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Environmental & Social Consultants

SOUTHERN WINDS OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Preliminary Social Risk and Opportunities Assessment

FINAL

November 2022

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on behalf of
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Acknowledgement of Country

Umwelt would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the country on which we work and pay respect to their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing relationship with the land. We pay our respect to the Elders – past, present, and future.

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	Name	Date	Name	Date
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Table of Contents

Figures

Tables

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
BFE	BlueFloat Energy
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DMP	Destination Management Plan
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
GW	Gigawatts
Ha	Hectares
ISP	Integrated System Plan
Km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
LGA	Local Government Area
MP	Member of Parliament
OWP	Offshore wind project
RDALC	Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast Inc
RE	Renewable Energy
REZs	Renewable Energy Zones
SA	South Australia (State of)
SIA	Social impact assessment
VIC	Victoria (State of)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Umwelt has been engaged by BlueFloat Energy (BFE) to coordinate the planning and environmental approvals activities for Phase 1 of the development of Southern Winds Offshore Wind Project (the Project). Umwelt has undertaken a desktop assessment for the Project to identify potential social and environmental impacts that may result from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, and to inform the Project's planning and approval strategy.

As part of the Phase 1 study, Umwelt has been engaged to undertake a preliminary social risk and opportunities analysis to inform next steps for the Project in relation to community engagement and the identification and management of social impacts to reduce project risk and maximise project outcomes.

This report identifies the preliminary social risks and opportunities relating to the Project, key stakeholder groups that should be engaged, as well as next steps and recommendations for further assessment phases.

1.2 Project Description

The Project is located approximately 8-20 kilometres (km) off the coastline between Cape Douglas (South Australia) and Nelson (Victoria), approximately 60 km west of Portland (Victoria) township. **Figure 1.1** shows the Project Area which contains the offshore and onshore components of the Project, including the transmission line route, associated with its construction, operation and decommissioning**.**

Within the Project Area, the Project involves 77 'bottom-fixed' wind turbines[1], two offshore substations and associated infrastructure with the capacity to generate up to 1.155 gigawatts (GW) of electricity. The wind turbines will have a capacity between 15 MW and 20 MW, hub heights between 165 m and 190 m and rotor diameters of 250 m to 275 m.

Two potential subsea cable and onshore transmission routes are being considered from the offshore substations to the proposed grid connection:

- Option 1 proposes subsea export cables to travel southeast from the more easterly offshore substation for approximately 72 km, landing near the north west corner of the Narrawong Coastal Reserve, approximately 1.5 km from the Portland Aluminium Smelter. The subsea cables would be connected to onshore cables in a transition joint bay. These onshore cables would then continue to the existing switchyard at the smelter site (connecting in via a new onshore substation located adjacent to the Portland Aluminium Smelter switchyard).
- Option 2 proposes subsea export cables to travel southeast from the more easterly offshore substation for approximately 42 km, landing near the south-eastern corner of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Wetlands Site at Cape Bridgewater (avoiding the Discovery Bay Marine National Park). The subsea cables would be connected to onshore cables in a transition joint bay. These onshore cables would then continue underground or overhead north-east through Gorae West for approximately 29 km to the existing Heywood Terminal Station (connecting in via a new onshore substation located

[1] A bottom-fixed turbine is mounted on a structure fixed into the seabed.

adjacent to the terminal station). Transition to an overhead line, if applicable, would likely be located within 5 km of the coast.

It is noted that the transmission line options proposed as part of the Project were identified prior to release of the Victorian State Governments Offshore Wind Implementation Statement 1 (October 2022) and accordingly the location of the grid connection may be subject to further review and consideration.

The offshore wind farm component of the Project is located within the Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone (both Commonwealth waters), with the grid connection within the Glenelg Local Government Area (LGA) in Victoria. The offshore wind farm component for the Project would encompass an area of approximately 290 km^2.

1.2.1 Study Area

As shown in **Figure 1.1**, the Study Area extends beyond the Project Area. The purpose of the Study Area is to provide additional context to the existing site conditions and for identification of potential impacts. It provides flexibility in siting and design as a response to the outcomes of Phase 1 and subsequent assessments.

The Study Area includes:

- A 5 km buffer around the offshore wind farm components (wind turbines and offshore substations) and subsea export cable routes up to the shoreline.
- A 2.5 km buffer around the onshore overhead (or underground where needed) transmission line and the onshore substation (referred to as the transmission line corridor) except where alternatives are considered.

The following definitions apply within the Study Area:

- Offshore refers to all areas from the low water line along the coast out to sea. For the purpose of the Project, the Study Area and Project Area lie in Commonwealth and State Waters (see definitions below).
- Onshore refers to all land-based areas above the low water line.
- State Waters refers to area from the low water line along the coast up to 3 nautical miles seaward.
- Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone (Commonwealth) refers to land from the State Water boundary up to 12 and 24 nautical miles respectively, from the low water line along to the coast.
- Exclusive Economic Zone extends from the Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone up to 200 nautical miles from the low water line along to the coast.

1.3 Area of Social Influence

The Study Area for the preliminary social risk and opportunities analysis is considered the 'area of social influence'. The area of social influence for the Project is defined as:

- The Local Government Areas (LGA) of Glenelg in Victoria (VIC) and District of Grant in South Australia (SA) and the City of Mount Gambier (SA). (Note that only limited information is available for the Grant LGA in the Community Capitals **Section 1.5** due to this area having a small population. Information has been included where publicly available)
- The landholdings, property owners and residents situated on, or nearby to, the onshore Project Area as well as the footprint of any ancillary infrastructure.
- Landholders of agricultural land and some conservation areas that have the potential to host transmission infrastructure.
- Small coastal communities of Cape Douglas, Racecourse Bay, Port MacDonnell and Wye in South Australia and Nelson in Victoria and other small settlements.
- Offshore users who value and/or use the offshore locality, which may include maritime industries, science and research institutes, recreational users, and tourism operators.
- The broader Barwon South West region of Victoria and the Limestone Coast Region of South Australia.

The area of social influence may extend beyond these boundaries at subsequent stages of Project planning and assessment, to include offshore infrastructure and locations where construction and contractor workforces may be sourced and where materials may be supplied for the Project.

The key populations and their proximity to the Project are listed in **Table 1.1**, estimated from the location of the nearest Project component. The larger of these settlements are shown in **Figure 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Key populations and proximity to the Project

Community	State	Population	Approx. distance from Project	Nearest Project component
Portland	Victoria	10,016	350 m	Onshore transmission route 1
Mount Gambier	South Australia	27,421	30 km	Offshore wind turbine
Casterton	Victoria	1,673	68 km	Onshore transmission route 2
Heywood	Victoria	1,815	5 km	Onshore transmission route 1 and 2
Nelson	Victoria	191	11 km	Offshore wind turbine
Dartmoor	Victoria	299	36 km	Offshore wind turbine
Merino	Victoria	249	49 km	Onshore transmission route 2
Racecourse Bay	South Australia	27	9 km	Offshore wind turbine
Cape Douglas	South Australia	68	11 km	Offshore wind turbine
Wye	South Australia	95	14 km	Offshore wind turbine
Mount Richmond	Victoria	42	27 km	Offshore wind turbine
Port MacDonnell	South Australia	859	9 km	Offshore wind turbine
Tarpeena	South Australia	392	51 km	Offshore wind turbine
Donovans	South Australia	83	13 km	Offshore wind turbine
Carpenter Rocks	South Australia	87	24 km	Offshore wind turbine

Population data source: ABS 2016-2021

Legend

- Southern Winds Offshore Wind Project Study Area
- Southern Winds Onshore Wind Project Study Area

Southern Winds Offshore Wind Project Area consists of:

- Southern Winds Offshore Wind Project Boundary
- Onshore transmission route option 1
- Onshore transmission route option 2
- Subsea cabling option 1
- Subsea cabling option 2

- Potential turbine layout
- Substation
- Transition joint bay
- Heywood terminal station
- Portland aluminium smelter
- Portland airport

- Local Government Boundary
- State Forest, National Parks, Reserves
- Roads
- Drainage line

- Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site
- VIC Coastal and Internal Waters
- Territorial Sea
- Exclusive Economic Zone (Amended by Perth Treaty 1997)

Data source: VIC Data (2022)

FIGURE 1.1
Study Area

1.4 Development Context

The state of Victoria has an emission-intensive power supply as compared to other advanced economies worldwide (DELWP 2019). Most of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions (70% in 2019) (DELWP 2021), are from fossil fuel combustion for energy and transport, with 76% of the State's electricity produced by the State's three brown coal-fired power plants (DELWP 2018). As a result, the Victorian Government has acknowledged that the future reliability of the State's energy supply and the economic and social benefits associated with the renewable energy sector, in addition to the need to decarbonise the economy, rely on the development of a diverse and secure energy generation network (DELWP 2021).

Australia has many areas that may be suitable for offshore renewable energy infrastructure including offshore wind farms. Australian Commonwealth waters start 3 nautical miles from the coastline and extend to the boundary of Australia's exclusive economic zone.

In Australian Commonwealth waters, offshore renewable energy infrastructure is governed under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*.The Act enables the construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore electricity infrastructure. They outline how and where infrastructure projects for renewable energy generation or transmission can operate.

Enabling the offshore renewable energy industry supports the Australian Government's aim to reduce emissions from the electricity sector, increase affordable electricity supply and create jobs.

Declaring suitable areas for offshore renewable energy infrastructure is a ministerial decision. The Commonwealth Minister for Energy has announced that the Southern Ocean region off Portland in Victoria is an area that the Minister will consider declaring.

Victoria has some of the world's best offshore wind resources. In addition to the Commonwealth, both Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Victorian Government have also declared the Portland Coast as being suitable for offshore wind farms and have identified them as being within a future Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The establishment of REZs is intended to facilitate an increase in renewable energy development.

The Project is located within the South West REZ (V4 in **Figure 1.2**) which is one of Victoria's six Renewable Energy Zones identified in AEMO's Integrated System Plan (ISP).

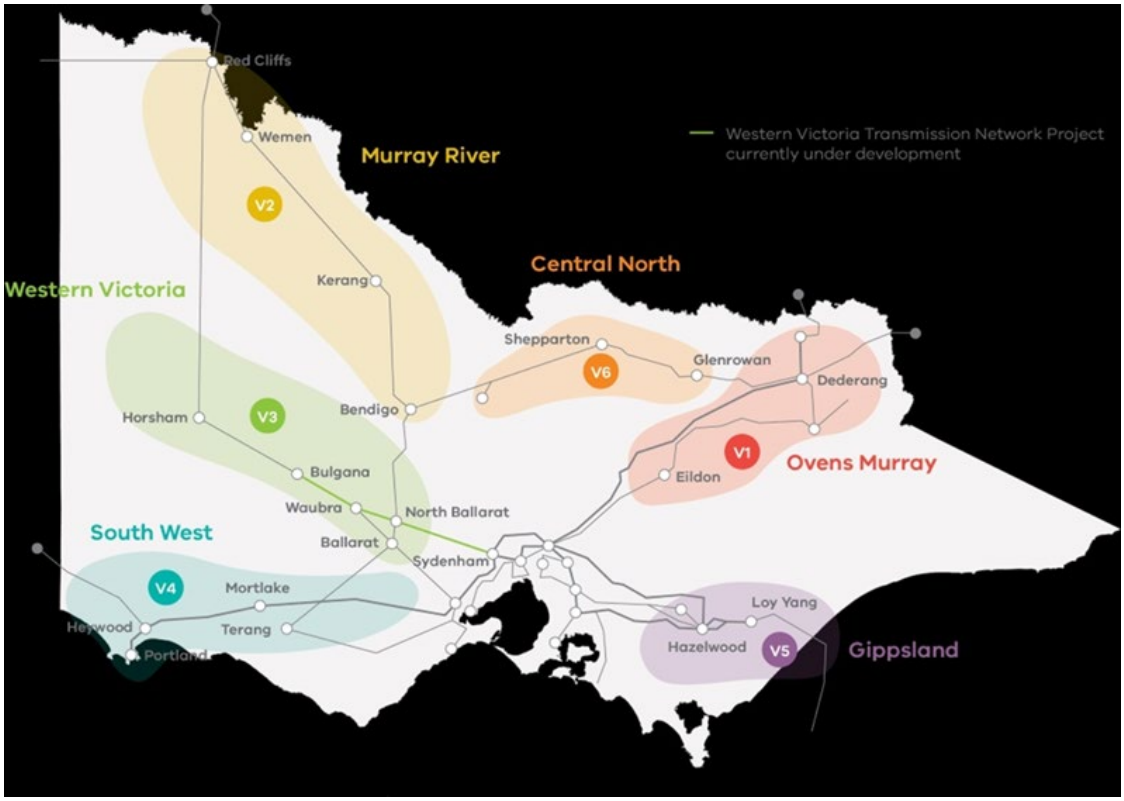

Figure 1.2 Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones

Victorian Government, DELWP (2021)

The Victorian Offshore Wind Policy Directions Paper (DELWP, 2021) outlined Victoria's vision for offshore wind, paving the way for Victoria to host the first offshore wind farms in Australia. The states coastal regions have the potential to support 13 GW of capacity by 2050.

Victoria is spearheading Australia's offshore wind sector, with offshore wind proposed to support its switch to renewables and play a vital role in Victoria's clean energy transition. Victoria has set ambitious targets of 2 GW of offshore generation by 2032, 4 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2035 and 9 GW by 2040.

In October 2022, the Victorian Government released the Offshore Wind Implementation Statement 12 which outlines the government's plans for the establishment of an offshore wind industry. This is the first in a series of implementation statements that will be released over the coming years and is designed to provide certainty and facilitate ongoing collaboration.

The Statement 1 includes announcements and updates on the transmission; Ports; Offshore Wind Energy Victoria; boosting the capability of local industry; and working with the Commonwealth to deliver streamlined regulation and legislation. Of relevance this Project, the Statement says:

> *Notice 2, VicGrid will lead the development of transmission infrastructure that provides a coordinated connection point near the Gippsland Coast and Portland.*

[2] https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/a-clean-energy-future/offshore-wind-energy#:~:text=Offshore%20wind%20projects-,Victoria%20is%20spearheading%20Australia's%20offshore%20wind%20sector,and%209%20GW%20by%202040.

The Statement includes an area of interest for investigation and consultation, and existing transmission infrastructure as shown in **Figure 1.3** below. It also states:

> *Notice 3, VicGrid-led transmission will facilitate connection of up to 2-2.5 GW capacity in both Gippsland Coast and Portland*
>
> *The Victorian Government has committed to a first offshore wind target of at least 2 GW by 2032. To accommodate this, transmission infrastructure will be developed to facilitate connection of up to 2-2.5 GW generation capacity in both Gippsland and Portland respectively.*
>
> *In Portland, this will be enabled through a new or upgraded 500 kilovolt (kV) switchyard, because the existing transmission network already runs close to the coast in that area.*

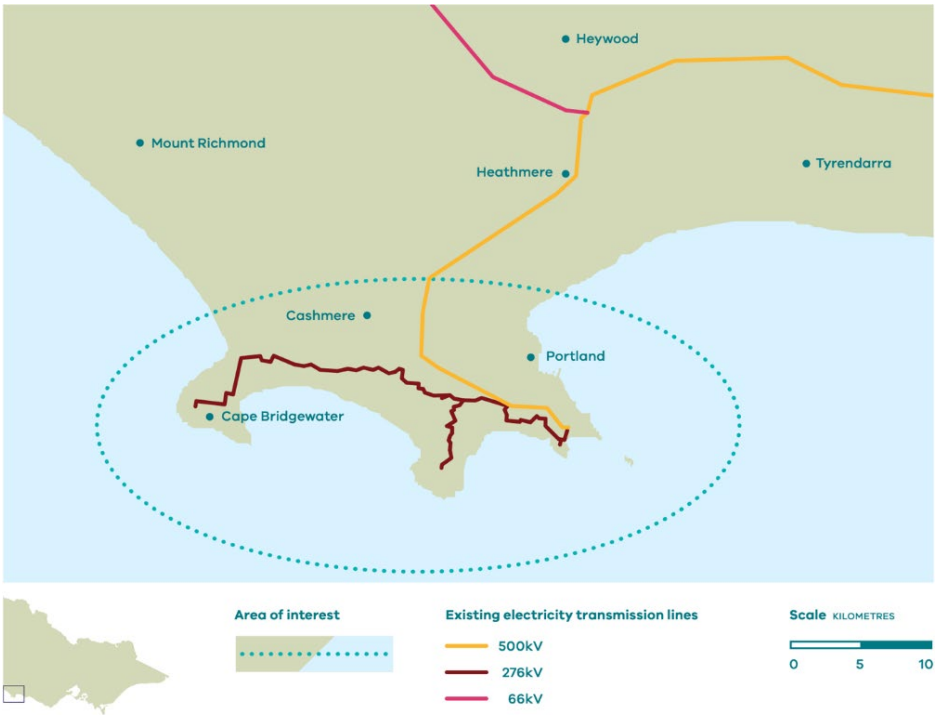

Figure 1.3 Existing electricity transmission network and area of interest (DELWP, 2022)

It is noted the transmission line options proposed as part of the Project were identified prior to release of the Statement and accordingly the proposed grid connection may be subject to further review and consideration. The South Australian Government also recognises that there are areas along the South Australian coastline that have strong wind resources. The State is in the process of preparing an offshore wind policy.

As a State, South Australia is successfully transitioning from a reliance on fossil fuels to a reliable renewable energy with a goal of achieving 100% net renewables by 2030, with a further ambitious state renewable energy target of net 500% by 2050 (enabling significant export). In just over 15 years, South Australia's electricity mix has shifted from below 1% renewables to over 60% of energy being generated by wind and solar, supported by innovative battery storage technologies and gas. By 2025-26, the AEMO forecasts this could rise to approximately 85%. South Australia also benefits from some of the lowest wholesale electricity prices in Australia and has become a net energy exporter. This is being further supported by the installation of an SA-NSW Interconnector, a new 330 kilovolt, above-ground transmission line between

Robertstown in South Australia and Wagga Wagga in New South Wales. South Australia will then be one of few places in the world able to meet its total energy demands using renewable energy.

The onshore component of the Project is located in the Barwon South West region of Victoria, an area that includes the municipalities of Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Moyne, Warrnambool, Corangamite, Colac Otway, Surf Coast, Queenscliffe and Greater Geelong. The onshore Project Area and Study Area lie entirely within the Glenelg LGA.

A vast region, this area is further divided into the Barwon Regional Partnership and Great South Coast Regional Partnership, in recognition that local communities are in the best position to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by their region. The Great South Coast Regional Partnership contains the five proximal municipalities of Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Warrnambool. The Great South Coast Regional Plan, which covers these 5 five LGAs, recognises that the regions natural resources include wind and that building on its abundance of energy assets could make the region Australia's alternative energy capital. The Plan also notes that the region had a strong history in energy production, including wind, with significant further development planned and approved in the near future. It also notes that the region has a 'rare asset in the 500 kilovolt transmission line'.

As **Figure 1.4** highlights, there are multiple existing and proposed onshore wind farms across the region, with others currently under construction or in assessment, noting this data is from 2019 and additional applications and approvals have been issued since.

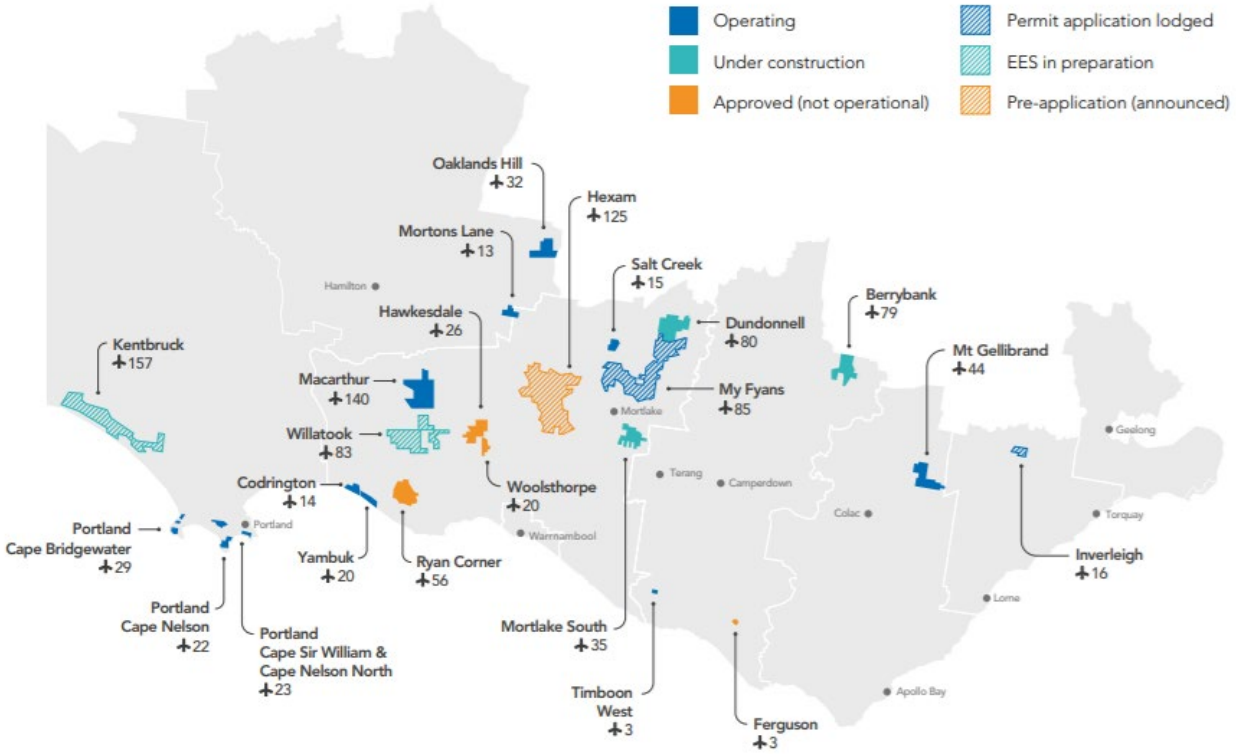

Figure 1.4 Wind farm development across Barwon South West, 2019

Source: (State Government of Victoria, 2019)

1.5 Sustainable Livelihoods Approach – Community Capitals

To understand the communities of interest to the Project and to evaluate their resilience and adaptive capacity to change, this social baseline has utilised the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (U.K. Department for International Development [DFID] 1999) for analysis purposes.

This methodology has been further developed by Coakes and Sadler (2011) to reflect the six capitals approach – human, social, natural, physical, political, and economic/financial capital. The vulnerability of each capital area can be assessed through the selection of a suite of socio-economic indicators specific to each capital area to assess a community's vulnerability to change or conversely their adaptive capacity; with this approach widely applied within the energy project context.

Elements of each capital area are further outlined below, with key characteristics of the social locality captured to inform a preliminary social baseline assessment.

Figure 1.3 Community Capitals Framework

Adapted from Coakes and Sadler (2011)

1.5.1 Natural Capital

Natural capital refers to the natural assets and resources that contribute to community sustainability. Natural capital can include resources such as minerals, land, forests, and waterways, which provide benefit to the community, as well as environmental assets that provide cultural, social, or recreational value.

The Shire of Glenelg is located along the Great South Coast in Victoria's South-West, with the largest centre at Portland, about 300 km west of Melbourne. Other centres in the Shire include Casterton, Heywood, Nelson, Dartmoor, and Merino.

The Shire has a mixed economic base with highly productive rural areas, a large aluminium manufacturing facility and deep-water port, as well as a combination of service functions, notably in Portland. Beef cattle is the main rural industry in the south, while wool production is more common in the northern areas around Casterton, and there is a strong horticultural sector present around Portland. Forestry and fishing are also important employers within the region.

The Glenelg Shire has 107 national parks and conservation reserves covering 25% of the Shire's land. Tourism is a notable employer in Glenelg Shire, especially along the coastal areas and around Portland. The Great South West Walk is a 250 km circular trail that winds through the diverse landscapes of Lower Glenelg National Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Cobboboonee National Park and Cape Nelson State Park. The walk is maintained through a partnership between volunteers from Friends of the Great South West Walk, and Parks Victoria. The Lower Glenelg National Park is a popular destination for canoeing on the Glenelg River and Cape Bridgewater has many natural features, including cliffs, blowholes, sand dunes and a petrified forest.

The Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site is Victoria and Australia's newest Ramsar site – Glenelg Ramsar – and was gazetted as a Wetland of International Significance in August 2018. The Ramsar site includes the majority of Lower Glenelg National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan guides the range of activities for the site.

In South Australia, the two LGAs closes to the Project are the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier. Both are located in the Limestone Coast region. The Limestone Coast comprises seven LGAs: Grant, Kingston, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte Lucindale, Robe, Tatiara and Wattle Range.

The District Council of Grant is the closest LGA to the Project and is the southernmost council in the state. Grant covers an area of 1,904 km² and surrounds but does not include the City of Mount Gambier. The area contains a mix of coastal towns and farming districts, possessing natural features such as coastline, the Canunda National Park and Lake Bonney SE (Canunda) and many water-filled caves and sinkholes.

The City of Mount Gambier is South Australia's largest regional city, about 400 km south of the Adelaide CBD and 360 km west of the Melbourne CBD. Mount Gambier is the major service centre and a major accommodation gateway for the Limestone Coast. Mount Gambier is one of few cities in the world to be established on the slopes of a volcano and has many unique natural features, including the Blue Lake/Warwar, craters, caves, the Umpherston and Engelbrecht sinkholes, underground waterways, gardens, combined with many local tourist attractions.

There are 20 National Parks within an hour's drive of Mount Gambier, with some of Australia's most significant wetland sites at the Coorong, Bool Lagoon and Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park (to the north of the Project Area offshore), declared Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance.

Other towns in the region within SA include Robe, Naracoorte, Kingston SE and Port MacDonnell, with Nelson across the border in Victoria.

1.5.2 Human Capital

The level of human capital within a community is assessed by considering population size, age distribution, education and skills, general population health and the prevalence of vulnerable groups within the community. The social area of influence has the following key characteristics.

Table 1.2 Human Capital characteristics for the social area of influence of the Project

Characteristic	Description
Static or declining population with a higher than average Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population	The Glenelg Shire population in 2021 was 19,859 and is expected to increase at an average annual growth rate of 0.41%. In Glenelg Shire, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population was 2.9% in 2021, compared to 2% in regional Victoria. The District Council of Grant population for 2021 was 8,862, growing 0.98% from the previous year, which was a higher population growth than 0.64% in regional South Australia. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population is 2.7%, compared to 4.7% in regional South Australia. The City of Mount Gambier population in 2021 was 26,878, a decline of 0.04% from 2020. Population growth in regional South Australia was 0.31%. In the City of Mount Gambier, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population was 2.8% in 2021, compared to 4.7% in regional South Australia.
A high median age	The median age in Glenelg Shire is 47 years, 45 years in the District Council of Grant and 40 years in the City of Mount Gambier.
An emphasis on trade qualifications and related skills	In Glenelg Shire, relevant trade occupations include the following (with Victorian State figures shown in brackets for comparison): • Technicians and Trades Workers 14.5% (Victoria 13.1%) • Labourers 13.9% (Victoria 9%) • Machinery Operators and Drivers 12.3% (Victoria 5.8%). In District Council of Grant, relevant trade occupations include the following (with regional South Australia figures shown in brackets for comparison): • Technicians and Trades Workers 14.4% (Regional South Australia 14.2%) • Labourers 15.1% (Regional South Australia 15.7%) • Machinery Operators and Drivers 9.9 % (Regional South Australia 8.4%). In City of Mount Gambier, relevant trade occupations include the following (with regional South Australia figures shown in brackets for comparison): • Technicians and Trades Workers 14.5% (Regional South Australia 14.2%) • Labourers 13.6% (Regional South Australia 15.7%) • Machinery Operators and Drivers 9.8 % (Regional South Australia 8.4%).
Unemployment rate comparative to other regional areas	The Glenelg Shire has 6% unemployment compared to 6.6% for regional Victoria. The District Council of Grant has a low unemployment rate at 3.7%, while the City of Mount Gambier reported 6.7% unemployment, compared to 6.6% for regional South Australia.

Characteristic	Description
An ageing working population	Between 2016 and 2026, the age structure forecasts for Glenelg Shire indicated a 2.9% increase in population under working age, a 28.1% increase in population of retirement age, and a 6.7% decrease in population of working age. A combination of low population growth, aging population and out-migration creates challenges for supporting a sustainable working population in the region. From 2016 to 2021, the City of Mount Gambier's population increased by 2.3%, representing an average annual population change of 0.46% per year over the period. In 2021, the largest age group in the City of Mount Gambier was the 10- to 14-year-old age cohort, with the highest increase in population occurring in the 70-74 year age group since 2016.

1.5.3 Social Capital

Various indicators can be used to examine and assess social capital. Such indicators can include the level of volunteering, population mobility, crime rates, and the demographic structure of the community, such as the percentage of people born overseas and the composition of households. The following provides a summary of the key characteristics of the area from a social capital perspective.

Table 1.3 Social Capital characteristics for the social area of influence of the Project

Characteristic	Description
Variable Rates of volunteering	In Glenelg Shire, 20.1% of the population reported doing some form of voluntary work compared to 13.3% in Victoria. In District Council of Grant, 18.9% reported voluntary work, while the City of Mount Gambier reported 16.8%, compared to 17% in regional South Australia.
Increasing number of households with couples without dependents	In 2021, the dominant household type in Glenelg Shire was couples without dependents (50%), compared to 37.6% in Victoria. This was compared to 33.8% families with children, compared to 45.5% in Victoria. In the District Council of Grant, 47.4% reported a family type of couples without dependents and 42.2% couples with children, compared to 41% and 40.8% respectively in South Australia. In the City of Mount Gambier, the most dominant family type was couples without children at 43.1% and couples with children at 36.2%.
Low community mobility	Glenelg Shire has relatively low mobility when compared with Victoria, with the LGA home to a lower proportion of people with a different address both one year ago (10%) and five years ago (28%) (compared to Victoria – 15% and 39% respectively). This suggests a reasonably stable and established population. However, there appears a trend in relation to retirees travelling during the winter months (Glenelg Shire Council 2020). In the City of Mount Gambier, a higher rate of people did not change address (55.7%), while a higher rate (35.6%) moved from elsewhere in Australia, and a lower rate (1.9%) moved from overseas.
Varying rates of population density	Glenelg Shire has the lowest population density of any Victorian LGA and is considered a “small, connected community” (Glenelg Shire Council, 2020). A large concentration of the LGA’s population lives in Portland, Heywood, and Casterton (70% of the Glenelg Shire).
Disengagement of young people	In Glenelg Shire, 13.8% of 15- to 24-year-olds in Glenelg Shire were disengaged with employment and education, compared to 10.6% in regional Victoria (2016). In the City of Mount Gambier, 11.8% of 15- to 24-year-olds were disengaged with employment and education, compared to 13.0% in regional South Australia (2016).

Characteristic	Description
High proportion of individuals born in Australia and lack of linguistic diversity indicating relative homogenisation of community	In Glenelg Shire, 82.6.8% of people had both parents born in Australia, compared with 64.9% in Victoria. The most common countries of birth were England 2.3%, New Zealand 1.3%, Netherlands 0.6%, Philippines 0.5% and Scotland 0.4%. In the City of Mount Gambier, 83% of people were born in Australia, compared to 71.1% in SA. The most common countries of birth were England 2.6%, New Zealand 0.9%, Myanmar 0.8%, Netherlands 0.6% and Italy 0.6%. In Glenelg Shire, 89.8% of the population spoke English only, and 2.3% spoke a non-English language, compared with 86.6% and 6.0% respectively for Victoria. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English was Filipino/Tagalog, with 0.3% of the population, or 54 people speaking this language at home. The District Council of Grant reported 83.9% of the population spoke English only and only 3% spoke a non-English language. Similarly, in the City of Mount Gambier, 88.7% of the population spoke English only, and 7.2% spoke a non-English language, compared with 77.6% for SA and 19% where a non-English language is spoken. Languages spoken at home included German, Afrikaans, Italian, Filipino (all .2%) and Spanish (.1%). In the City of Mount Gambier, the languages spoken at home included Karen 1.2%, Italian 0.9%, Swahili 0.5%, Greek 0.2% and Mandarin 0.2%.

1.5.4 Economic Capital

Examining a community's economic capital involves consideration of several indicators, including industry and employment distribution, workforce participation and unemployment, income levels and cost of living pressures, such as weekly rent or mortgage repayments. The following provides a summary of the key characteristics of the communities within the area of social influence from an economic capital perspective.

Table 1.4 Economic Capital characteristics for the social area of influence of the Project

Characteristic	Description
Regional support for development of renewable sector	In South Australia, the Government supports large-scale generation and storage projects through a range of programs and funding. In addition, financial incentives exist for developers through large-scale generation certificates The South Australian government is focused on: • large-scale renewable energy generation and storage such as wind, solar PV, solar thermal, batteries, pumped hydro, compressed air and thermal storage • distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar, bioenergy and batteries. • energy efficiency and demand management. • hydrogen production, use and export. • uptake of zero emission vehicles and investment in charging and refuelling infrastructure. • supply-chain development of low-carbon technologies. • research and industry partnerships in low carbon technologies. Within the Barwon South West Region, the five municipalities of Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Warrnambool make up the Great South Coast Regional Partnership. The region has access to a deep-water port at Portland, an established rail network with interstate connections and several commercial airports. It includes the Great Ocean Road, a significant feature and tourism asset. The Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barwon South West committee drives economic development by identifying and advocating for regional priorities and projects. Major opportunities include: • Development of alternative energy sources (such as gas, wind, geothermal and wave energy power plants), which may also help to maintain the region's presence in aluminium production. • Continued growth in wind-farm construction of wind farms in the region, with wind turbine development centred around Portland. • New opportunities are emerging in plantation timber and mineral sands and - in the region's east - in services, tourism and biotechnology. The Barwon South West Renewable Energy Roadmap was developed following significant engagement and consultation in 2019, articulating the communities' vision for a renewable energy future, identify opportunities to attract investment and better understand their community's engagement and capacity to transition to renewable energy.

Characteristic	Description
Existing support to connect workers with industry to promote economic development	In South Australia, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency in the Government of South Australia, with responsibility for the prosperity of the state's primary industries and regions. The Regional Growth Fund was established to: • unlock new economic activity in our regions. • deliver critical economic infrastructure to create direct benefit across regional industries. • strengthen regional communities. In 2021 the Government of South Australia released a comprehensive Regional Development Strategy to work positively and strategically with communities to grow the regions. Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast Inc (RDALC) is part of a national network which brings business, government and community leaders together to support and broker regional development opportunities in the region. Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast is committed to connecting industry with a suitably skilled workforce and upskilling existing workers to grow business and industries contributing to a vibrant regional economy. RDALC are involved in initiatives to boost regional workforce and regional South Australia's capacity to drive South Australia's economic recovery post COVID-19. RDALC resources a Business and Workforce Development Manager to provides a diverse range of information, advice, mentoring and support services to micro, small and medium sized businesses designed to improve business management systems, processes, skills and decisions of businesses within the Limestone Coast. In Victoria, the Great South Coast Regional Partnership is one of nine Partnerships across the state, established by the Victorian Government in recognition that local communities are in the best position to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by their region. This region includes five municipalities - Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Warrnambool. Currently, the Great South Coast Partnership is focused on: • Commerce and Industry - Diversification for Resilience and On-Going Relevance. • Transport Networks and Infrastructure - Safe, Efficient, Economical and Well Integrated Rail and Road Systems. • Digital Infrastructure - Full Membership of the Digital Community. • Housing – Sufficient, Fit-for-Purpose Housing Stock. • Education - Multiple Doorways to Career Opportunities. • Health - A Healthy, Well-Adjusted Community.
Major industries of employment	Agriculture based industries are also a large employer, notably around Heywood and Dartmoor. A large proportion of the population is employed in services, most notably health care, retail trade, and education. The Glenelg Shire is relatively self-contained in employment terms and consequently, future changes to population will be associated with employment growth or decrease. In Glenelg Shire, key industry sectors of employment include: • Agriculture, forestry and fishing 13.9%, compared to 7.7% for regional Victoria. • Health Care and Social Assistance 13.8%, compared to 14.2% for regional Victoria. • Manufacturing 12.6%, compared to 8.1% for regional Victoria (aluminium smelting accounts for approximately half of this figure). • Retail Trade 8.6%, compared to 10.6% for regional Victoria. The most common industry of employment in District Council of Grant included

Characteristic	Description
	• Dairy Cattle Farming 8.9%, • Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised) 4.9%, • Road Freight Transport 3.3%, • Aged Care 2.3%Residential Services 2.8% • Rock Lobster and Crab Potting 2.3%. The Port of Portland is the international gateway for the Green Triangle Region, which spans the border between Victoria and South Australia and is a premier location for growing and processing wood fibre. The Green Triangle constitutes 17% of Australia's plantations, covering 334,000 hectares, and supplies $1.5 billion in forest industry economic output. The export trade from the Port of Portland includes grain, woodchips, logs, aluminium ingots and livestock, while import commodities are alumina, liquid pitch and fertiliser products. The Port of Portland is the largest hardwood chip exporter in the world, with hardwood grown in the Green Triangle accounting for 4.5 million tonnes of woodchips exported annually. The Portland Aluminium Smelter produces approximately 19 % of Australia's total aluminium production, with the majority of product is exported to Asia. In 2020 they had around 4400 employees, predominantly from regional WA and Victoria. The site covers approximately 600 ha, with the 500 has of land surrounding the operations managed to protect and conserve native fauna. Alcoa contribute approximately AU$280,000 annually in local partnerships and support a range of community services. Keppel Prince is mainland Australia's only wind turbine manufacturer based in Portland, and a point of pride for those who work in the coastal town. In 2021 they experienced workforce losses after failing to secure two regional wind farm contracts, resulting in local negativity towards the renewables industry. They employ upwards of 300 engineers, project managers, technicians, trades people, apprentices and support staff on major projects including wind farms, bridge pylons and large steel structures to telecommunications towers, gas, oil, water piping and aluminium smelter maintenance. In the City of Mount Gambier, nearly 40% of the total employed resident population in Mount Gambier are employed in retail, health care and manufacturing industries, compared to around 10% of regional South Australia's being employed in these three industries. In Mount Gambier, key industry sectors of employment include: • Retail Trade 14.3% compared to 10.4% regional South Australia. • Health Care and Social Assistance 13.8% compared to 12.1% in regional South Australia. • Manufacturing 11.1% compared to 9.4% in regional South Australia. • Construction – 6.8% compared to 7.1% in regional South Australia. Further, Mount Gambier is a centre for a large transport industry resulting from its central location, between Melbourne and Adelaide. Mount Gambier also capitalises on the region's significant groundwater resources for agriculture. The Limestone Coast region continues to export dairy, world class wines, pasture raised beef and lamb, seafood and plantation forestry products. The Rock Lobster industry in South Australia contributes around $88 million per annum to the South Australian Economy. Both Glenelg and Grant and the City of Mount Gambier are part of a well-developed tourism trail, with almost a million tourists visiting the Great South Coast region every year. The area also benefits from tourists extending their journeys along the Great Ocean Road, of which approximately 7 million people visited during 2019 (TEVE Research Unit, 2021).

Characteristic	Description
	The Limestone Coast region has a vast array of tourism assets and attractions, from wineries to coastal locations and unique caves and lake systems. The region has road, sea and air connections and is located equidistant from the major population centres of Melbourne and Adelaide. On average, tourism employment accounts for 14% of all jobs across the Limestone Coast region however the influence of tourism on local employment is highly localised. In places like Robe, tourism accounts for 30% of total employment, while in Tatiara it only represents 9%of all jobs in the region.
Lower personal and household income levels than the state median	In Glenelg Shire, the median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over was $589, compared to $803 for Victoria. The median weekly household income was $1,214, compared to $1,759 for Victoria. In the City of Mount Gambier, the median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over was $589, compared to $600 for South Australia. The median weekly household income was $1,049, compared to $1,206 for South Australia.

1.5.5 Physical Capital

Physical or built capital includes provision of infrastructure and services to the community. Within this capital area it is important to consider the type, quality and degree of access to public, built and community infrastructure (including amenities, services and utilities) as well as housing.

Table 1.5 Physical Capital characteristics for the social area of influence of the Project

Characteristic	Description
Infrastructure to support industry development	Portland and the surrounding region are served by the only deep-water port between Melbourne and Adelaide, providing a vital and growing trade. Its proximity to coastal and international shipping lanes ensures the Port caters for most types of bulk and general cargo vessels. The Glenelg Shire Council, along with the Shires of Moyne and Southern Grampians and Warrnambool City Council, received over $100 million in funding under the Federal Government's 'Roads of Strategic Importance' Funding Program. The purpose of the funding was to deliver road upgrades across the Green Triangle region of south-west Victoria to improve key road corridors connecting freight to the Port of Portland during the period between 2020 and 2022.
Low rates of internet access	In Glenelg Shire, 22.8% of residents cannot access internet from their dwelling, compared to 13.6% for Victoria. In the City of Mount Gambier, 22.4% of residents cannot access internet from their dwelling, compared to 17% for South Australia.
Varied rate of home ownership	Glenelg Shire has a high rate of home ownership, with 76.6% of homes owned outright, compared to 37.6% in regional Victoria. The City of Mount Gambier has a lower rate of home ownership with 29.1% of homes owned outright, compared to 37.6% in regional South Australia.
High occupancy rates of private dwellings	In Glenelg Shire, 86.2% of private dwellings are occupied, compared to 86.5% in Victoria. In the City of Mount Gambier, 95% of private dwellings are occupied, compared to 79.2% in regional South Australia.

Characteristic	Description
Demand for housing supply and availability	Between 2016 and 2036, Portland (South) is forecast for the greatest increase in development of new dwellings in Glenelg Shire. In response to a declining population, the State Member for Mount Gambier, Independent Troy Bell has launched the Future Mount Gambier Plan in mid-2021. The Plan has 17 initiatives, from housing to tourism development strategies, to serve its current population but also to attract future growth. Service agencies in this region of Victoria and SA are reporting the lack of affordable housing as their number one issue, causing homelessness or insecure situations, and resulting in a demand for crisis and emergency housing.

1.5.6 Political Capital

Political capital refers to the individuals, institutions, and systems that contribute to a community's ability to maintain and uphold a governance structure. Political capital can determine the extent to which people are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives, the level of democratisation within a community, and the resources provided for this purpose. A summary of the political capital relating to the social locality is provided below.

Traditional Owners

Aboriginal people of the Project Area are predominantly represented by the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) which is representative of the Gunditjmara People who reside in the Victorian land of the Study Area. The GMTOAC is a Registered Native Title Body Corporate under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) and a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, representing land and Native Title interests on Gunditjmara Country, and is responsible for the management and protection of cultural heritage in this area (National Native Title Tribunal n.d.) as well as caring for Country programs (GMTOAC n.d.).

In 2007, the Federal Court delivered the Native Title consent to almost 140,000 hectares of land across the Southwest of Victoria to the Gunditjmara People (Tribunal No. VCD2007/001). The determination area covers the area on the west of Glenelg River, and to the north by the Wannon River (Gunditj Mirring, n.d.). Parts of the Study Area also overlap with three registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) (Tribunal No. VI2006/004, VI2010/001 and VI2015/002), and a Future Act Notice (Tribunal No. VS2000/0025).

Aboriginal landscape use, management and subsistence practices should be considered both on land and within the waters of the continental shelf. The landscape has outstanding tangible and intangible values and is of incredible cultural and spiritual significance to Gunditjmara people. Recorded intangible cultural values include the traditionally held belief of the spirits of Gunditjmara ancestors crossing the sea to Deen Maar (Lady Julia Percy Island), 8km off the coast to the east of Portland. The traditional burial practices of the Gunditjmara people are directly associated with this belief. The Budj Bim landscape is sacred to the Gunditjmara Peoples and was listed as a World Heritage Site in 2019. Tyrendarra ('where the rivers meet') is the southern component of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, located 6 km east of the northern portion of the Study Area. Budj Bim is home to the remains of Gunditjmara aquaculture systems used to channel water and farm eels, and permanent settlements with circular stone dwellings (Parks Victoria 2015).

Although the Project is not located within South Australian jurisdiction (either onshore or offshore), the offshore Study Area intersects with South Australian State Waters, indicating the proximity of the project

infrastructure. The Traditional Owners of South Australian land and State Waters within, and adjacent to the Study Area should be consulted. These Traditional Owners are the South East Aboriginal Focus Group, who are represented in business matters by the Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation through the Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance Agreement.

There are also other Aboriginal organisations and community groups operating within the wider social locality in addition to GMTOAC (Vic) and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (Vic), including Barwon South West Local Aboriginal Networks (LAN) and Gathering Places, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc (DWECHS) and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation.

Shire of Glenelg

In Victoria, the Project Area falls within the Australian electoral division of Wannon, which has been represented by Liberal Party MP Dan Tehan since 2010. Dan Tehan MP has been the Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment since December 2020 (Parliament of Australia, 2021).

In the Victorian parliament, the Project Area is located in the South-West Coast District (Legislative Assembly), and the Western Victoria Region (Legislative Council). Ms Roma Britnell MP of the Liberal Party has represented the South-West Coast District since 2015 (Victorian Electoral Commission, 2021).

The Western Victoria Region is represented by two Australian Labour Party members (Hon. Jaala Pulford, and Hon. Gayle Tierney), one Liberal Party member (Mrs Bev McArthur), one member of the Animal Justice Party (Mr Andy Meddick), and one member of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party (Mr Stuart James Grimley). (Victorian Electoral Commission, 2021).

The next Victorian State election is scheduled to be held on 26 November 2022.

The Glenelg Shire Council offices are located in the City of Portland, with the Shire formed in 1994 following the amalgamation of the City of Portland and the Shires of Glenelg and Heywood. Council elections were held in October 2020 and will be held again in October 2024. There are seven councillors on the Glenelg Shire Council, led by Councillor Anita Rank (Glenelg Shire Council, 2020). Cr Anita Rank has been the mayor since 2012 and is the first mayor to serve for five consecutive terms.

District Council of Grant

The District is represented by ten Elected Members representing three Wards. The Wards are Central Ward, Tarpeena Ward and Port MacDonnell Ward. The last Local Government elections were held in November 2018 with Elected Members appointed for a 4-year term. The next periodic council elections will take place in November 2022. The current Mayor is Richard Sage.

It is worth noting that on 8 September 2022, a submission was made to the Legislative Council to ascertain the level of support for amalgamation of the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier to form a single council.

City of Mount Gambier

The City of Mount Gambier is in the South Australian House of Assembly electoral district of Mount Gambier, which has been held since 2014 by former Liberal Party member Troy Bell, who was re-elected as an independent in the 2018 state election.

Federally, the City of Mount Gambier is in the Australian House of Representatives division of Barker, which has been represented by Tony Pasin since 2013. It is a safe Liberal Party of Australia seat.

The City of Mount Gambier office is in the City of Mount Gambier. Council elections were held in November 2018 and will be held again in November 2022. There are nine councillors on the City of Mount Gambier Council, led by Councillor Mrs Lynette Martin OAM. Councillor Mrs Lynette Martin has been the mayor since 2018. The electorate of Mount Gambier is governed by two councils - the City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant.

As noted under District Council of Grant, an amalgamation is being considered between the District Council of Grant and City of Mount Gambier. The vote on this was overwhelming rejected by the voters in both Grant and Mount Gambier.

1.5.7 Cultural Capital

Cultural capital refers to underlying factors that provide human societies with the means and adapt to their environment (Cochrane, 2006). It includes the way people know and understand their place within the world. It may also refer to the extent to which the local culture, traditions, or language, may promote or hinder wellbeing, social inclusion, and development (IAIA, 2015). This section provides a summary of the key characteristics of the social locality from a cultural capital perspective.

The Gunditjmara people are the Traditional Owners of the land within the Study Area, as well as of the land covering the broader Glenelg LGA. The Country of Gunditjmara people is diverse, it includes vast volcanic plains, stunning coastline, limestone caves, rich abundant forests, healthy rivers and plentiful Sea Country (Glenelg Shire Council, 2020). Historical evidence including oral histories suggests that the Gunditjmara Aboriginal population established permanent settlements up to 30,000 years ago in the southern area of the present-day Glenelg Shire. Refer to the Preliminary Cultural Heritage Constraints Assessment (Umwelt 2022) for further details.

The Boandik Peoples are the Traditional Owners of Country in neighbouring SA (District of Council Grant LGA and City of Mount Gambier LGA) from the coastal area south of Robe to the area around the mouth of the Glenelg River at Nelson, Victoria. The Bunganditj language is the reclaimed language of the Boandik people. The name Bunganditj comes from Bung-an-ditj or “people of the reeds”, reflecting the nature of the original landscape. Shell middens, rock shelters, and burial grounds are scattered throughout the area. The City of Mount Gambier has committed to a shared vision for reconciliation and is working with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to foster a strong cultural identity for the local area. This includes the acknowledgement, celebration and preservation of cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places. The implementation of dual names for sites of cultural significance is detailed as a key action in the ‘Yerkalalpata’ Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which was adopted in early 2020.

Further, the surrounding landscape is richly storied – while Western scientific knowledge tells us that The Blue Lake/Warwar and Valley Lake/Ketla Malpi craters formed during a volcanic eruption, according to the Dreamtime stories of the Boandik people, they were the work of the giant Craitbul; every time he lit a campfire, it was doused by emerging underground water, leaving gaping holes in the ground. (Discovermountgambier.com.au). Mount Gambier is also part of the Limestone Coast; the lands and waters of the Limestone Coast are central to the culture and beliefs of First Nations people, the Buandig, Bindjali and Ngarrindjeri people.

2.0 Stakeholder Identification

Social impact assessment (SIA) involves the participation and collaboration of people who have an interest in, or those that are affected by, a project. As Burdge (2004) outlines, stakeholders may be affected groups or individuals that:

- live, work, or recreate near the Project
- have an interest in the proposed action or change
- use or value a resource associated with the Project
- are affected by the Project.

Key stakeholder groups that should be consulted or engaged during the scoping and subsequent phases of the SIA are outlined in xxx.

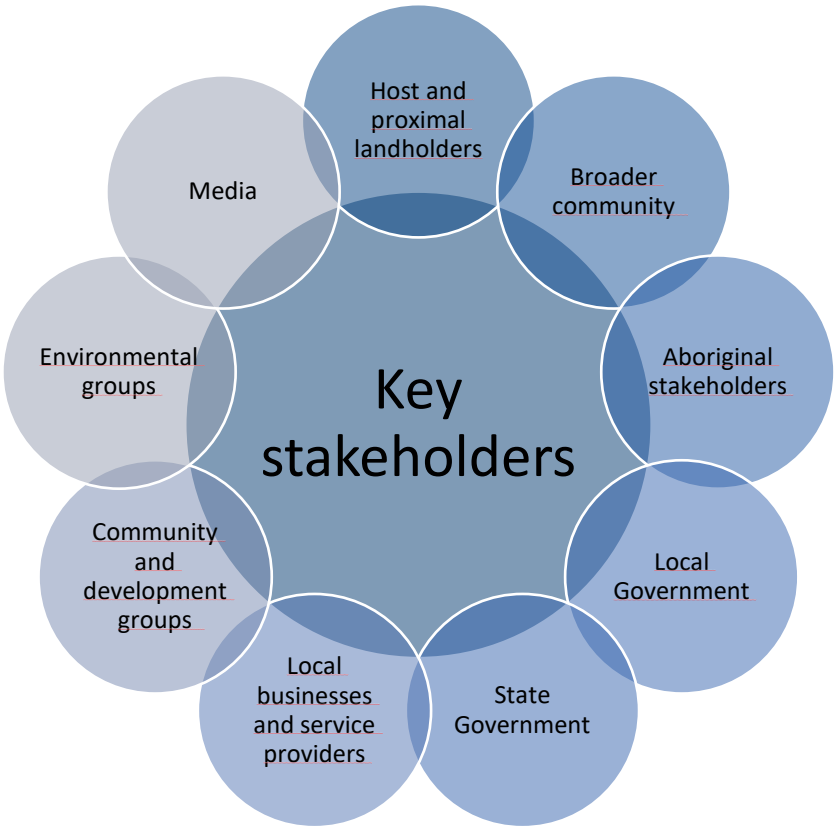

Figure 2.1 Key Stakeholder Groups

Source: Umwelt, 2022

Preliminary stakeholder analysis has identified the following groups to be engaged in subsequent phases of the assessment (refer to **Table 2.1**), noting that the proponents will continue to engage with relevant State Government and industry bodies.

Table 2.1 Potential Stakeholders for SIA Engagement

Potential Affected Stakeholder Group	Potential Stakeholders
Host landholders	Landowners upon which onshore Project infrastructure is proposed
Proximal landholders/ communities to onshore and offshore infrastructure	Private landholders proximal to the onshore and offshore Study Area: • Portland (Vic) • Casterton (Vic) • Heywood (Vic) • Nelson (Vic) • Port MacDonnell (SA) • Racecourse Bay (SA) • Cape Douglas (SA) • Wye (Vic) • Mount Richmond (Vic).
Broader Community	Residents in Glenelg, District of Grant and Mount Gambier LGA's
Ocean Users	Offshore users who value and/or use the offshore locality, which may include: • Maritime industries • Science and research institutes • Recreational users • Tourism operators, including whale watching and marine observation • Ferry operators and fishing charters • Commercial business.
Aboriginal Stakeholders	• Glenelg LGA (Vic) • RAP for Project Area - Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) • Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, including Barwon South West Local Aboriginal Networks (LAN) and Gathering Places, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc (DWECHS) and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. • Gunditjmara, Bunganditj and Jardwadjali people • Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant LGA (SA) • RAP - Boandik Peoples • Limestone Coast • Buandig people • Bindjali people • Ngarrindjeri people.
Local, State, and Federal Government	• Glenelg Shire Council • District Council of Grant • City of Mount Gambier • Department of Transport Ports Victoria • Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) • Heritage Victoria • Heritage South Australia • First Peoples – State Relations • Parks Victoria • National Parks and Wildlife Service, SA

Potential Affected Stakeholder Group	Potential Stakeholders
	• Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning • Regional Development Victoria • Regional Development Australia • Glenelg Hopkins CMA.
Local businesses and service providers	• Tourism operators • Discover Mount Gambier
Community and development groups	• Re-Alliance • Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group.
Environmental groups	• Friends of the Great South West Walk and Parks Victoria. • Nature Glenelg Trust • Birdlife Australia • Waterwatch Victoria • Landcare, Coastcare and Friends of Networks.

Source: Umwelt, 2022

3.0 Potential Impacts

Potential social impacts have been identified with consideration of the Project design, construction, operation, and decommissioning activities associated with the Project.

According to the *Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2006), the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (the Act) provides for the assessment of proposed projects that can have a significant effect on the environment. The 'environment' includes the physical, biological, heritage, cultural, social, health, safety, and economic aspects of human surroundings, including the wider ecological and physical systems within which humans live. Social effects may include:

- potential changes to local population and demographic profiles
- social structure and networks
- residential amenity and social well-being
- social vulnerability and differential effects on parts of the community
- housing and social infrastructure needs
- perceptions of aesthetic, recreational and other social values of landscape or locality
- attitudes to proposed development (Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2006).

When considering potential impacts, this report groups social impacts according to the following categories, as shown in **Figure 1.3**. Such impacts include changes to people's way of life, community, accessibility, culture, health and wellbeing, surroundings, livelihoods, and decision-making systems.

An overview of potential impacts associated with the project and the corresponding Risk ID are identified in the preliminary impact identification in **Table 3.1.** Where cumulative impacts may also be experienced, this is also indicated in the table.

Table 3.1 Potential Social Impacts

SIA Category	Impact	Positive / Negative	Project Component	Phase	Stakeholder Group	Cumulative impact
Surroundings	Disruption to onshore and offshore ecological sites and habitats, of value to the community and visitors to the area, such as the Ramsar Wetlands, affecting community sense of place and ability to control surrounds.	Negative	Onshore: Transmission line	Construction and operation	Broader community Environmental groups Community groups Ocean users Local businesses and service providers	✓
Surroundings	Impacts on visual amenity associated with the construction and operational presence of the wind turbines and the potential overhead transmission line infrastructure.	Negative	Onshore and Offshore: Turbines Transmission line	Construction and Operation	Broader community Visitors/tourists to the area Environmental groups Community groups	✓
Surroundings	Concerns around underground cabling, including impacts to housing and water bodies associated with subsidence.	Negative	Onshore: Transmission line	Construction and operation	Host/Proximal landholders Broader community	✓
Surroundings Way of Life	Aesthetic changes to the coastline may alter the characteristics and values of the coastal landscape impacting amenity.	Negative	Offshore: Turbines Substations	Planning, Construction and operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers Visitors/tourists to the area	✓
Surroundings	Construction impacts due to project-related traffic (inaccessibility, road closures, increased travel time, road deterioration causing public safety risk or changes to commuter travel).	Negative	Whole of Project	Construction	Broader community Local Government Local businesses and service providers	✓
Surroundings	Social amenity issues associated with construction of onshore substation and transmission line e.g., noise and lighting.	Negative	Onshore: Transmission line Substation	Construction and operation	Broader community Host and proximal landholders	✓

SIA Category	Impact	Positive / Negative	Project Component	Phase	Stakeholder Group	Cumulative impact
Surroundings **Livelihoods**	Disruption and / or displacement of current land uses due to construction and operation of onshore Project infrastructure.	Negative	Transmission line	Construction and operation	Host and proximal landholders	
Livelihoods	Disruptions to local tourism, including the Great South West Walk, due to perceived industrialisation of the landscape reducing visitor experience.	Negative	Whole of Project	Operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers Local Government Visitors/tourists to the area	✓
Livelihoods **Way of life**	Local employment generation and procurement of local businesses/services resulting in decreased unemployment rates, diversified income stream, enhanced livelihoods and local economic benefits.	Positive	Whole of Project	Construction and operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers Local Government	✓
Livelihoods **Way of life**	Impacts to maritime industries (e.g., local fisheries) due to clearing or disruption of critical habitats or other temporary or permanent ecological change/ exclusion zones or reduced access.	Negative	Offshore: Turbines Substations	Construction and operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers Ocean users	✓
Surroundings **Way of Life** **Accessibility**	Impacts to maritime recreational activities due to clearing or disruption of critical habitats or other temporary or permanent ecological change/ exclusion zones or reduced access.	Negative	Offshore: Turbines Substations	Construction and operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers Ocean users	✓
Surroundings **Way of Life** **Accessibility**	Impacts to onshore recreation activities due to clearing of critical habitats or other temporary or permanent ecological change/ exclusion zones or reduced access.	Negative	Onshore: Transmission line	Construction and operation	Broader community Local businesses and service providers	✓

SIA Category	Impact	Positive / Negative	Project Component	Phase	Stakeholder Group	Cumulative impact
Accessibility	Impacts on availability and affordability of short-term accommodation in construction phases, particularly in areas with high levels of tourism activity.	Negative	Whole of Project	Construction	Broader community Local businesses and service providers	✓
Accessibility	Increased energy security and reliability for the future.	Positive	Whole of Project	Operation	Broader community	✓
Surroundings **Decision making**	Reduced reliance on carbon emitting industries combined with ability to support power supply for local smelter and other local industries.	Positive	Whole of Project	Operations	Broader community	
Culture	Impacts relating to connection to Country and cultural values (tangible and intangible).	Negative	Whole of Project	Planning, construction and operation	Traditional Owners Aboriginal stakeholders	✓
Community	Reduction in levels of social cohesion resulting from differing levels of support for the Project.	Negative	Whole of Project	Planning	Broader community	✓
Community	Changes to sense of place for coastal communities and/or location due to onshore facilities.	Negative	Whole of Project	Operations	Proximal communities	✓
Decision making	Low community acceptance based on limited understanding of the Project (unfamiliarity with offshore wind technology).	Negative	Whole of Project	Planning	Broader community Community and special interest groups Environmental groups	
Decision making	Perceived lack of fairness and quality of decision-making processes.	Negative	Whole of Project	Planning	Broader community	

SIA Category	Impact	Positive / Negative	Project Component	Phase	Stakeholder Group	Cumulative impact
Surroundings **Livelihoods** **Way of life** **Community** **Decision making**	Cumulative community impacts on local township service provision from high volume of existing onshore and committed offshore large-scale wind farms across the region.	Negative	Whole of Project	Planning, construction and operation	Broader community Local Government Local businesses and service providers Community and special interest groups	✓

4.0 Recommendations

This section outlines recommended actions to address the social impacts identified in the preliminary assessment, with proposed strategies outlined in **Table 4.1**.

No specific design constraints relating to social impacts have been identified that have potential to affect the suitability of the Project site. However, it will be important for a comprehensive social and economic impact assessment to be undertaken to assess key social impacts relating to the Project and to develop appropriate management and enhancement strategies. The SIA should be informed by thorough stakeholder engagement across the assessment phase.

Table 4.1 Potential Social Impacts and Recommendations

Identified Social Impacts	Recommended Actions
Impacts on surroundings - Ecological / marine impacts	Consider refinements to project design based on an understanding of community values and key landscape or natural features of concern, in consultation with affected or interested parties. Identify ecological concerns and communicate key assessment and management/ interventions. Avoid sensitive ecological sites and implement biosecurity management planning. Further ecological studies to assess potential impacts to migratory birds and provide design response where possible. Values mapping to be undertaken in consultation with community groups to inform Project design as part of the SIA and Community Engagement Program.
Changing coastal vista and sense of place	Project layout and design to consider proximity to residential properties and dwellings and direct consideration of visual impact. Values mapping to be undertaken to understand community values associated with the offshore environment and key uses and aspirations. Ensure a proactive, comprehensive and transparent consultation process through project assessment phases. Develop a shared benefit strategy in consultation with the community, informed through SIA outcomes and community engagement. Undertake early consultation with proximal neighbours to develop neighbour agreements where required.
Disruptions to agricultural activities	Consult with affected landholders to inform personal property plans, providing flexibility around individual property features and circumstances should the onshore infrastructure impact agricultural land. Project design to utilise existing cleared land or service corridors where possible and limit impact to current land uses.
Construction impacts – Community Housing/Accommodation	Proactive community consultation process throughout Project planning, assessment, and development. Route selection to minimise, where possible, adverse effect on private land and alternate land uses, case-by-case and in consultation with affected parties. Construction activities limited to specific times of the day to consider mobility patterns and reduce impacts on local communities. Use of workforce shuttle buses to reduce traffic impacts. Develop Workforce Accommodation Plan with engagement of local housing/accommodation providers.

Identified Social Impacts	Recommended Actions
	Consideration of the generation of additional housing to support the influx of construction workers, for example through a temporary workers village or through collaboration with local housing providers and local government.
Tourism	Collaborate with local tourism providers and community groups to understand concerns and priorities and visitation trends and attractions. Consult with community groups and service providers in design and development of relevant benefit sharing and community enhancement programs. Construction activities limited to specific times of the day to reduce impacts on local and regional tourism activities.
Traditional Owners	Work collaboratively with GMTOAC in project planning and assessment. Co-design of Cultural Heritage Management Plans. Develop an Aboriginal Participation Plan. Undertake a comprehensive Cultural Values Assessment.
Cumulative impacts from multiple offshore projects	Consider the cumulative impacts of workforce accommodation associated with other industry uses and project development in the area. Identify and communicate key impacts and opportunities associated with the project to key stakeholders and the community.
Maritime industries **e.g., commercial and recreational fishing, boating uses**	Engage with other maritime users to understand potential issues and concerns in relation to the project and to develop appropriate management strategies as required.
Perceived lack of fairness (e.g., neighbour inequity)	Consult with and facilitate input from proximal resident to ensure a comprehensive understanding of individual circumstance and values.
Employment and procurement opportunities	Provision of training and upskilling for local people and facilitation of local employment and procurement opportunities. Preparation of a Local Participation and Social Procurement Plan.

5.0 Key Project Risks

The following table identifies the key social risks/impacts that may affect the timing, cost, approvals, design, or other elements critical to the project viability and delivery success. These will also be captured in the project risk register.

Table 5.1 Key Project Risks

Project Risk	Recommendation
Community opposition particularly relating to the cumulative impacts of offshore wind development	SIA and Comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Poor community engagement practice	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan that identifies key stakeholder groups and engagement strategies at different assessment phases.
Poor engagement with TOs and the Aboriginal community	Early engagement with GMTOAC and the nearby Boandik people to identify concerns and opportunities and develop an Aboriginal Engagement Plan.
Loss of economic income to communities due to reduction in tourism	Engagement with tourism industry to identify concerns and opportunities and to document social impacts.
Shortage of local accommodation during construction	Engagement with local accommodation providers to understand concerns and opportunities and document social impacts. Develop a Workforce Accommodation Plan.
Social impacts associated with population influx during construction particularly relating to factors such as access to local services and potential for anti-social behaviour of construction workers	Consultation with relevant stakeholders to identify concerns and develop management strategies to address population influx associated with construction activities.
Local employment/ procurement benefits are not realised	Develop Local Participation Plan and Social Procurement Strategy.
Changing coastal vista and sense of place	Values mapping to understand community values associated with the offshore environment and key uses and aspirations.
Disruption to other onshore and offshore users	Understanding of the various users that may be affected by the project relating to both on and offshore activities.
There are several other projects which have recently been approved for development or are currently in a planning phase across the area of social influence. Such developments may further intensify impacts experienced by local communities across the region or could result in cumulative changes to the community when considered in conjunction with the Project. Despite the general support for a switch to renewable energy generation and consumption, it is possible the placement of the turbines may attract attention from marine protection groups concerned about how the Project will influence migratory patterns, considering its proximity to Ramsar wetlands and national parks.	Early and consistent engagement with local government, industry groups and regional intergovernmental bodies to ensure planning and coordination b.etween projects.

6.0 Conclusion

The preliminary social risks and opportunities analysis has been undertaken to inform and support the refinement of Project design. A detailed assessment of social impacts is required as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and should be informed by an ongoing process of community consultation. As part of the EES, future stages of the SIA for this Project should include a comprehensive assessment and evaluation of social impacts and development of relevant strategies to mitigate the negative and enhance the positive impacts associated with the Project. Further SIA and technical environmental studies should address perceptions of impacts raised by key stakeholders during this phase.

Subsequent phases of the SIA program should involve the following key activities:

- Development of a detailed social baseline study.
- Further validation of the area of social influence and identification of affected communities and any vulnerable groups.
- Development of a comprehensive community engagement program to involve key stakeholders in the identification of social impacts and assessment process.
- A comprehensive assessment and evaluation of social impacts against existing baseline conditions.
- Further social studies as outlined in **Table 4.1**.

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