



# Star of the South

Community Advisory Group — Meeting #4

11 March 2021



StaroftheSouth

# 1. Welcome

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.

In particular, we recognise the Gunaikurnai people as Traditional Owners of the area in which the Star of the South would be located.

## 2. Standing items and actions from previous meeting

- Minutes
- Declaration of potential conflicts
- Previous actions and questions taken on notice

### 3. What's happening on the project

# Current activities and latest news

- Recruitment for Community Liaison Officer underway
- Landholder conversations
- Public project update – new information to be released next week
- CAG out-of-session briefing, Tuesday 16 March 5:30pm
- Webinar – presentation and Q&A, Monday 22 March
  - Project update incl. transmission route selection, marine studies and EIS/EES status
- Local events during March/April
  - Woodside Beach Surf Lifesaving Club - coffee morning, Saturday 27 March, 9am-11am
  - Yarram Memorial Park - sausage sizzle, Saturday 27 March, 1pm-3pm
  - Morwell Sunday Market – market stall, Sunday 28 March, 8am-1:30pm
  - Lakes Entrance, Central Hotel (pub) – Thursday 22 April, 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Preparing a submission to the Victorian Government’s ‘Energy Innovation Fund’



**We're looking forward to being out and about in Gippsland during March and April**

## 4. What's happening in the community?

# What's happening in the community

- Hot topics?
- Interest / questions / feedback on the project?
- Other projects, events, things happening locally?



Break



## 5. Focus on: Environmental assessment and approval processes

# Environmental assessment

## What is it?

- Assessment of **potentially significant** environmental, social, cultural, heritage, economic and planning aspects of the project

## Why is it needed?

- Ensures potential impacts are identified, assessed and managed appropriately
- Helps decision makers determine if the project should go ahead
- Pathway to obtaining required approvals



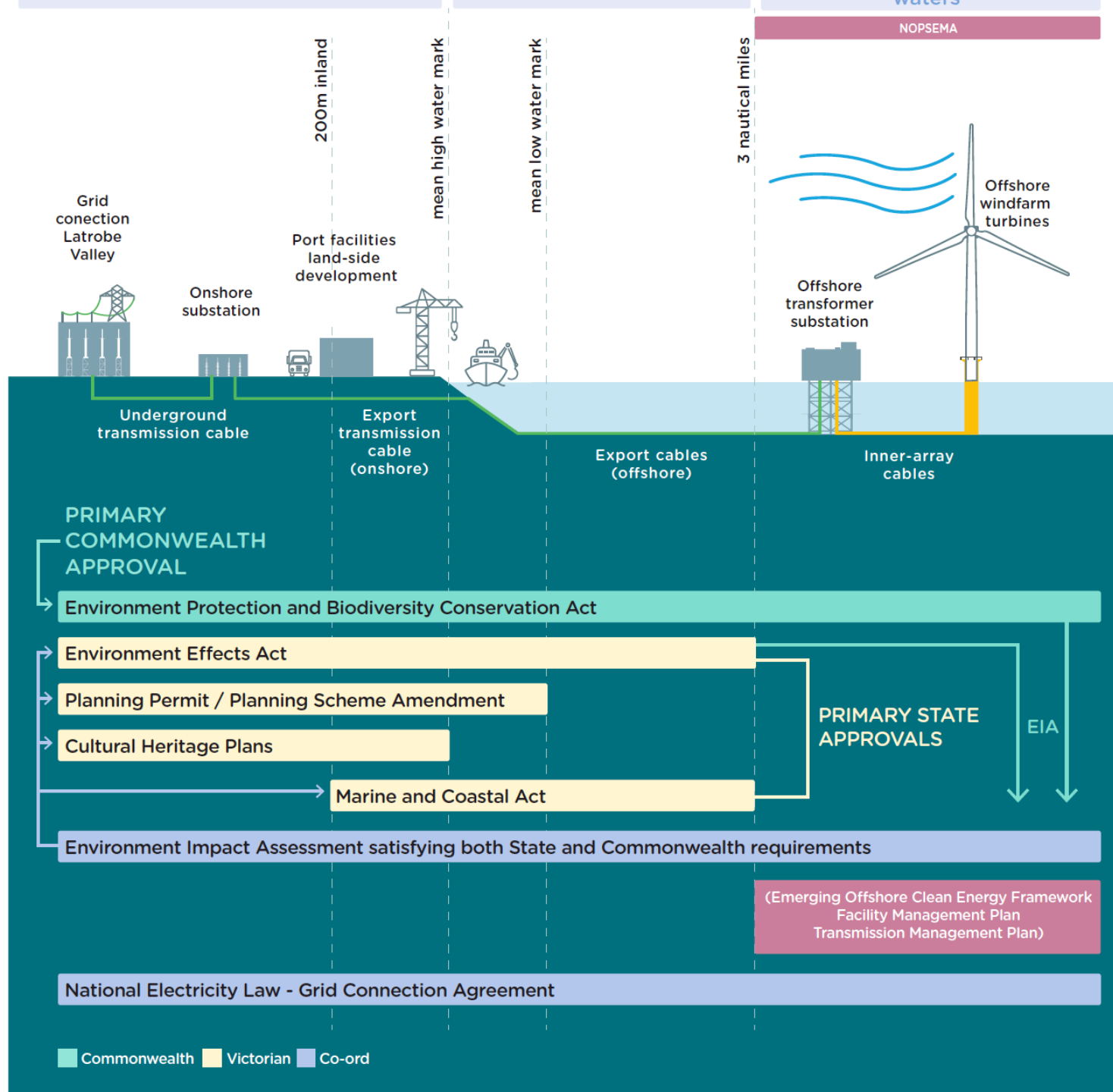
# Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

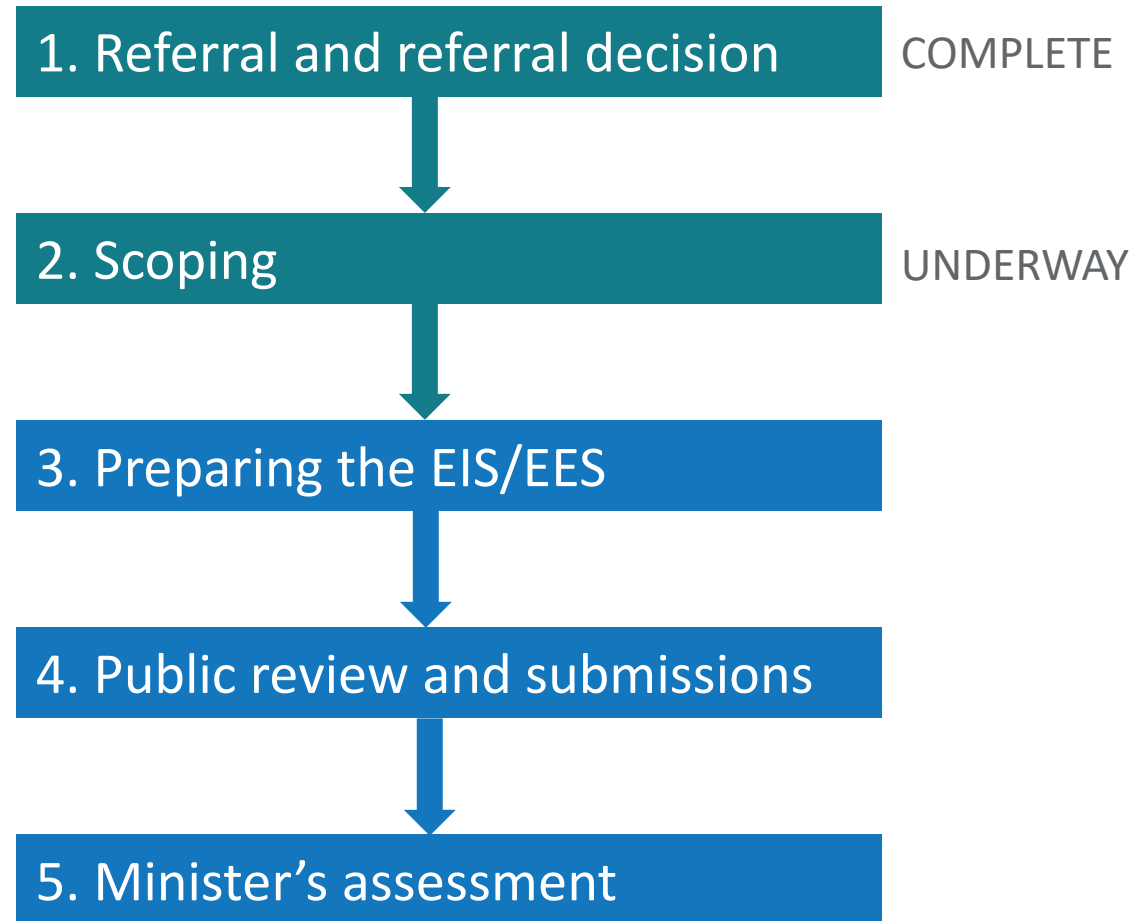
- **Commonwealth** Government process under EPBC Act
- Responsible Minister is the Minister for the Environment
- Managed by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)
- Required if the Minister determines the project may have a significant impact on an matter of national environmental significance
- EIS is an assessment and approval process – outcome is approval or no approval from the Minister for the Environment
- <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/environment-assessment-and-approvals>



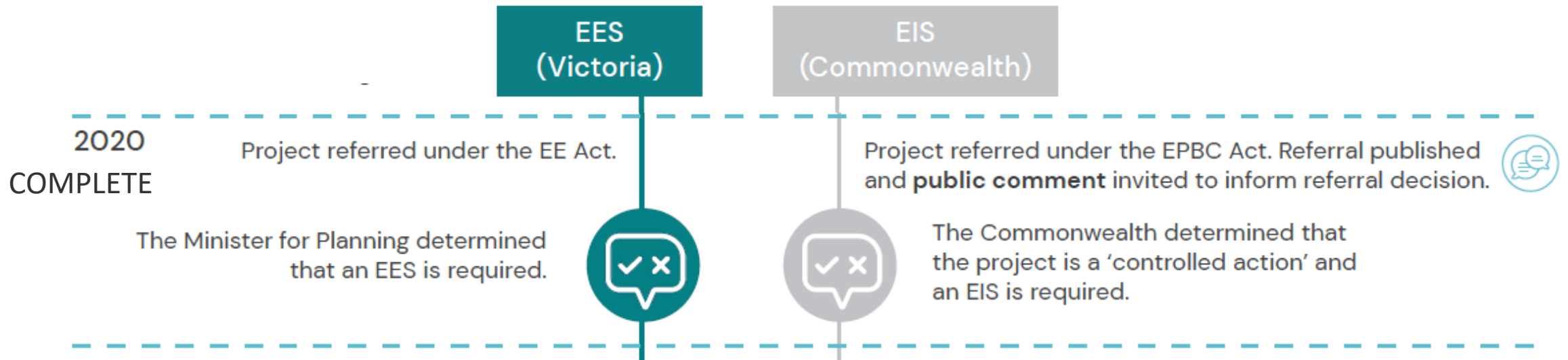
# Environment Effects Statement (EES)

- **Victorian** Government process under the EE Act
- Responsible minister is the Minister for Planning
- Managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Required if the Minister determines that a project has potentially significant impacts
- EES is an assessment process only – helps decision makers decide whether a project should proceed (does not result in an approval)
- <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/environment-assessment-home>

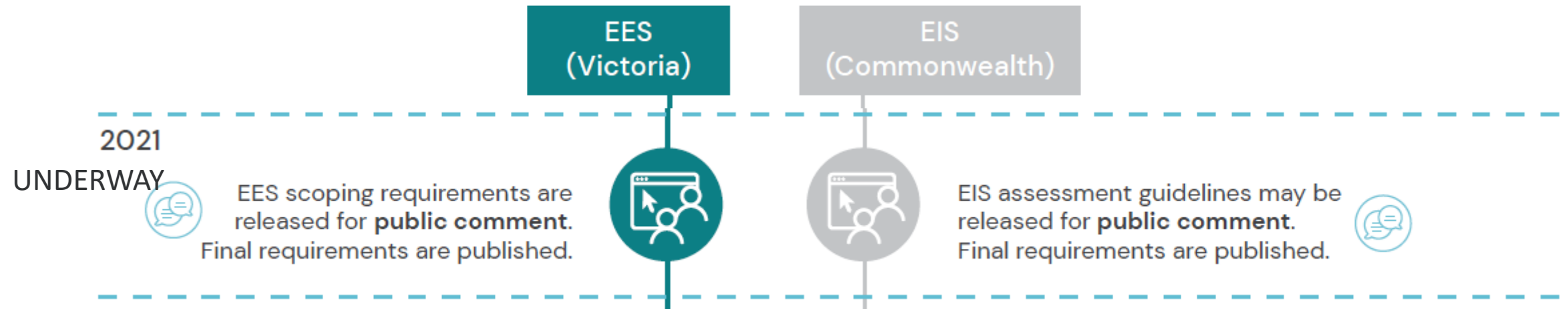




# 1. Referral and referral decision



# 2. Scoping

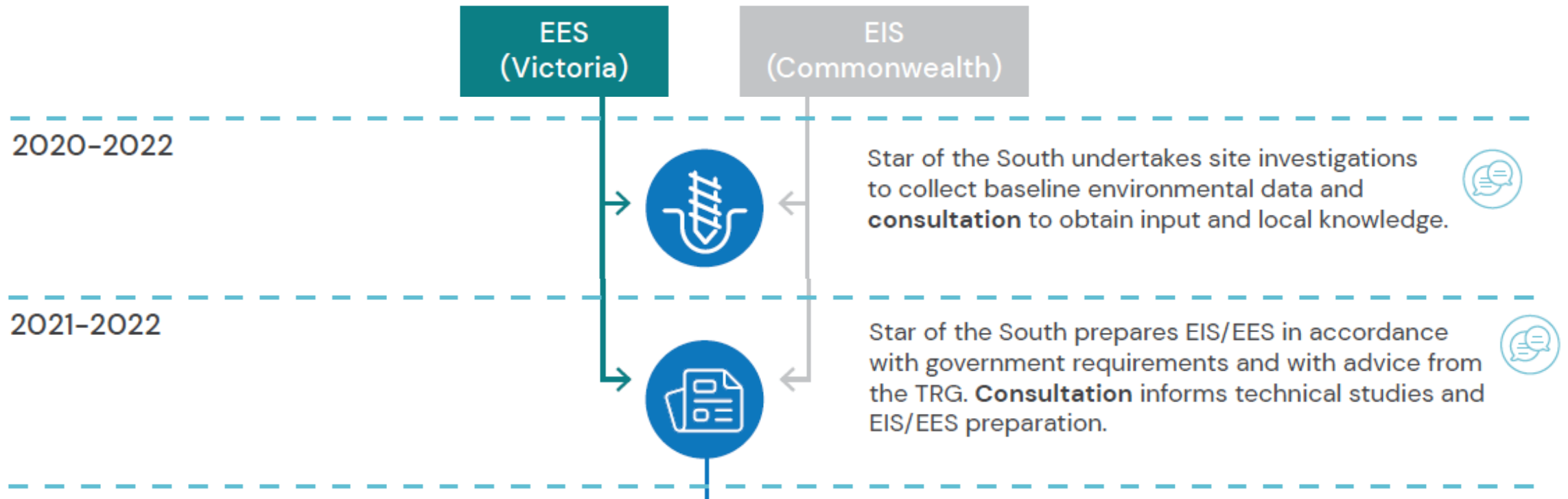




## 2. Scoping - what topics will the EIS/EES consider?

- The scope of the assessments is being prepared by regulators
- We anticipate that the following topics will be assessed:
  - Onshore ecology
  - Aboriginal cultural heritage
  - Historic heritage
  - Seascape, landscape and visual
  - Surface water
  - Ground water
  - Acid sulphate soils
  - Traffic and transport
  - Noise
  - Electromagnetic field exposure
  - Social
  - Business and tourism
  - Coastal processes and sediment transport
  - Benthic ecology
  - Fish and invertebrates
  - Marine mammals
  - Seabirds and shorebirds
  - Marine protected areas
  - Commercial and recreational fisheries
  - Maritime heritage
  - Shipping and navigation
  - Infrastructure and co-existence with other users

# 3. Preparation of the EIS/EES



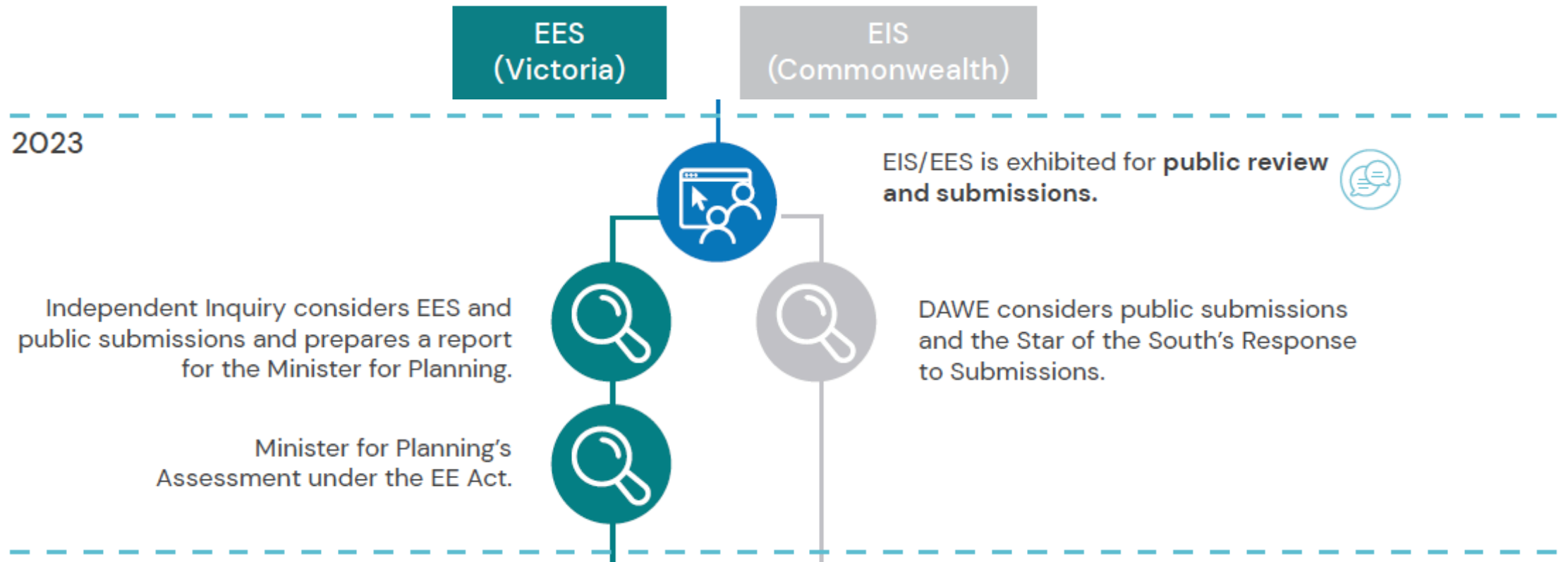
# 3. Preparation of the EIS/EES

## What's involved?

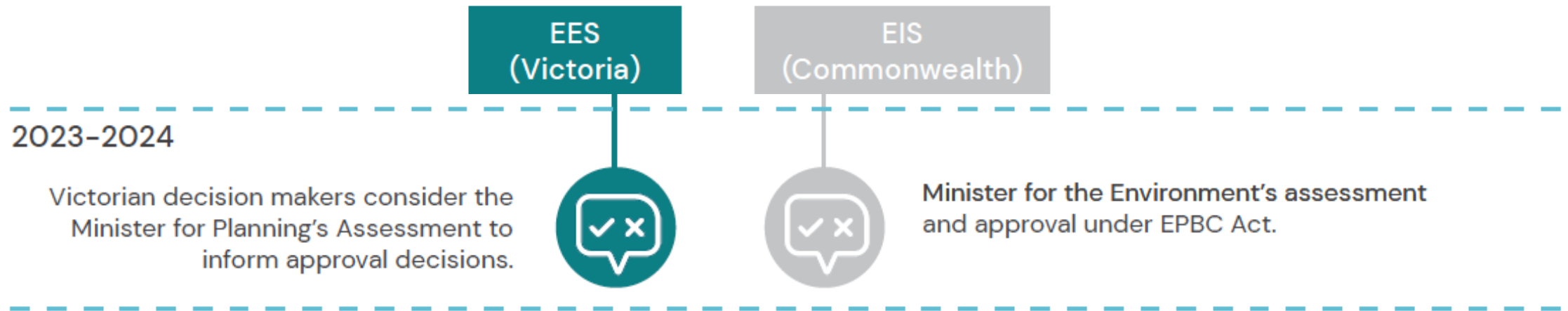
- Studies to understand the existing environment
- Impact assessments to determine potential impacts
- Identifying mitigation measures to avoid or minimise impacts
- Consultation with stakeholders and communities



# 4. Public review and submissions

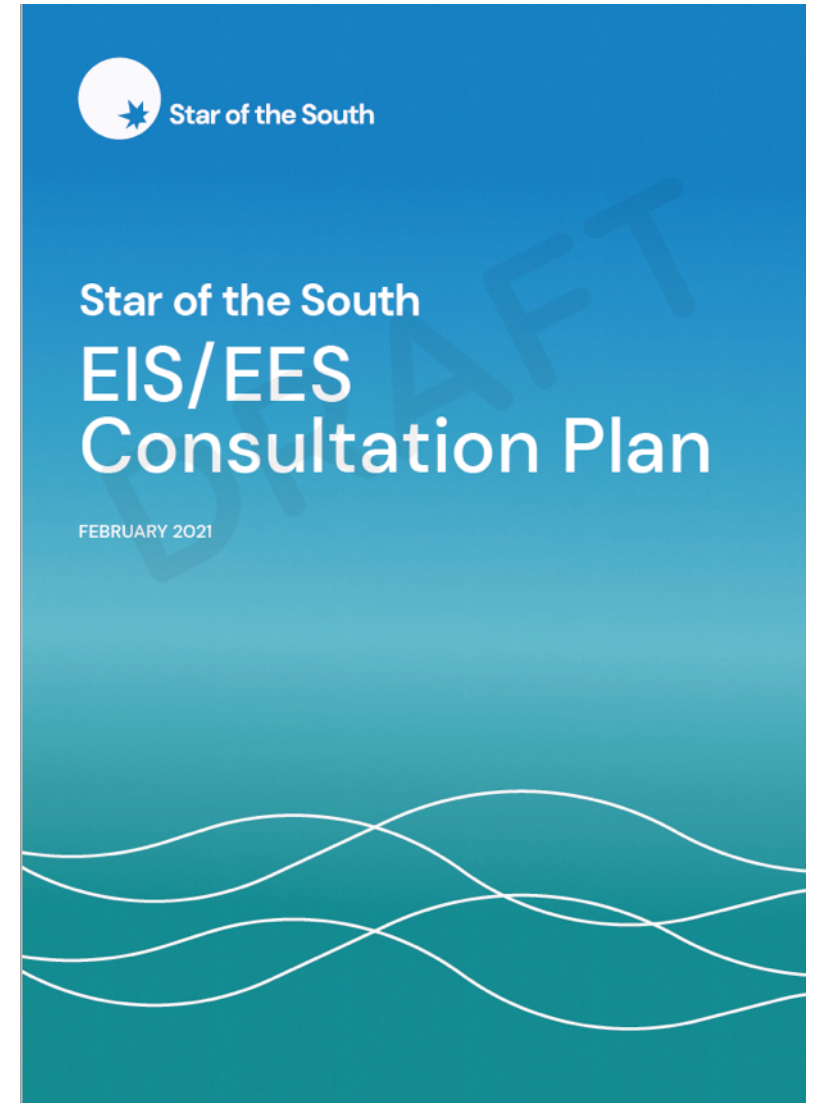


# 5. Ministers' assessment



## Consultation is a key aspect of the environmental assessment process

- We're preparing a Consultation Plan which sets out how and when we will consult throughout preparation of the EIS/EES
- It sets out our commitments
- It is reviewed by government and the TRG
- This plan will evolve over time, feedback is always welcome



- Australian Government
- Responsible Minister is the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction
- Responsible department is the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER)
- A regulatory framework is being developed
- Formal government consultation will take place before a site is declared suitable for offshore wind development
- The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is proposed to operate as the Offshore Energy Regulator
- <https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/australias-climate-change-strategies/offshore-renewable-energy>



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## Offshore renewable energy

Offshore renewable energy includes offshore wind farms, wave and tidal power as well as emerging technologies like ocean thermal energy.

Developing the offshore renewable energy sector supports the Australian Government's objective to deliver a reliable, secure and affordable energy system through:

- helping to grow new sources of energy supply
- providing clean and efficient technology
- ensuring the energy sector is well regulated

Offshore renewable energy generation can:

- offer large, year-round generation capacity
- provide benefits to the electricity network
- lessen visual impacts on the landscape, compared to other energy generation options
- establish new employment opportunities
- attract significant investment in Australia's coastal economies

## 6. Questions and discussion

- Has the presentation raised questions for you?
- What else are you hearing about in the community, or curious about yourself?



## 7. Other items

- Suggestions for future agenda items?
- Next meeting first week in May
- Suggestions for next meeting location?

Thank you