

# Minutes

## Community Advisory Group meeting #14

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Minutes	Jason Pickering	Date	2022-08-17
Location	RW May Pavilion, Yarram Recreational Reserve, Yarram		

## Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies	
Caleb Barlow	Marcus McKenzie		Sarah Altmann		Travis Dillow
Jack Winterbottom	Glenn McColl		Charles Rattray		Nikki Jennings
Darren McCubbin	Harry Mitchelson		Erin Coldham		Tony Cantwell
Deb Lucas	Wendy Farmer		Myles Daniel		Jenny Smith
Jonathan Pintus	Jessica Young		Lachlan McKinnon		
Allan Rogers			Jason Pickering		
Glenn Stagg					
Tony Wolfe					
Peter Mooney					
Julianne Peavey					

## Key discussion points

Item	Discussion points
1	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b>
2	<b>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement of minutes from CAG meeting #13.</li> <li>• Mary-Lou Dixon resignation from CAG acknowledged. Her well wishes passed on for the project, including suggestions to increase youth involvement. Ian acknowledged Mary-Lou's contribution and will thank her on behalf of the group.</li> </ul>
3	<b>What's happening on the project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Refer to presentation for key updates.</a></li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erin highlighted current Australian Government consultation underway regarding offshore areas being considered for offshore renewable development. Encouraged all to take part and share with contacts/communities.</li> <li>• Glen noted that Australian Government will run open house sessions in Gippsland – dates to be confirmed. (Note: <a href="#">now confirmed and available here</a>)</li> <li>• New Star of the South team members introduced: Charles Rattray – CEO, Myles Daniel – Director Engineering, Procurement and Construction, Jason Pickering – Community Liaison Officer</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>What’s happening in the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darren provided an overview of the recent Gippsland New Energy Conference, describing it as very successful and positive event that brought together government, industry, education providers, school students, and community.</li> <li>• Allan commented that the release of a map from the Australian Government showing the area being considered for offshore renewable development has raised concerns in the community due to the sheer size of the area. Some people mistakenly believe the entire area is being developed or that it’s all related to Star of the South. Suggested that the project make a version of this map available which shows the project area overlaid on the broader area being considered by government. This suggestion was supported by others in the group.</li> <li>• Allan recommended that Star of the South run another formal information session (in a hall, with presentation). Pop up events are good but don’t provide the same level of information.</li> <li>• Ian acknowledged that the government consultation has made an enormous impact, not all positive, and we need to openly encourage submissions if people have feedback. Both Erin and Charles confirmed that Star of the South urge members to make submissions, be they good, bad or indifferent, and encourage others to do the same.</li> <li>• Allan asked if other countries are investing in renewables. Charles advised yes, there is massive global investment. For example, China installed more offshore wind in the last year than every other country in the world.</li> <li>• Peter queried whether the scale of investment elsewhere in the world presents supply chain challenges and competition for goods and services – will this be an issue for Star of the South? Charles highlighted supply chain as the number one risk to the project timelines.</li> <li>• Travis by proxy, and seconded by Deb, advised that the Woodside Beach community is highly concerned about offshore wind farms spoiling beach views.</li> <li>• Peter noted there is increasing interest and questions about transmission in the area, while not related to this project, it is still elevating community worry about changes and impacts in the area.</li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
5	<p><b>Focus on: Transmission and grid connection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Refer to presentation for overview.</a></li> <li>• Erin highlighted that there are many complexities with transmission development, including alignment, interface with existing infrastructure, timing, capacity and grid connection location and process.</li> <li>• She noted that, while the project is in open dialogue with AusNet and government about broader transmission plans in the region, Star of the South’s transmission development is much further progressed. To achieve power to the grid by 2028 it is important to continue developing a stand-alone transmission connection for the project. Erin also noted that more than one new transmission line will be required to bring the amount of renewable capacity needed into the grid.</li> <li>• This topic generated significant discussion about how the grid works, challenges with grid connection.</li> <li>• Questions from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenn asked about Electromagnetic Fields – taken on notice</li> <li>• Question about whether Star of the South’s cables could be installed in the Basslink easement. Myles answered that a recently completed ‘proximity study’ indicates that there’s minimal impact on Basslink’s electrical system from the project’s proposed cables, so we are progressing discussions about whether we can share some of the easement. Burying cables reduces interference between the two systems. The key question now is how construction and heavy machinery could be managed safely within the easement and there may be constraints around this.</li> <li>• Tony W and Peter commented on constraints at connection points in the Latrobe Valley, with some capacity constraints at Loy Yang and competition for land and bays around both Loy Yang and Hazelwood. Erin noted that Star of the South is continuing to progress a preferred connection at Loy Yang with a back-up option at Hazelwood. The energy market is highly dynamic so it’s hard to predict now what the situation might be in a few years’ time.</li> <li>• Glenn S asked where G-REZ plan to connect to the grid. Erin answered that the preferred transmission route goes to Hazelwood. <a href="#">G-REZ map can be found here.</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Brief update: Seabed Studies (geotechnical investigations)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Refer to presentation for overview.</a></li> <li>• Myles informed the group about the first proposed geotechnical campaign for the project.</li> <li>• Questions from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allan asked about noise from driving monopiles during construction. A key focus for the project is underwater noise and minimising the impact on marine mammals through using tools like “bubble curtains” and marine mammal spotters onboard.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Other items, questions and feedback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group was encouraged to join the CAG Member Teams channel, and to say hello and write a comment. Caleb suggested resending the link.</li> <li>• Jonathan requested that the Offshore Wind Jobs Guide be distributed when available and could be a future agenda item.</li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peter proposed maybe allocating further question/discussion time for future meetings to boost understanding opportunities.</li> </ul>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Star of the South to provide dates for Australian Government open house sessions when available.	Jason Pickering	24/8/22
2	Provide Star of the South Landholder Handbook in response to queries about transmission infrastructure	Jason Pickering	24/8/22
3	Star of the South to respond to questions taken on notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EMF</li> <li>- Proposed transmission easement arrangement</li> <li>- Heat from underground cables</li> </ul>	Jason Pickering	24/8/22
4	Re-send instructions for CAG Member page	Julia Preston	24/8/22
5	CAG members to download Microsoft Teams app to access new CAG member page and join in chat.	All	30/8/22
6	Star of the South to kick off annual review process to seek feedback from CAG members.	Jason Pickering	30/8/22

## Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
Thursday 6 October	4-6 pm	Latrobe Valley

## Questions taken on notice

### Easement layout

The Star of the South 'Landholder Handbook' has been added to the CAG member page. to the 'files' section so you can see information supplied to and discussed with landholders, including details of the proposed easements.

### Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

Powerlines, electrical appliances and wiring all emit electromagnetic fields (EMF) – we're all exposed to some level of EMF daily. Leading public health bodies confirm that extensive research over the past 30 years has not found a link between exposure to low level electromagnetic fields, such as those from powerlines, and health effects. Our transmission system will be designed and operated well within the international and Australian guidelines for EMF. An EMF study will be undertaken for our environmental assessments (looking at both human and marine health) and the report made available for public review and comment.

<https://www.starofthesouth.com.au/s/SOTS-Technical-studies-factsheet-Aug-2021-FINAL-LR-v2.pdf>

### Heat generated from underground cables

Cable trenches are filled with a special 'thermal backfill' which ensures the cable system operates at an appropriate temperature. Conductor temperature is around 90 degrees and, as you can see in the diagram below, the temperature drops rapidly – e.g. 5 cm away the ground temperature drops to 20 degrees. Our cables are proposed to be buried around 1 m below ground.

