

Minutes

Community Advisory Group meeting #12

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4:00pm – 6:15pm
Minutes	Julia Preston	Date	2022-05-18
Location	Traralgon Golf Club, Princes Highway, Traralgon		

Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies
Wendy Farmer	Jenny Smith		Erin Coldham	Glenn Stagg
Jack Winterbottom	Glenn McColl		Sarah Altmann	Travis Dillow
Tony Cantwell	Nicole Jennings		Susan McMillan	Nina Barry-Macaulay
Deb Lucas	Caleb Barlow		Julia Preston	Jonathan Pintus
Jessica Young	Peter Mooney		Alastair McKenzie	Marcus McKenzie
Allan Rogers	Darren McCubbin		David Murray	Harry Mitchelson
Mary-Lou Dixon	Tony Wolfe		Stella Bodman	
			Mandy Elliott	
			Consultants	
			Glenn Weston	

Key discussion points

Item	Discussion points
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
2	Standing items and actions from previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of minutes from CAG meeting #11.
3	What's happening on the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to presentation for key updates Reminder that Victorian Government consultation on Offshore Wind Policy Directions Paper has been extended until 30 June. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to participate. The Federal Government has consulted Star of the South on the first round of regulations for the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act (OEIA). The focus of this stage

Item	Discussion points
	<p>was on cost recovery and the licencing process. Star of the South will share its submission with the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star of the South’s Melbourne Knowledge Week event attracted more than 160 attendees. Ian attended and Tony W participated in the panel discussion. • Geotechnical investigations are continuing along the proposed transmission route. • A ports assessment will be undertaken in 2022/23 to identify suitable ports for construction and operations. The group expressed interest in this topic and Star of the South will invite the project’s recently appointed Ports Manager to a future meeting to discuss further. • Questions and comments from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the next round of OEIA regulations include information on fishing restrictions and access? Star of the South has been advised that the next stage will be released in spring but not about what it will include. Erin noted that the legislation passed in November 2021 sets out a clear principle of shared use of the waters. • Would Star of the South consider an electricity retail arm in the future? No.
4	<p>What’s happening in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Jennings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of recent meeting held in Giffard West with VicGrid about future transmission infrastructure planned for the area. • Advised of another transmission line proposed by AusNet. AusNet are talking with landholders. • Suggested that Star of the South hold an information session specifically for landholders. • Advised some landholders are finding legal costs are greater than the \$5,000 allowed for by Star of the South. • Landholders are still concerned about impacts to farming operations. • Questions and comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can the easement impact on property sales? At this stage no one is thinking of selling due to Star of the South. - Wendy advised AusNet sought her advice on how to engage with the local community and she suggested they follow the approach taken by Star of the South. • Jack Winterbottom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting held between Star of the South, the bird specialist preparing technical reports for the project and community members with concerns about birds impacts. • Darren McCubbin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised Gippsland Renewable Energy Conference being planned for August, led by Wellington Shire Council. More information to come. • Allan Rogers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared that the McLoughlins Beach Jetty received funding and will be rebuilt as part of an \$18 million package for piers and jetties across Victoria from the Victorian Budget 2022-23.

Item	Discussion points
	Volunteers to share an update in the next meeting: Mary-Lou and Wendy.
5	<p>Focus on social impact assessment and workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to presentation for overview. • Refer to attachment for workshop notes. • Questions and comments from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens if there's negative feedback about how the project looks? All feedback is welcome and will be considered in a social impact assessment. There are not many mitigation options for visual impacts from an offshore wind project, and many have already been built into project development – such as site selection. • Would the wind farm be visible from popular Wilsons Prom locations Mount Oberon or Sealers Cove? There will be locations on Wilsons Prom where the project would be visible in certain conditions. Wilsons Prom is at least 22 km away from the nearest turbine. Some views from the eastern coast of Wilsons Prom are available on the project website and can be provided as a higher resolution image on request. The project team will seek advice from specialists on other locations which are further away, such as Mount Oberon and Sealers Cove. Once this information is received it will be passed on to the Community Advisory Group. • Members provided details about local groups to consider talking to including Bushwalking Victoria and the Strzelecki walking group. • Erin requested that CAG members provide advice on any groups or individuals with an interest in Wilsons Promontory so the project team can contact them to provide information and seek their input. • Members noted that that long-term visitors to Wilsons Promontory would be concerned if there were changes to the landscape. • Will Star of the South consider visual impact to locations along the transmission route? Substations along the route will be assessed for visual impact. Erin advised that if any CAG members would like to provide input to Glenn's study or want to speak to him about it further, they can make contact via email to info@starofthesouth.com.au and we will connect you.
6	<p>Other items, questions and feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a request for a community member to attend a CAG meeting. The Chair invited feedback from the group on how these requests should be managed. No-one opposed to guests in principle. Star of the South and Chair will consider an appropriate way to assess future requests. • Questions and comments from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would Star of the South use the AusNet GREZ transmission line? Star of the South is progressing its own transmission line. This is a big and complex topic that warrants a more detailed conversation. Noted as a future agenda item. • Suggested future meeting topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission and grid connection – including potential for shared infrastructure • Ports

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Share Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act submission with group and add to website.	Julia Preston	23/06/2022
2	Star of the South to seek specialist advice on visibility of wind farm from various locations at Wilsons Promontory and share with CAG.	Julia Preston	23/6/2022
3	CAG members to provide advice on any groups or individuals with an interest in Wilsons Promontory so the project team can contact them to provide information and seek their input. Email to info@starofthesouth.com.au	CAG members	23/6/2022
4	Develop proposal for managing requests from community members to attend or observe CAG meetings	Chair Julia Preston	20/6/2022

Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
Thursday 23 June 2022	4pm – 6pm	Bond Street Event Centre, 10 Bond St Sale

Workshop notes

Manns / Robertsons Beach

What are the values / resources?	Who hold / uses them?	How could they be affected (+ or -)?	What could we do?
Birds nesting and can be seen at low tide	Birdlife enthusiasts	No direct impact on birdlife (+ve)	
Birds that can't be seen in other places	Birdlife enthusiasts	Wind farm won't have an effect	
Mudflat areas good for birdlife	Birdlife enthusiasts		
Astronomy interests - street lighting	Visitors, holiday house owners, those with interest in astronomy		
Local fishing	Fishing locals, holiday house owners	Recreational fishing, no impact as general stay inside inlet	
Accommodation and housing	People who live locally, holiday houses	Real estate value and housing demand	
The view	Tourists, those live locally	More tourists to see the view	

Port Albert

What are the values / resources?	Who hold / uses them?	How could they be affected (+ or -)?	What could we do?
Boating access & infrastructure Boat ramp / jetty marina	Tourists Birders Residents (green focus, engineering interest) Green focus (net position)		
Close to Yarram		Influx of new residents (given proximity to Yarram)	
Historic (museum, buildings)			
Tourist destination	Those who value a natural character Curious	More tourism	
Fish and chips			
Clonmel Island - hard to access	Birders Those who value natural character Scientific focus 'Big picture'	Views of turbines	
Natural character of the town	Residents Tourists	Influx of new residents (given proximity to Yarram)	
Port Albert	General comment - people surprised by how much they will see, but no opinion formed. Jenny doesn't expect negative opinions.		
Port Albert	People who don't benefit more likely to have negative view. Divide between "winners and losers".		

Port Albert	Scenic bay / walks	People who love morning walks along the bay. Looking at the bay, boats - not so much looking out to sea. No walking groups/clubs. Just individuals.	Some may no longer enjoy the view. Others will find it interesting.
Port Albert	General comment - mix of new residents, old residents - different perspectives (generational) based on personal opinion and values.		

McLoughlin's Beach

What are the values / resources?	Who hold / uses them?	How could they be affected (+ or -)?	What could we do?
Beach	Generations of residents	Marine habitat improvement (+ve) Seeing turbines (-ve and +ve)	Can the turbines be another colour? Not so stark white?
Fishing	Fisherman	Increase fish habitat (+ve) Less safe to fish offshore (-ve)	Number the turbines for safety Access to all waters for fisherman - 100m max exclusion zone around each turbine
Boat ramp			
Board walk	Dog walkers		
No shops			
Serenity			
No commercial development		Seeing turbines (-ve and +ve) Clean energy (+ve)	Boat tours (tourism)
Small	Tourists, residents		
Safe	Tourists, residents, fisherman		
Community feeling	Community living there and holiday makers		
Marine life		Food habitat for marine life, improved eco-system offshore	

Woodside Beach

What are the values / resources?	Who hold / uses them?	How could they be affected (+ or -)?	What could we do?
Good surfing beach with a surf club - brings young people	Surf life savers (important for young people in the district) Home owners, land owners	Does it change waves for surfers	Explain what is happening offshore Opportunity for signage, viewing platform/outlook
Beach	Tourists	Curiosity factor - people want to check it out	
BBQs in the summer / food trucks	Pub owners		
Camping (free areas as well) - shaded and sheltered - popular	Campers - local and other Gippsland areas Service station owners Pub owners	May increase visitors to see the turbines	
Near the start of 90 Mile Beach	Walkers Home owners, land owners Investors	A different beach with turbines (visually)	
Country beach, nothing there	Home owners, land owners	A different beach with turbines (visually) Will change the feeling/natural experience to a more industrial feel Renewable energy (not chimney stacks)	VicRoads signage directing people like a tourist attraction
Caravan park is busy - people fight for a spot	Campers	Curiosity factor - people want to check it out	Come at Christmas when busy - stubby holders, stickers - at the pub. 'I came to see the offshore wind farm...' Offshore wind - I'm a fan!

Woodside Beach	Quite confronting. Very visible. Looks cool.		
Woodside Beach	Ocean views	Residents in that town, SLSC, Caravan Park.	
Good walking beach	Walkers Home owners, land owners		
Pub returning - only have the servo at the moment	Home owners, land owners Investors New pub owners Servo owner	Good for businesses and more employment if local businesses are viable Or area could be over-run, and not enough infrastructure in the town	
Being able to meet at the Pub	Home owners, land owners New pub owners		
Community spirit	Landcare group (35 years going) Home owners, land owners New pub owners		Don't give up on community engagement, even when up and running Other social initiatives
Strong football/netball club (fairly successful)	Home owners, land owners Footy club / netball club participants		Support the club with Sponsorship
Dune vegetation - coastal environmental values	People who are into coastal ecology		
Fishing	People who are into coastal ecology Home owners, land owners	Increase in surf fish, better for fishers	

Go to spot' for a day at the beach	Locals, Yarram and Latrobe Valley, Giffard, Darriman, Gormandale, Won Wron, Woodside Home owners, land owners		
Cultural significance	Traditional Owners, community		History of the area, cultural heritage, information acknowledgement Traditional Owners

Other

Location	What are the values / resources?	Who hold / uses them?	How could they be affected (+ or -)?	What could we do?
90 Mile Beach	Quiet, unspoiled beach	Individuals, residents, visitors	Comments - don't believe people will change behaviour (e.g. won't stop walking on the beach, won't experience decreased enjoyment).	
General				General comment - need to make explicit the benefit that is provided to the community as trade off (e.g. jobs for kids, community benefit fund, energy security).

General				General comment - it can be a tourist attraction, more people visiting the caravan park, Woodside pub patrons. A lot of positives.
General (opportunity)				Visitors centre - attract visitors, tourism, link project to benefits (how much power is being generated, cameras feeding back real time info) E.g. Snowy visitors centre. Electric charger points for electric cars.
General				Visitors trail - look out points for different views along the coast.
General				Build pride in the project amongst local community - unique, first in Australia, powering Victoria/Australia.

<p>General brainstorm of people who should be consulted</p>		<p>First Nations, community forum (generally well attended if advertised well, later afternoon/evening or weekend - focus on effect on that community), Yoga on the beach (Port Albert - Holly Johnson), SLSC, Coast Guard (Gippsland Squad) , Seaspray SLSC, Woodside Caravan Park, Garry Stephens (bike riding groups through Tarra Tourism)</p>		
<p>General idea</p>				<p>Sponsor battery packs that GCCN are putting together to help people during power outages.</p>