

Minutes

Community Advisory Group meeting #15

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Minutes	Julia Preston	Date	2022-10-06
Location	Federation University, Churchill		

Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies	
Ian Gibson	Tony Cantwell	Julia Preston		Travis Dillow	
Allan Rogers		Erin Coldham		Jack Winterbottom	
Glenn Stagg				Darren McCubbin	
Tony Wolfe				Deb Lucas	
Peter Mooney				Jonathan Pintus	
Harry Mitchelson				Julieanne Peavey	
Wendy Farmer				Marcus McKenzie	
Jessica Young				Glenn McColl	
Nikki Jennings				Nina Barry-Macaulay	
Jenny Smith					

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 #14.
3	What's happening on the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to presentation for key updates. Star of the South is preparing a submission to the Australian Government's consultation on the Bass Strait offshore renewable zone. Submission now available here.



Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information from the Victorian Government on how they expect offshore wind to be developed is expected shortly. The Offshore Wind Implementation Statement 1 is now available here. • Attended Seafood Directions Conference in Brisbane to connect with fishing stakeholders, with Lachlan taking part in a panel discussion about sharing the waters. • Star of the South is starting to plan for its community benefit sharing program, to be rolled out when the project is approved and proceeds to construction. • Peter asked if the Community Advisory Group will be able to help with criteria or how the program would work? Erin advised it's important we have local input and we'd like the Community Advisory Group to have a say, as well as other locals, to ensure there is robust criteria. • Local supply chain capability study being undertaken by Spence Consulting Group, expected to be completed late 2022 and shared more broadly next year. • Community information sessions to be held in November, across Gippsland and online. Sessions will be advertised in local newspapers and radio, social media, and community newsletter. • Jessica asked about the upcoming steel roundtable, what that involves, and could the Community Advisory Group receive more information? This is an event for steel suppliers and fabricators to discuss the opportunities in the region.
4	<p>What's happening in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicki attended a Seadragon Offshore Wind Project community information session and gave an update on an upcoming Ausnet community meeting at the Giffard Hall. • Tony commented that he attended a Seadragon Offshore Wind Project briefing session. • Wendy advised that Friends of the Earth are making a submission in support of Gippsland as an area suitable for offshore renewable development. • Wendy is hearing discussion about transmission including debate about going above ground or underground, the environmental impacts, and what is best. • Harry attended the Australian Government information sessions and heard people concerned about the number of projects in Bass Strait, along with some concerns that the Star of the South project is the whole area which has been identified as possibly being suitable. He believes people need to be reassured this is not the case. • Allan commented that a widely distributed map is needed for the community to know where all the projects sit within the suggested zones. Peter also noted that there is now additional community interest from areas including Wonthaggi and Venus Bay who are concerned about impacts. • Jess commented that people are starting to become concerned about the early closure of coal and the gap in timing before offshore wind projects come online. • Glenn queried if Star of the South received any response to the images from Mount Oberon on the website and commented that people have been surprised they would be so easy to see. Erin responded that the project has always said the turbines would be visible and highlighted the communications methods used to share visuals with the community. Visual and associated social impacts are also considered in the environmental assessment process. The visuals will be presented in a formal way through public exhibition, expected later next year.



Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question from Allan about the Yarram office opening hours. The office is open to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-5pm or by appointment any other time. We're happy to open up out-of-hours if people make an appointment by calling or emailing.
5	<p>Focus on project timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erin provided an overview of the project timeline and milestones, including points at which decisions are required to progress to the next step. The discussion covered timeframes for licencing, environment and planning approvals, site investigations, engineering design, grid connection and procurement. Questions from the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian asked if Star of the South is expecting government procurement to be similar to VRET? We won't know until government announces their plan. Glenn asked what is the expected output of first power? This means the first turbine coming online, with each subsequent turbine to follow building up to full power. Peter asked if onshore works need to happen first? Yes, transmission comes first so that the turbines can connect to the grid as soon as they're installed and commissioned. Tony asked if one aspect of the project timeline is on hold, can other activities continue? In some cases yes, in others no. It comes down to investor confidence and the risk of spending millions of dollars if key activities stall. Wendy asked once the declaration is made, will Star of the South be ready for the application process? We expect so. The Government is looking for capability and Star of the South is well placed given extensive work done so far. Allan asked if we have selected and ordered turbines yet? No, this usually happens as late in the project as possible – it's the single biggest expense for the project. Signing contracts would ideally line up with receiving government approvals. Turbine selection then feeds into the modelling for grid connection required by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). Turbines are a high demand item globally so we'll need to compete with other projects in Europe, the US and Asia to secure them. Bigger projects are more attractive for the turbine suppliers. We've started talking with them. Ian asked if the environmental assessments are on schedule. Erin advised that time is stretching out, mainly because we're the first offshore wind project to be assessed and regulators need time to understand the issues. Ian asked if the Community Advisory Group could be updated every 6 months to see how the project is progressing against the timeline. Wendy requested a copy of the timeline. Allan asked if other projects could access the work done by Star of the South during the EES/EIS process? Erin advised that yes, anyone will be able to view the 25 technical reports as part of public exhibition, although these won't include raw data. Peter asked about critical points on the timeline that could stop the project. Gaining a feasibility licence and the Victorian Government procurement of offshore wind are two major milestones – the project could not continue if unsuccessful at these points.

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7	<p>Brief update: Community Advisory Group annual survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to presentation for overview. Nicki asked if landholder could be added to the group when a position becomes vacant.
6	<p>Other items, questions and feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny requested an agenda topic to focus on workforce and what working on the project could look like, for example the use of CTVs.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Star of the South to provide its submission to the Australian Government	Julia Preston	1/11/22
2	Star of the South to provide more information about the steel roundtable event	Julia Preston	1/11/22
3	<p>Add to future agenda items list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community benefit sharing Working on the project Project timeline update every six months 	Jason Pickering	1/11/22
4	Star of the South to share project timeline with Wendy for Friends of the Earth discussions	Julia Preston	20/10/22

Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
Thursday 1 December	4pm-5:30pm	Woodside Hall