

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*  
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2025-R01)**

**Proponent**

Great Eastern Offshore Wind Farm Project Co Pty Ltd as trustee for the Great Eastern Offshore Wind Farm Asset Trust

**Project**

Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project

**Description**

The project comprises a 2.5 GW capacity offshore wind farm off the coast of Gippsland south of Giffard and east of Wilsons Promontory and supporting electricity transmission assets required to transfer energy generated by the wind farm to the existing electricity transmission network. The scope of the referral under the Environment Effects Act covers the Victorian section of the project from the 3 nautical mile (NM) limit of Victorian coastal waters to the Giffard area.

The key project components proposed within Victoria include:

- offshore export cables from the 3 NM limit to a shore crossing at McGuarans Beach;
- a Transition Joint Bay near the coast at McGuarans Beach; and
- underground cables continuing approximately 9 km northwards to VicGrid's proposed coordinated connection point near Giffard.

**Decision**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) **is not required** for the Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project, as described in the referral accepted on 13 May 2025, **subject to the following conditions:**

- a) An **environment report** for the Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project needs to be prepared in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and First Peoples-State Relations (FP-SR) and completed to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning. The report needs to examine and document the following:
  - i. assessment of the predicted impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) on native vegetation, habitat for threatened species and other biodiversity values, including listed communities and species of flora and fauna under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*;
  - ii. assessment of the predicted impacts on water environments (direct, indirect and cumulative), including groundwater, waterways and wetlands, and the marine environment;
  - iii. assessment of the potential adverse effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage, including characterisation of the seafloor to identify submerged cultural landscapes, and engagement with Traditional Owners;
  - iv. alternatives for the locations of proposed project infrastructure and works areas, and consideration of alternative construction methods;
  - v. the design and mitigation measures proposed to avoid, minimise and/or manage predicted impacts on values examined in the report;

- vi. mapping that clearly articulates the full extent of project works, as well as values to be avoided (e.g. no-go zones);
  - vii. approach to staging the delivery of the project's preferred development configuration; and
  - viii. the proposed environmental management commitments to address predicted impacts and how these would be implemented through the different consents and approvals required for the project.
- b) Once prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning, the environment report and relevant supporting documentation needs to be released for public comment for a minimum of 14 calendar days, in conjunction with other statutory documents where possible.
- c) Following this, the proponent needs to submit to DTP an addendum or revised environment report that summarises and responds to issues raised in public comments received on the exhibited environment report and then publish the final environment report (revised or with addendum) in consultation with DTP.
- d) The environment report required under conditions (a) and (b) should be prepared to inform the form of the proposal that is examined through approval processes, where relevant, and the development of relevant management plans.

#### Reasons

- There is the potential for significant adverse effects to biodiversity values, water environments and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Further integrated assessment of these is necessary to understand the potential effects and their significance, and to inform appropriate avoidance and mitigation.
- Other potential environmental effects of the project are either unlikely to be significant at a regional or state scale or are unlikely to warrant integrated assessment.
- The conditions set out in this decision provide an appropriate and targeted means for examining potentially significant impacts and related uncertainties, including the development of adequate measures to avoid and mitigate impacts in the context of relevant policy and regulatory requirements.
- Other potential effects can be addressed separately, through other existing statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Heritage Act 2017* and *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

Date:

12/9/2025

SIC