

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR AMENDMENT TO ORDER UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Public works: Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW

Proponent: VicGrid

Description of project

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW, comprising the construction and operation of:

- a high-voltage alternating current double circuit overhead transmission line from the proposed onshore connection hub (in the area of Giffard) to the existing grid connection terminal station near the Loy Yang Power Station (in the Latrobe Valley);
- an onshore terminal station that acts as a connection hub in the area of Giffard broadly comprising of high-voltage electrical plant and equipment, including power system control equipment and switchgear; and
- augmentation to the existing terminal station near Loy Yang Power Station, to accommodate the grid connection.

Order

Being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW could reasonably be considered to have, or be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment, the Minister for Planning declared the works to be public works for the purposes of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, by Order published in *The Government Gazette* on 01 October 2024.

Reasons for Order

The purpose of the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW is to connect future wind energy generated off the coast of Gippsland of at least 2 Gigawatts (GW) to the existing Victorian electricity grid by 2032.

The works have the potential for significant environmental effects on a range of environmental values, having regard to the nature of the area within which the project is proposed to be constructed and operated.

An environment effects statement (EES) will provide a transparent and integrated framework for:

- assessment of the potential environmental effects, taking into consideration design options, scheduling and mitigation alternatives for planning and delivery of the project; and
- evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed measures to avoid, minimise, manage and offset environmental effects.

On 24 October 2024, I approved the order under section (1) of the section 3(1) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* declaring that the works proposed to be undertaken by the VicGrid for the purposes of the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW to be Public Works for the purposes of the EE Act (Order).

VicGrid's 'Project Outline (2024)' requested that certain specified works be excluded from the declared public works (excluded works) to facilitate, subject to obtaining any necessary

approvals, the commencement of works that may form part of the project before the completion of the EES process. At the time, these included early technical investigatory works to assist in the understanding of site conditions such as geotechnical and environmental investigations, site surveys and locating existing utility services.

VicGrid indicated that additional early works would likely be identified in the early phase of the EES. It noted that the full scope, location and extent of other early works that may be required prior to the finalisation of the EES would need to be further understood through the refinement of the project's design and location during the EES process.

Since this time, VicGrid has progressed the project design and developed a more detailed understanding of the environmental impacts associated with the excluded works, particularly within the Loy Yang Power Station precinct.

In August 2026, VicGrid submitted its *Public Works Amendment Report*, which describes the way in which these additional excluded works will be carried out, assesses the impacts and proposes measures that will be adopted to manage the environmental effects of these works.

The report describes proposed additional excluded works at the Loy Yang switchyard generally involve electricity utility and foundation works, which are entirely consistent with existing infrastructure and use of the site. The site comprises hardstand and is surrounded by operational transmission infrastructure including switchyard bays, transmission lines, and associated transmission towers. These works will not have, or be likely to be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment.

The report also describes proposed temporary construction compound and laydown area works within the Loy Yang Power Station precinct is a customary and ancillary activity associated with major infrastructure and utility operations. These initial works will be confined to previously disturbed and benched land within the established utility precinct and would not alter the underlying long-term use or function of the site. These works will not have, or be likely to be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment.

I remain satisfied that the nature of these effects can be monitored, managed and conducted in a way to minimise the impact upon the broader environment. Accordingly, the description of the excluded works in Schedule 1 of the Order has been amended to include these works.

Further refinements have also been made to improve clarity, including minor updates to the description of project components that form part of the broader project scope in the Order. I am satisfied that these amendments do not materially alter the scope of the works.

I have therefore approved an amendment to the Order which:

- Updates the description of the excluded works in Schedule 1 to support efficient project delivery timeframes; and
- Updates the project description to clarify terminology of project components



Hon Sonya Kilkenney MP
Minister for Planning

Date:

30/9/2026

OFFICIAL