

# Community Advisory Group

Meeting #14 – 17 August 2022

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we all meet today and pay our respect to their elders past, present and future.

We recognise the Gunaikurnai people as Traditional Owners of the area in which the Star of the South would be located.

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Standing items and actions
  - Apologies
  - Minutes
  - Declaration of potential conflicts
  - Welcome to new members
3. What's happening on the project
4. What's happening in the community
5. Focus topic: Transmission and grid connection
6. Focus topic: Seabed studies
7. Other business
  - Questions, feedback, suggestions
  - CAG Teams channel
  - CAG 12-month review
  - CAG visitor guidelines
  - Next meeting

# Welcome



Charles Rattray

**Chief Executive Officer**



Jason Pickering

**Community Liaison Officer**



Myles Daniel

**Director Engineering, Procurement  
and Construction**

We've got two new additions to our team – and one you haven't met yet!

# What's been happening

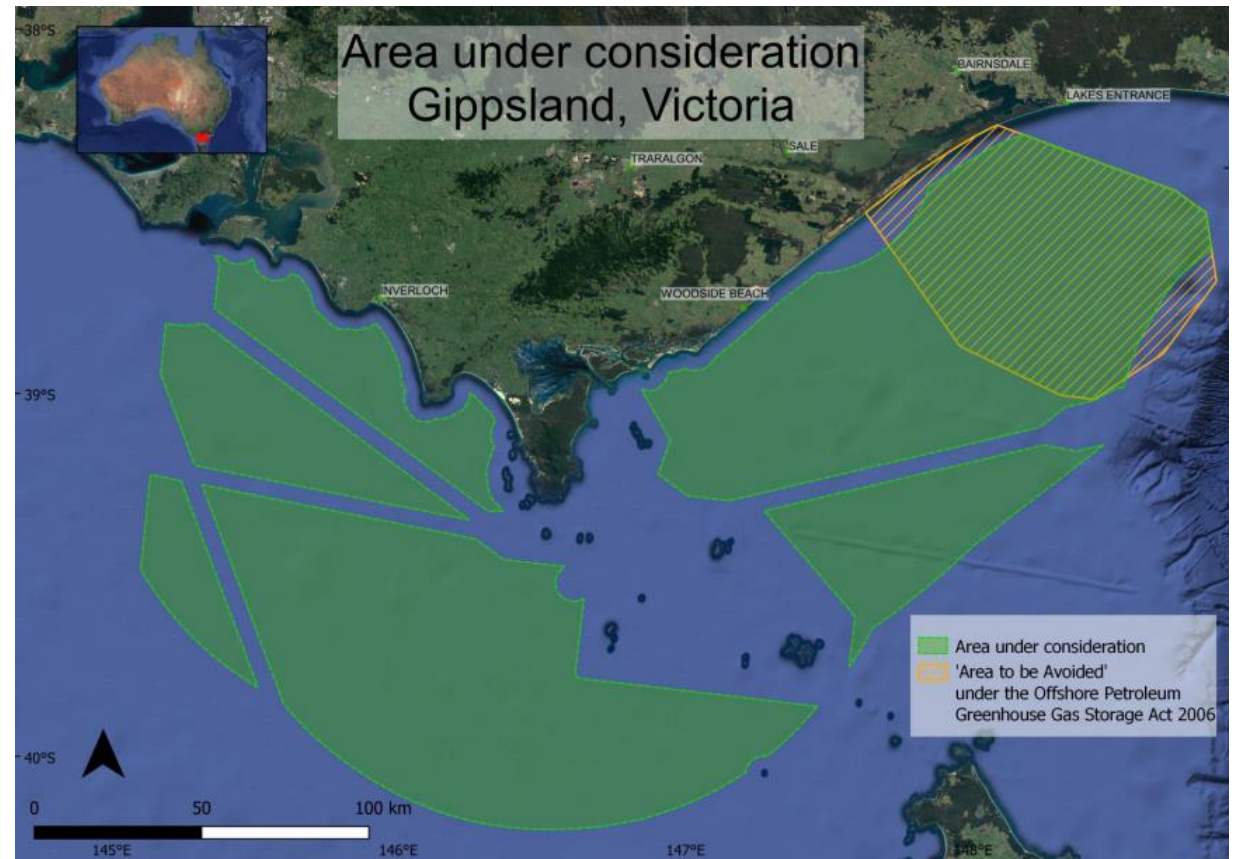
- **Government consultation for Gippsland offshore wind zone open** at [consult.industry.gov.au](http://consult.industry.gov.au)
- **Attended local events** - Jobskills Expo, Science Week @ Gippsland Tech School, Fed Uni Open Day, Yarram vs Woodside, Melbourne Uni energy industry night
- **Presentations to** Box Hill Central Rotary and Morwell Rotary
- **Talking offshore wind at industry events** – CEC Clean Energy Summit, Australian Wind Energy 2022, Local ICN Showcases, Gippsland New Energy Conference
- We collected our **floating LiDARs**
- **Completed ground investigations** along the transmission route
- Continuing discussions with **commercial fishers**



We've had some exciting announcements since our last meeting

# Government consultation

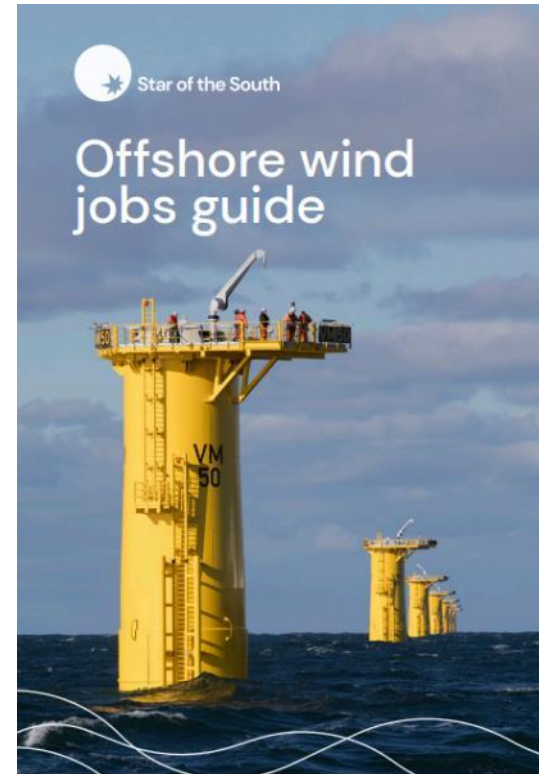
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is consulting on the suitability of offshore renewable energy infrastructure in Commonwealth waters off Gippsland, Victoria
- To have your say visit <https://consult.industry.gov.au/oei-gippsland>
- Community consultation is open until 7 October 2022



Have your say on the Government's offshore renewable energy infrastructure area proposal

# What's coming up

- **Release of our offshore wind jobs guide** showcasing typical roles in offshore wind
- **Community presentations and events** including Traralgon Farmers Market (24 September), Woodside Surf Life Saving Club (September school holidays), Melbourne Boat Show (October), Yarram Agricultural Show (November)
- **Industry events** including Seafood Directions (September) and Offshore Wind Australia Conference (October)
- **Project update community sessions** around Gippsland now planned for November
- **Industry bulletin #3** to be released next week
- **Supply chain engagement** and study
- **Meeting with** fishing clubs



Let us know if you hear of local events we could take part in

# What's happening in the community

- Darren McCubbin – Gippsland New Energy Conference overview
- Everyone
  - What are you hearing?
  - What are the hot topics in your local area?

Would you like to give an update at the next meeting?



Share what's happening in your community





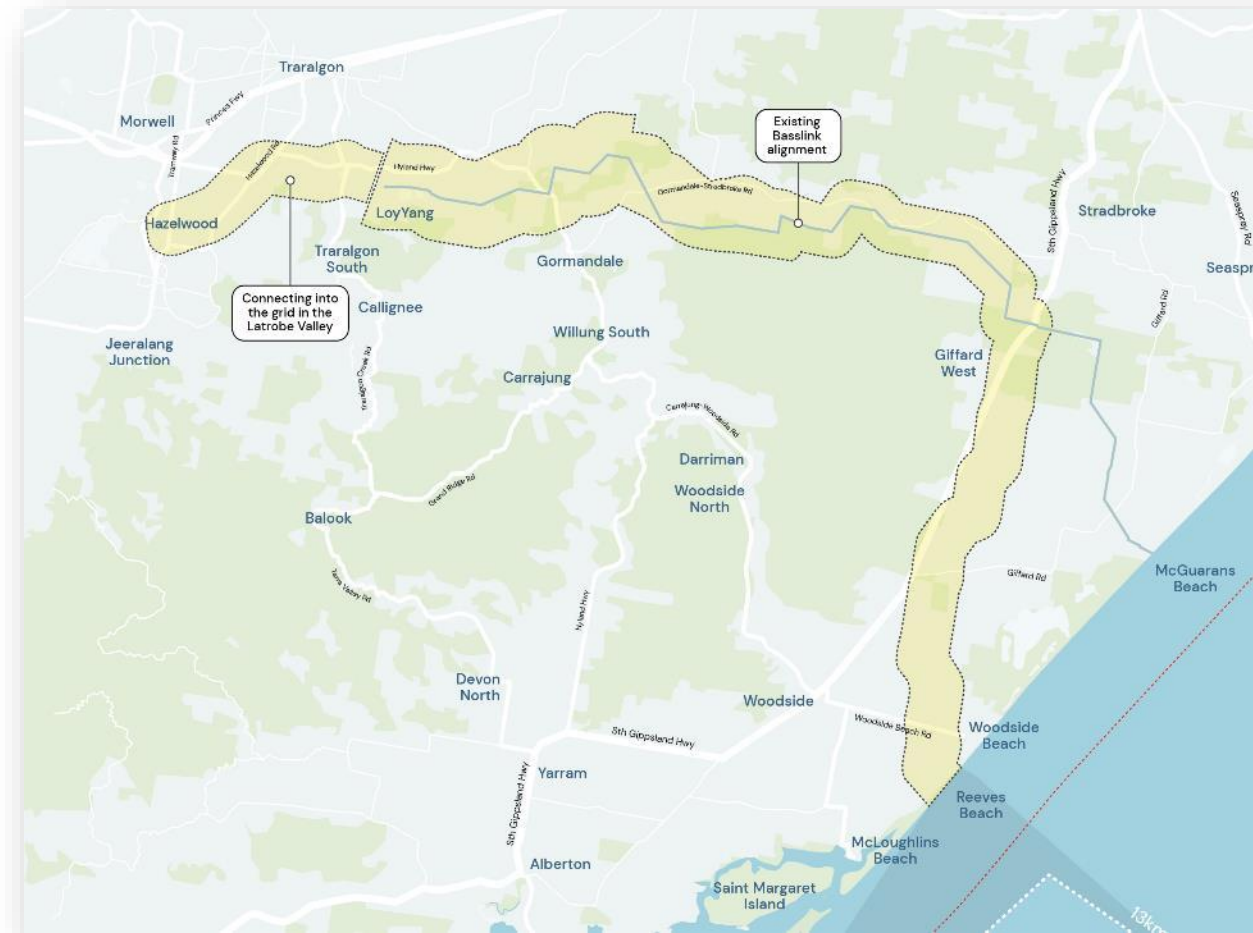
# Focus on transmission and grid connection

Erin Coldham, Chief Development Officer

# Transmission - status update

## We're working to refine and confirm the route in response to environmental study findings and landholder feedback

- All field work between Reeves Beach and Loy Yang is complete including ground investigations, flora and fauna studies and cultural heritage studies
- Environmental assessments well progressed and expected to be exhibited in 2023
- Landholder engagement ongoing to finalise the route and secure an easement
- Engineering design underway
- We've completed an engineering study to determine if we can share the Basslink easement and are in discussions with Basslink



We've been working on our transmission route since 2019

# Transmission - questions about GREZ

## **We're continuing to develop a dedicated transmission solution to maintain progress on Star of the South**

- We're targeting first power from Star of the South by 2028:
  - This is in line with Victorian Government targets
  - This is when Yallourn is retiring
- To achieve this, we would need to start construction in 2025
- We have around 3 years of work complete
- The G-REZ proposal aims to bring in additional renewable energy generation – both on and offshore
- We are engaging with AusNet and will keep following its progress. However, challenges for Star of the South include:
  - Timing is uncertain – it's unlikely to be ready for the first offshore wind project
  - Many different parties involved with different needs and timings
  - Private proposal – not guaranteed to proceed
- Given the amount of renewable energy generation required into the future, it is likely multiple transmission solutions and connections will be needed.

We'll continue to talk with government, AusNet and others about how we can work together

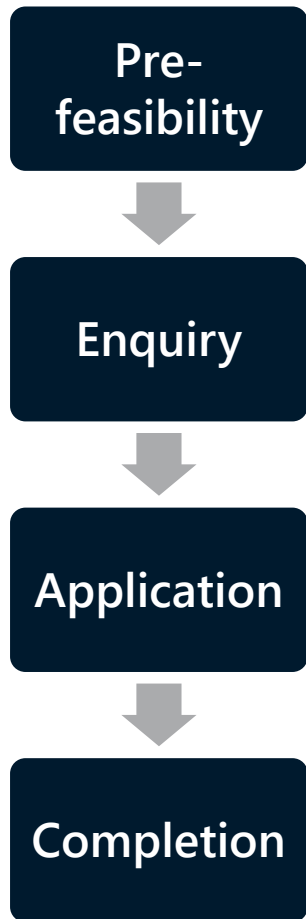
# Grid connection point

- Our **preferred connection point is Loy Yang** Power Station Switchyard
- We're also investigating a **backup option** to extend our underground cables 16 km to the **Hazelwood** Terminal Station
- We're talking with **~24 landholders** along a preferred route
- This is a **highly complex and constrained area**
- We've **completed preliminary environmental studies** in this area and will do further environmental and technical studies in 2022-23
- This section would only be used if a connection at Loy Yang is not possible in the future



We're investigating a back-up option to connect to the grid at Hazelwood

# AEMO grid connection process



## **Pre-feasibility**

- Engagement between network service provider (NSP) and applicant
- Preparation of a network enquiry

## **Enquiry**

- Connection enquiry submitted to NSP
- NSP undertakes impact assessment, consults with Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and other parties, then provides a response

## **Application**

- NSP reviews application, undertakes technical studies, consults AEMO
- AEMO responds to NSP, NSP finalises connection agreement and notifies AEMO

## **Completion**

- Approval for commercial operation, construction and commissioning completed

We are currently in the 'enquiry' stage of the AEMO grid connection process



# Focus on seabed studies

Myles Daniel, Director Engineering,  
Procurement and Construction

# Seabed studies – overview

- Investigations at 22 locations
- 24-48 hours to complete each location
- Approx. 8-week total duration
- Crew of around 40 to undertake the work
- 87 m Australian-flagged vessel based out of Port Anthony
- 9,000 kg seafloor drill being delivered from Singapore specifically for these works
- Low impact – no community or fishing impacts expected



Seabed studies will tell us more about the strength and structure of soil under the seabed

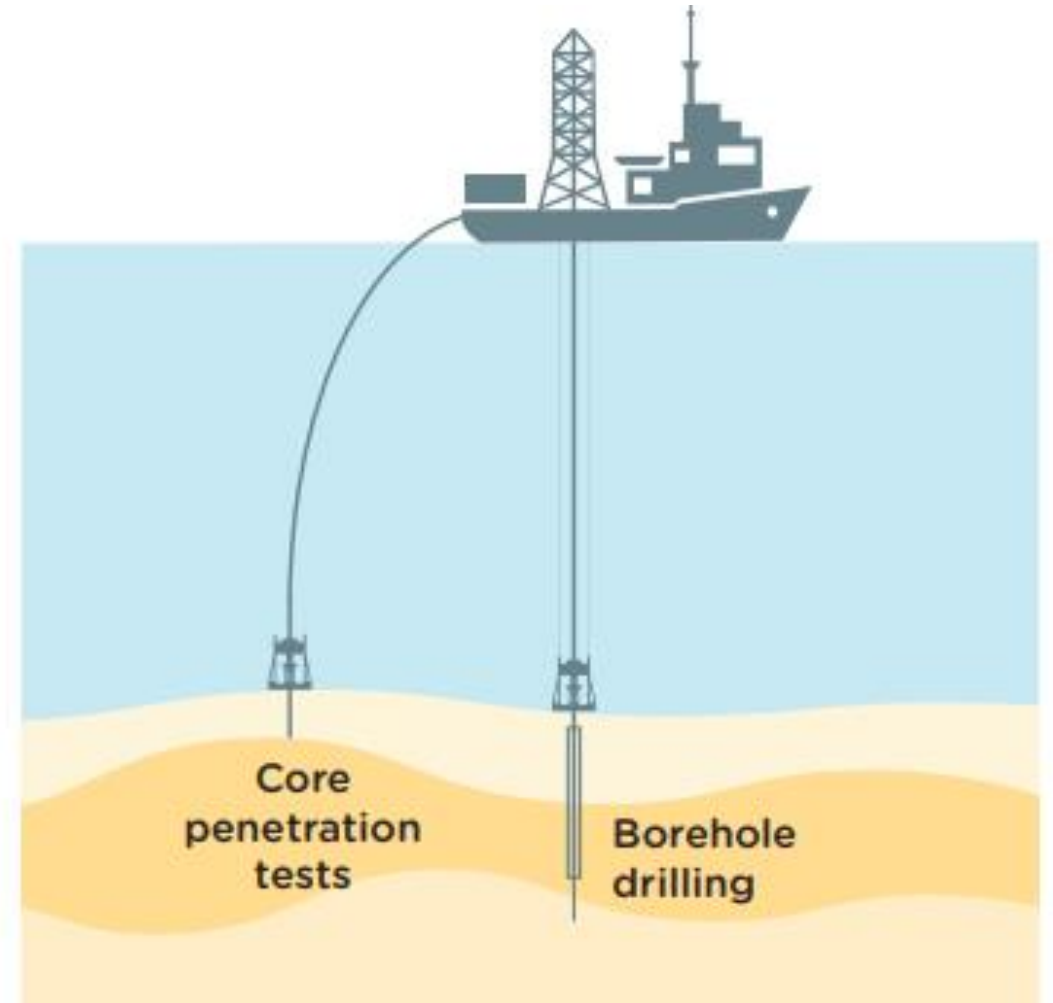
# Seabed studies – what's involved?

## Borehole drilling

- 7 cm diameter footprint
- Involves drilling up to 70 m deep
- Collects core soil samples for analysis
- Tells us what materials make up the seabed

## Cone penetration tests

- 3.5 cm diameter footprint
- Involves pressing a steel cone into the seabed
- Tells us how strong the ground is



Results will be used in turbine foundation design and cable assessment





# Other business

# Other business

- CAG Teams channel – any questions/feedback?
- CAG 12-month review
- CAG visitor guidelines
- Other questions and feedback?
- Suggestions for future agenda items?
- Suggestions for future meeting locations?

## Forward meeting schedule

Date
Thursday 6 October (Latrobe Valley)
November – date and location TBC
December Christmas break up – date and location TBC

Thank you for your participation