
3. Operation Phase, from 2030 with a 60-year life
4. Repowering Phase (optional and subject to further approvals) after 35 years’ operation
5. Decommissioning Phase

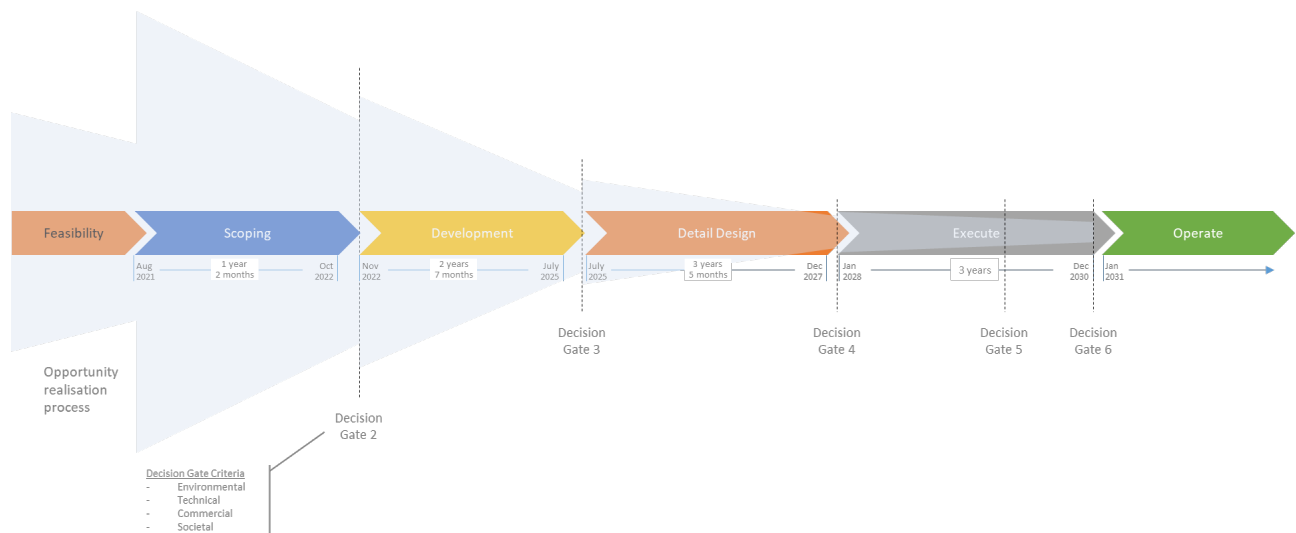
¹ Based on 1.5GW AEP and ave 5000 kWh/yr for Victorian Households (2020).

Opportunities exist to accelerate project development, with construction starting in 2026/27

1.3 Project Realisation Process and Status

The project is currently in the scoping phase where the broadest range of activities, components, and designs are being considered in parallel with the necessary approvals processes. There are a series of decision gates that define the phases of the project. Stakeholders can have greater input to the project proposals earlier in the process, and this document focuses on stakeholder engagement through the development phase of the project. This is shown in the figure below which also shows the indicative timeframe for each phase.

Figure 1-1: Project Stages



2. Project Consultation and Engagement Plan

Flotation Energy will work with all relevant organisations, individuals and communities who may have an interest in the project. This will enable the development of offshore wind in Bass Strait in an environmentally, culturally, and socially sustainable manner, for the benefit of local communities, Victoria and Australia more broadly.

The project will seek to benefit the communities and industries that can support the development of offshore wind through local supply chain development, provision of renewable power to other local industries including hydrogen and CCUS, and provision of local jobs.

2.1 Aim and Objectives

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

The aim of this plan is to set out the measures and methods that will be carried out to inform the public and obtain input into the design of the project. The objectives of this plan are:

1. Informing stakeholders about the proposed Project.
2. Facilitating stakeholder knowledge, understanding and support of the Project.
3. Identifying and addressing potential issues and impacts.
4. Providing opportunities for stakeholders to provide information and express views which influence the Project.

2.1 Government and Industry Standards

It is Flotation Energy's aim to provide broad and fair access, and according to the principles set by best practice guidelines, enable stakeholders to participate as equals in the engagement process² by delivering a consultation process which respects the different needs and expectations of stakeholders.

Whilst the outcome of referral of the Project under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) is not currently known, this plan has been developed in consideration of the DELWP EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note. The plan also implements the principals of IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement program.

The Clean Energy Council is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. The Clean Energy Council's *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments* ("The Charter"), as updated in August 2021, is as follows:

² Best Practice Guidelines -Consultation for Offshore Wind Developments - British Wind Energy Association

1. We will engage respectfully with the local community, including Traditional Owners of the land, to seek their views and input before finalising the design of the project and submitting a development application.
2. We will provide timely information and be accessible and responsive in addressing the local community's feedback and concerns throughout the lifetime of the development.
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 development, and on the mitigation options where relevant.
6. We will support the local economy by providing local employment and procurement opportunities wherever possible.
7. We will offer communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of the development, 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 development and welcome opportunities to enhance the ecological and cultural 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.

Flotation Energy intends to uphold the principles of The Charter as the Seadragon Project is developed.

2.2 Intended Outcomes

Several preliminary specific intended outcomes have been identified:

- to establish and satisfactorily resolve all the concerns that stakeholders might have. This may take the form of a full explanation of the planned works, or the identification and clear definition of specific areas of concern which may be addressed with further study, or the integration of design changes that would reduce, mitigate, or eliminate impacts.
- to gain real benefit from the knowledge, experience, ideas and hopes of stakeholders, to design, build and operate an environmentally sustainable wind farm within the multi-user environment of Bass Strait.
- to raise awareness and understanding of both the development's benefits and its potential effects.
- to ensure that the Project has initiated an appropriate level of engagement with all the interested parties.
- to identify relevant baseline information.
- to agree, where appropriate, survey and assessment methodologies.
- to seek the views and concerns of all interested parties so that these may be considered and if necessary, addressed in project planning.

- to identify and agree suitable mitigation measures.
- to ensure that the Project is aware of consultees' knowledge on best practice in project planning and execution.
- to encourage local pride in the project.
- to comply with legal obligations and exceed statutory requirements; and
- to assist in gaining the necessary approvals.

This list is not exhaustive, and reflecting the dynamic nature of the strategy, it is expected that these will be revised as relationships with different stakeholders develop.

3. Stakeholder Identification and Management

The process of stakeholder identification and management will be undertaken with the principles of inclusiveness and equality at the forefront, with the aim of giving stakeholders the opportunity to determine, within the context of this strategy, how they wish to be consulted.

3.1 Identification of Project Stakeholders

The Seadragon Project will be undertaken in an area where consultation is ongoing for many other projects, including in the offshore and onshore renewables sector, electricity infrastructure, petroleum, fisheries, and environmental management. Many stakeholders will be interested in the project and will want to be engaged in dialogue. Stakeholders include all parties who are either affected by or have an interest in a project. Examples of potentially relevant stakeholder groups include:

- Local residents, landholders, and businesses.
- Regional and seasonal communities.
- Residents or communities along ancillary infrastructure or transport routes.
- Local and peak environmental, recreational and industry groups.
- Indigenous communities and organisations.
- Local, state, and federal government agencies and authorities.

From the experience of Flotation Energy in the offshore wind industry and the oil and gas industry’s experience, a preliminary stakeholder identification exercise has already been undertaken, identifying stakeholders from the 17-broad subject-categories listed below in Table 3-1:

Table 3-1: Stakeholder identification key categories

Stakeholder identification categories	
Commonwealth Ministers	Minister for the Environment, Minister for Energy & Emissions Reduction
Cth 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
Victorian Ministers	Minister for Planning, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
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
Industry	There are several oil and gas title holders in the area including Esso, GB Energy, Cooper and CarbonNet. Electricity infrastructure owners and developers. Other renewable energy projects in the region.
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

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
Business & Enterprise	Organisations with a remit in the broad area of promoting and sustaining commercial business, employment and investment, e.g. Invest Victoria, Latrobe Valley Authority, Regional Development Victoria, Regional Development Australia, GROW Gippsland, Committee for Gippsland
Communities	Organisations or associations engaged in the social or economic life of an area.
Environmental	Organisations other than Government bodies with an environmental interest e.g. Friends of the Earth, local environmental and climate change networks and action groups
Fisheries	Organisations other than Government bodies with an interest in marine or freshwater fisheries, e.g. SIV, SETFIA and specific commercial fishing bodies
Landscape and Cultural Heritage	Organisations having a remit for, or an interest in, landscape and cultural heritage, including organisations representing the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners
Local Councils	Authorities with a local remit and involvement with communities, business, employment and sustainable development.
Navigation and Shipping	Organisations having a remit for, or interest in, the management of shipping and safe navigation, e.g. AMSA, Australian Hydrographic Office
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
Trade Unions	Victorian Trades Hall Council and affiliated unions
Educational Associations	Local training providers including universities, TAFEs and schools




This list is not exhaustive, and the identification of stakeholders will be an ongoing process as the project develops, with existing stakeholders having the opportunity to identify additional individual organisations for inclusion.

Within those subject identification categories, stakeholders can be grouped under four broad headings for the purposes of developing an engagement strategy:

- Statutory Consultees
- Strategic Stakeholders
- Community Stakeholders
- Stakeholder Management Group

As part of this plan stakeholders will be categorised to inform what methods and types of consultation enable stakeholder consultation aligned with the objectives of this plan. Each stakeholder will be classified according to the categories. The table below shows the general goal of engagement with the categories of stakeholders and the general strategy that will be deployed.

Figure 3-1: Classification and Associated Levels of Engagement

	Category	Goal	Strategy
	Statutory Consultees	Consult Aim is to work directly with these stakeholders to ensure their concerns and needs are understood and considered.	Targeted consultation material specific to the organisation, legislation, regulations, or guidance. Follow up to ensure receipt and seek feedback.
	Strategic stakeholders and Stakeholder Management Group	Involve Aim is to ensure information on the project is conveyed and to obtain feedback on alternatives or outcomes where possible with follow-up to ensure any required actions are undertaken.	Targeted consultation material specific to stakeholder needs and regulatory requirements. Follow up to ensure receipt and seek feedback.
	Community stakeholders	Inform and Involve The level of engagement is primarily aimed at providing information, so that the community can provide informed feedback and the choice to participate in further engagement activities. To evolve the methods and the content of consultation as the project progresses to respond to the community.	Generic consultation project material initially provided and to seek feedback on issues important to individuals or the wider community. Implement a range of consultation methods to give the community the best opportunity to participate.

3.2 Engagement with Statutory Stakeholders

Statutory stakeholders have a specific role in consenting for the project or a part of the project. Although the process for engagement with statutory stakeholders is defined by legislation, they will also be included within the broader non-statutory consultation as they can bring much to the discussion through their experience and perspective. Flotation Energy will seek to engage with statutory stakeholders as early as possible in the project’s planning phases and well in advance of lodging approval application to ensure that environmental impact assessment requirements are well understood and generally agreed prior to formal application.

3.3 Engagement with Non-statutory Stakeholders

This group includes the organisations and individuals who have a specific interest or expertise in the project at national, state, or local level, and whose views and expertise in a particular aspect of the project’s impact or development are significant, but who are not formally involved (e.g. – as a referral agency) through a statutory process. Typically, these organisations will be able to participate by making submissions as part of the project’s statutory public notification procedures. This includes organisations such as commercial and recreational fishing associations, environmental groups, Friends of the Earth, etc. These organisations often have specialist subject

or local knowledge, or the project may have a potential impact on their activities. It is therefore important that they are given an early opportunity to engage with the project.

3.4 Engagement with of Community Stakeholders

This group includes organisations or individuals that live, work, or pursue other activities in the area which the project will affect. It is essential that the people whom the project will affect are informed about the activity that will be undertaken in their community and could be in direct communication with us to comment on and influence the development.

3.5 Community Reference Group

The large number of stakeholders spread across a wide geographic area means that local knowledge will be important to underpin this strategy so it can be effective in meeting the different requirements of stakeholders across the area.

It is Flotation Energy's intention to establish a Community Reference Group (CRG), involving a representative range of stakeholders, which will be asked to provide advice on this stakeholder engagement plan and make suggestions on how it will be implemented within the region and locally. For example, this might include the location and scheduling of public exhibitions, etc, the identification of additional stakeholders, scoping of issues to be addressed through consultation, review of printed materials, such as newsletters, questionnaires, etc, and best methods for their distribution.

The CRG will be important in tailoring appropriate approaches for different stakeholder groups. The membership of this group will be established with advice and guidance from the local planning authorities and considering the reach and diverse representation of various stakeholders and community organisations. It is intended that the CRG will meet in advance of the proposed series of public meetings, to allow this part of the process to be shaped locally to meet local requirements.

3.6 Technical or Regulatory Stakeholder Reference Group

Establishment of a Technical Reference Group (TRG) or Regulatory Stakeholder Reference Group (RSRG) can be beneficial to determine and guide the scope of a Project's environmental impact assessments regardless of the particular assessment pathway a Project follows post application.

If it is determined that an EES is required under the EE Act, it is expected that a Technical Reference Group (TRG) will be convened by DELWP. DAWE's participation would also be expected if it is deemed that the project is a controlled action requiring approval under the EPBC Act. If a TRG is established, membership is expected to be drawn from government agencies, local government, and regional authorities to provide advice on the scope of environmental impact assessments, including the refinement and implementation of this plan.

If it is determined that an EES is not required, Flotation Energy may request a RSRG is established to guide the Project's environmental impact assessment. It is expected that an RSRG would have similar function and membership as a TRG although would operate outside the requirements of the EE Act and EES process.

4. Approach to Stakeholder Management

Strategic and community stakeholders require a range of different approaches to enable and encourage effective engagement. Each section below describes the methods available to Flotation Energy in communication with stakeholders.

4.1 Briefing and Newsletters

To provide a broad audience with the necessary information to express views and opinions on the project, briefing notes and newsletters will be distributed directly to stakeholders. Materials will be drafted to suit the differing needs of the various stakeholder groups, considering both sectoral and geographic interests. The Stakeholder Management Group will play an important consultative role in the preparation of such materials. Comments and feedback will be invited.

The first of these will be a project 2-page information sheet which will be distributed to all stakeholders and used to broaden the preliminary stakeholder list.

4.2 Media Updates

At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press through issuing media releases. The local press will also be used to advise of public events such as exhibitions to enable broad public access. The Seadragon Project plans to develop a strong relationship with representatives of the national and local media through the development of the project; the nature of the project is expected to be of interest to national media, especially at key stages of the project's development and deployment.

4.3 Pre-application Public Information Sessions

Depending on the final project location, turbines may or may not be visible from the shore. Regardless, there will be onshore impacts (such as the substation, transmission route and terminal connection) and community interest in the project is expected to be strong. Public information sessions will be held at several key locations in Gippsland and along the Ninety Mile Beach coastline to allow engagement with the marine community, including the commercial fishing sector, community groups and local statutory authorities. Exhibitions / information sessions will be advertised through the local press and through local councils, notice boards, etc., and known stakeholders will receive direct invitations. The CRG will have an important role in determining the exhibition programme.

The exhibitions will provide a range of means of disseminating and collecting information. Some options are:

- Project 'story board' displays
- General information about offshore windfarms
- Project briefing notes which offer the opportunity for stakeholder feedback
- Video displays
- Face to face discussion with representatives of the project
- Capturing opinions / views on the Project (e.g. – including surveys and feedback forms)

Such events provide an opportunity for broad stakeholder involvement and encourage participation by people who may be discouraged from contributing at a conventional or formal public meeting. Exhibitions will be held in a variety of venues (community halls, shopping centres etc.) to allow broad attendance in an informal setting, with guidance from the Stakeholder Management Group.

Public information sessions will be planned after submission of the initial Referrals, to enable stakeholders to comment on the Project, and commence the process of issue identification and discussion. As well as providing information, these information sessions provide the opportunity for Flotation Energy to collect information and to better understand local concerns and particular locations of greater sensitivity.

Further public information sessions may be appropriate subject to the scope of environmental impact assessments and assessment pathways determined after referral under the EE Act. Additional information sessions can be valuable to disseminate information about how consultation has shaped the development proposals, and how decisions about the project layout and licence application have been reached.

4.4 Project Website

The internet is a convenient way for many stakeholders to engage with proposed developments. The Seadragon project will establish a dedicated project website to provide updates on the project, access to key documents and contact information for the project team.

The website will provide links to Flotation Energy and any future project partners, as well as application documents submitted to regulators. The website will provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to register for e-mail updates, and a dedicated public email address will allow stakeholders an easy means of providing comment and feedback on the proposed development.

4.5 Stakeholder Meetings

Detailed specific engagement is expected to be undertaken with special interest groups during the development phase of the project according to need. The interest and requirement for dedicated stakeholder specific engagement will be assessed following the first stages of engagement.

As the project develops, there is likely to be a requirement to discuss specific topics which are of interest to more than one stakeholder. For example, the issue of navigation will be of interest to a range of organisations, and a single meeting for all interested participants may be beneficial.

To ensure that the engagement is representative across the entire area and community engagement will be undertaken with existing community groups such as:

- Local Councils
- Schools and educational institutions
- Uniformed organisations

4.6 Fishing Industry Liaison Officer

Flotation Energy recognises that the project will be of particular significance to the fishing industry, as activities will be undertaken which have an operational bearing on their activities. To provide timely information and opportunity for that industry 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, as well as undertaking the consultative activities required by statute for marine activities.

4.7 Dedicated Project Email Address

Flotation Energy recognises that despite best efforts it is possible that persons interested in the project may be missed or engage with the process after it has commenced. To address this possibility a dedicated project email address will be created, made available in communications and online, and monitored periodically for new stakeholders. The dedicated project email address also provides a central place for email correspondence records.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Model

The stakeholder management strategy will be guided by the objectives identified in Section 2 of this plan, using best practice from the Clean Energy Council's *Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments*.

Flotation Energy has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Process to assist in consistently engaging with stakeholders throughout the project. This provides a strategic and systematic approach to consultation aiming to foster an environment where ongoing, open dialogue and two-way communication is undertaken to build positive relationships. This approach is in line with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum. The process followed is summarised in Figure 5-1 below.

5.1 Key theme and key messages

The Project will maintain a list of approved key messages that can be used to:

1. Describe the project in a snapshot for persons unfamiliar with the project.
2. Establish consistent information about the Project.
3. Respond to feedback on known common concerns.

There are key themes that govern the key messages as follows:

- This is a major capital infrastructure project that is of national and international significance.
- This project offers significant economic growth and employment opportunities for regional Australia.
- This project offers Gippsland, Victoria and Australia the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovation in the large-scale development of renewable electricity generation.
- Re-use of oil and gas assets in an offshore wind farm can reduce the decommissioning burden on government and taxpayers.

5.2 Supporting the Project Application and Assessment Process

The Project's assessment and approvals pathway is yet to be determined however key approvals required for the project will include:

- Planning approval under the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Consent under the Victorian Marine and Coastal Act 2019
- An approved cultural heritage management plan under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
- A licence to construct, operate and decommissioning pursuant to the Commonwealth's *Offshore Energy Infrastructure Bill 2021* (and future legislation / regulations)

In early 2022, Flotation Energy will lodge referrals under the *Victorian Environmental Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) and Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Following these referrals, it will be determined if the Project requires an

Environmental Effects Statement (EES) under and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the EPBC Act.

If required, the EIS/EES will describe the project and consider the potential environmental impacts (including socio-economic impacts) in detail. The respective EIS/EES processes provide for public submissions in relation to both the scope of environmental impact assessments required (i.e., prior to them being undertaken) and in relation to the EES / EIS documents themselves.

The EE and EPBC Act referrals will provide information about the project and identify potentially significant impacts of the project and thereby the priority issues to be addressed. The referrals will include:

- Location and site of the project
- Description of the project's key components
- The potential environmental impacts of the project including direct and indirect impacts (including the results of desktop environmental studies)
- Potential alternatives within the project's design and layout
- Preliminary information on a range of mitigations which could be applied to avoid or reduce impacts.

Referrals are published on Department websites and accessible for the public. The Project will also provide links to these documents on the dedicated project website.

It is recognised, however that the referrals are technical documents, and may not be a suitable format for encouraging engagement with a broad range of stakeholders. As such, the referrals will therefore be used as the basis for drafting more accessible supplementary information, specifically for the stakeholder engagement process. This supplementary information will be used to communicate information to and seek views from a broad range of strategic and community stakeholders.

Figure 5-1 provides an outline of the stakeholder engagement process in advance of completion of key Project approval applications (i.e., planning approval under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and licence(s) required under Commonwealth offshore energy legislation), noting that it is not exhaustive and does not detail all activities. Engagement activities will be subject to relevant COVID restrictions and will address statutory notice requirements but will also evolve in response to early engagement including the advice of the CRG and/or TRG/RSRG.

Table 5-1 provides an outline of the activities planned as part of the pre-application stakeholder engagement process. Again, this table is not exhaustive, and the CRG and wider community will have an important consultative role in shaping the development and implementation of activities to deliver this strategy.

Before the Project Approval applications are prepared, the scope and terms of reference will be informed by referrals to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The referrals are a key early step in defining the scope and extent of environmental impact assessments and the Project approval assessment pathways applicable to the Project. These

referrals will provide information about the project and focus attention on the key impacts of the project and thereby the priority issues to be addressed.

Figure 5-1: Stakeholder Engagement Process

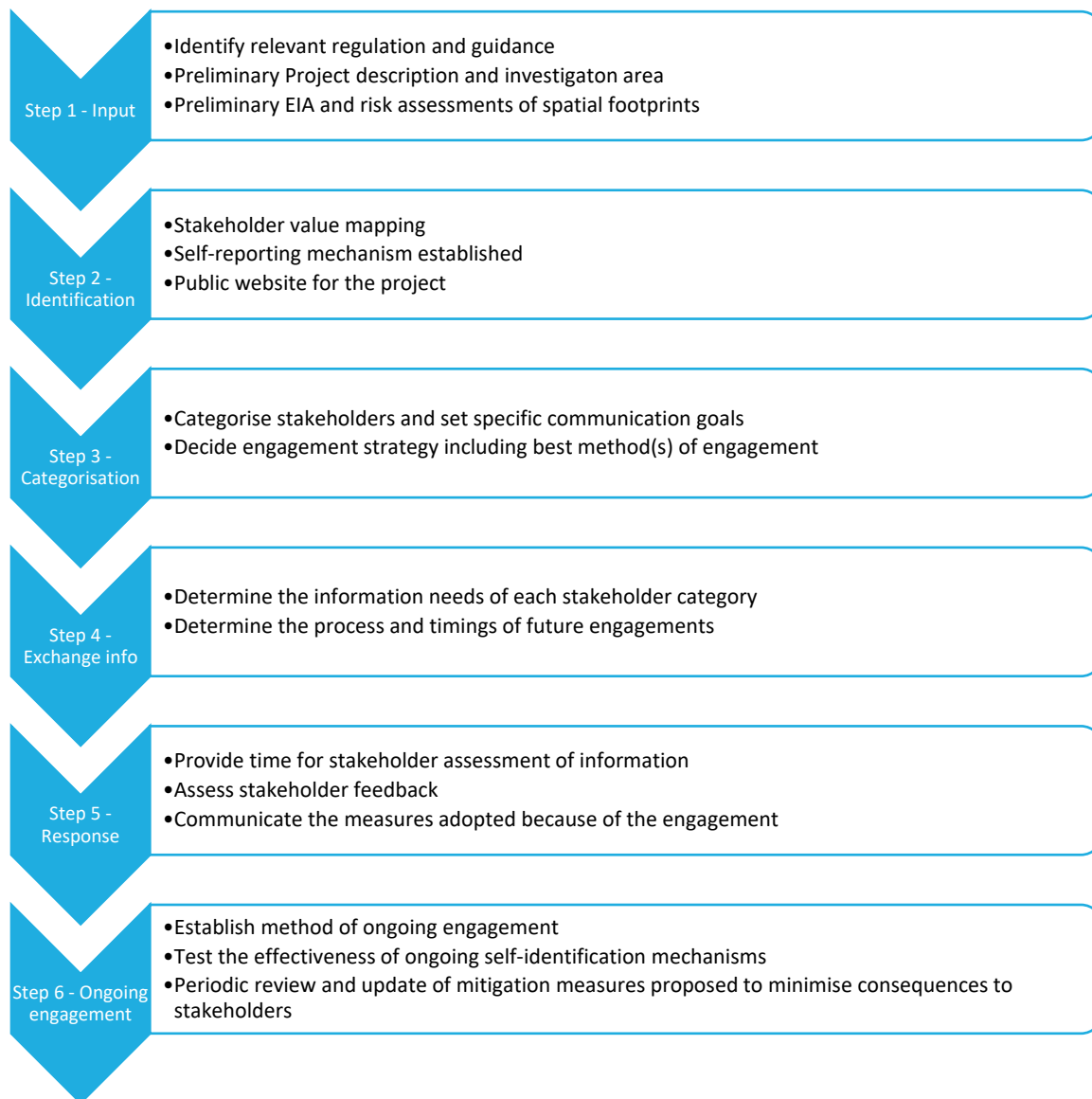


Figure 5-2: Indicative Pre-application stakeholder engagement

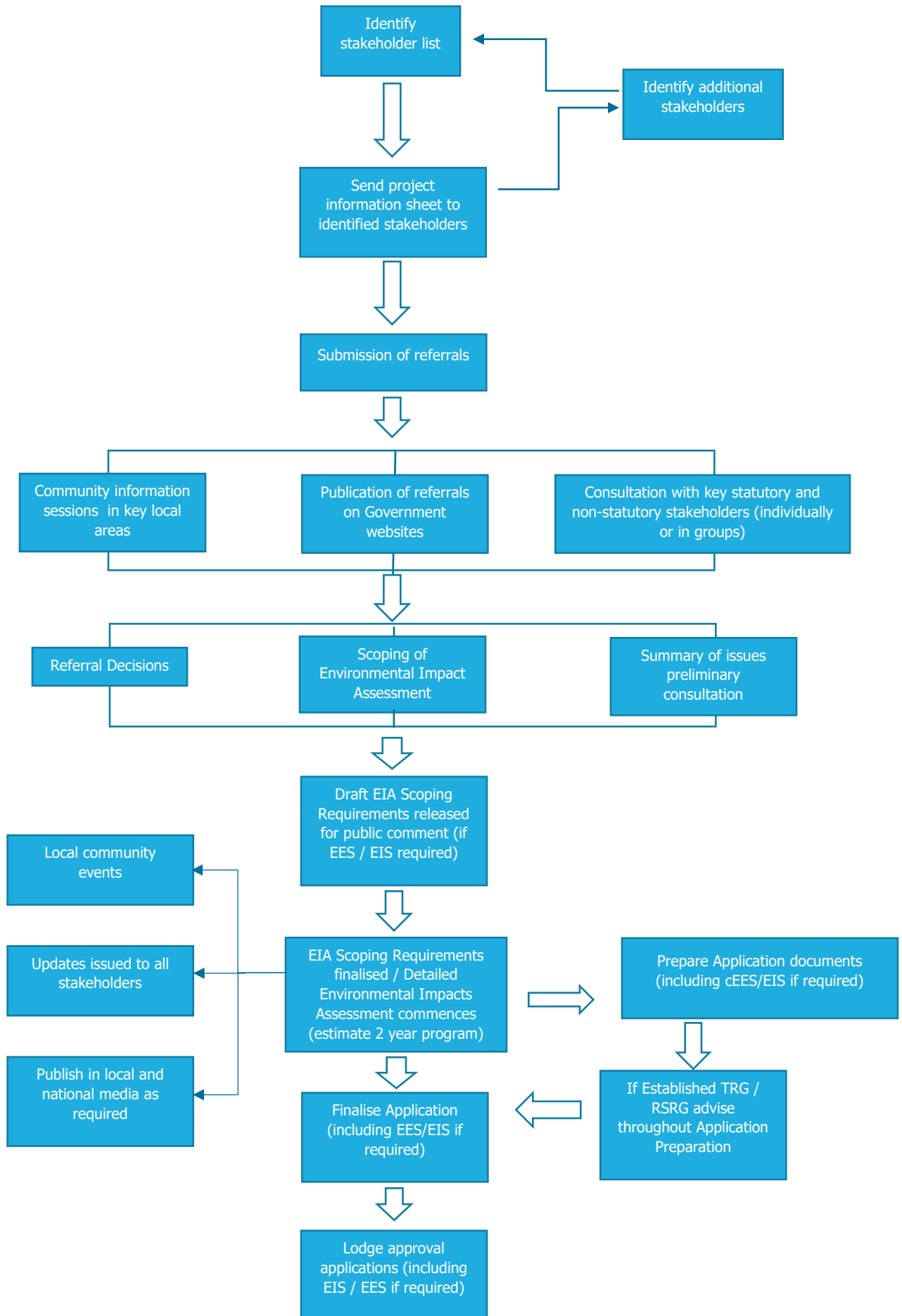


Table 5-1: Stakeholder plan activities to be delivered as part of the EIS/EES stage of project development

Phase	Time	Activity	Medium	Audience
Identification	Winter 2021	Initial identification of Stakeholders	Test	
Introduction	Spring 2021	Information sheet to all stakeholders	2-pager	All stakeholders
		Introductory meetings with selected key stakeholders	Meetings	Key statutory and strategic stakeholders
Referrals	Spring 2021	Referral meetings and or workshop(s) with key consultees	Meetings	Statutory Stakeholders
		Local Council Briefing	Workshop	Wellington Shire Council
Submission of Referrals and publication	Summer 2021-22	Letter / email to key stakeholders, notifying of referral submission as published on Government websites.	Letter Website	All stakeholders
Consultation for Project Awareness and to inform Environmental Impact Assessment scoping	First half 2022	Programme of exhibition events in local communities	Exhibitions	Community & Strategic stakeholders
		Information & feedback leaflet made available including return address & email.	Leaflet distribution via public meetings, local libraries, local councils etc.	All Stakeholders
		Local press notification of local exhibition events	Press Release	Local Press
		Project Briefing based on outcomes of EE and EPBC Act referrals	Briefing meeting	Statutory and Strategic Consultees according to interest
		Notification of consultation period (if EIS / EES required)	Press Release / Website	All Stakeholders

Issue Identification & Management	Up to one year until end of 2022	<p>Collation of responses received during the consultation period /establishment of issues database.</p> <p>Briefing notes and/or newsletters (or similar) issued to stakeholder groups for comment and feedback.</p> <p>Approximately six-month period in which the issues identified in the consultation process are addressed through discussion with individual stakeholders / groups of stakeholders / workshop sessions. The identification of issues may also influence the scoping of environmental impact assessment</p>	<p>Briefing materials drafted for specific stakeholder groups</p> <p>Meetings with individual stakeholders and groups of stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Strategic & Community Stakeholders</p> <p>All Stakeholders</p>
Publication of Environmental Impact Assessments / Approvals Applications	TBC	<p>Communication to all stakeholders advising of environmental impact assessments / approvals applications.</p> <p>Notification of environmental impact assessments / approvals applications.</p> <p>Briefing of MPs and Local Councillors</p>	<p>Letter or email</p> <p>Letter Press Website</p> <p>Reception or individual meetings</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p> <p>All Stakeholders</p> <p>Local Councillors, State and Cth Ministers</p>
Notification of Application	TBC	Feasibility licence application submitted to DISER		

5.3 Scope of Consultation Process

At this early stage in the process, it is not possible to clearly scope all aspects of the project which will be within the scope of consultation, however, some broad subject areas include:

- Scope of the environmental impact assessments and associated application / assessment process
- Siting of turbines in either the near shore location or Bream location
- Potential location of on-shore substation(s) and offshore substation platforms
- Consideration of oil and gas asset re-use
- Potential export cable corridor route/s and grid connection location
- Mitigation measures
- Maximising benefits from the project

5.4 Recording and Reporting of Stakeholder Engagement and Sharing Information

The Project will bring Flotation Energy into contact with many individuals and organisations. A database will be maintained to record each contact, the issues which are raised and the response to those issues.

This will enable the key application documents (if required, including EIS / EES documents) to document consultation that has occurred to that point. This will allow stakeholders to review the engagement process, the nature of issues or concerns raised, identify how consultation has influenced the project including the environmental impact assessment, and understand how and why decisions about the proposed project have been reached.

6. Ongoing Engagement and Consultation

This document focuses on stakeholder engagement up to submission of the Project approval applications and the Feasibility Licence application which will be required under forthcoming Commonwealth legislation (generally expected to be consistent with the *Offshore Energy Infrastructure Bill 2021*). Flotation Energy intends to develop ongoing, productive relationships with stakeholders. Updated stakeholder engagement plans will be developed to meet the needs of each stage of the project, including detailed design, construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning.

6.1 Project Contacts

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