

## Minutes

# Community Advisory Group meeting #6

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4pm-6pm
Minutes	Susan McMillan	Date	2021-07-15
Location	Morwell Innovation Centre		

## Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies	
Deb Lucas	Jenny Smith	Naomi Campbell		Tony Wolfe	
Jonathan Pintus	Wendy Farmer	Erin Coldham		Caleb Barlow	
Tony Cantwell	Christine Legg	Sarah Altmann		Matt Langdon	
Brent McAlister	Dane Heinrich	Susan McMillan			
Jessica Young	Travis Dillow	Stella Bodman			
Allan Rogers	Harry Mitchelson				
Mary-Lou Dixon	Peter Mooney				
Jack Winterbottom	Darren McCubbin	<b>Guests</b>			
Jennings	Allison Spence	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner			
Glenn Stagg		Andrew Dyer			
		Leigh Barker			
		Euikuk Park			

## Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1	Respond to questions taken on notice	Susan McMillan	8/07/2021	Complete, pending further detail to come on one question regarding turbine carbon footprint.

## Key discussion points

Item	Discussion points
1	<p><b>Welcome and acknowledgement of country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson welcomed guest speakers and new members:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Andrew Dyer, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, and staff Leigh Barker and Euikuk Park.</li> <li>○ Brent McAlister – representing Wellington Shire Council in Marcus’ absence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement of minutes for CAG meeting #5.</li> <li>• Wendy advised she has new role as Community Campaigner for Friends of the Earth.</li> <li>• Darren McCubbin advised he has a new role as Acting Manager of Gippsland Climate Change Network.</li> <li>• Allan advised he is now President of McLoughlins Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association after recent AGM.</li> <li>• Ian advised on he is on the audit committee for West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.</li> <li>• Questions raised at previous meeting and online have been responded to on CAG member website and via email to group. Answers will be added as an addendum to meeting minutes. Jack’s question regarding carbon footprint still being investigated.</li> <li>• Ian sought expressions of interest from CAG members for the group to make a submission to the EIS/EES draft scopes. Wendy and Mary Lou volunteered to help Ian prepare the submission for comment on by the group.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>What’s happening on the project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several talks and presentations - Erin encouraged members to identify community groups or events where people would like to hear from the project. We are happy to attend, present and answer questions.</li> <li>• Global wind day - School engagement activity.</li> <li>• Woodside Landcare presentation - Susan presented an overview of the project.</li> <li>• Meeting with Gippsland Trades and Labour Council - met with union representatives, organised by Peter.</li> <li>• Broadening Horizons education program at Yarram Secondary College. The program invites organisations from the area to be involved, encouraging problem solving and critical thinking.</li> <li>• Offshore Wind podcast - hosted by Australian living in Denmark for 20 years. First time an Australian interviewed. The interview highlighted Gippsland, potential for an Australian offshore wind industry and the importance of community engagement.</li> <li>• New staff member joining the team in August - focussed on local industry development. Will bring considerable experience in renewables sector. Will investigate supply chain and local supply and manufacturing opportunities.</li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with elected representatives.</li> <li>• Draft scopes for the project’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environment Effects Statement (EES) released with discussions on local radio and newspaper advertisements. Open for public review and comment until midnight 27 July. Anyone interested in how the project’s impacts will be assessed are encouraged to participate.</li> <li>• Blue Economy CRC new research on offshore wind - research body of approximately 80 members including universities and government agencies currently looking into wind potential in Australia. Webinar to present findings 22 July.</li> <li>• Australian Wind Energy Conference - 2-day event at Melbourne exhibition centre. Over 500 people registered. Casper will present keynote on Star of the South and Casper and Erin on panels for offshore wind and community consultation discussions.</li> <li>• Community event - Star of the South attending Woodside vs Sale football match to chat with the local community.</li> <li>• Science Week - Gippsland Tech School on 18 August. Theme for this year’s event is food. Star of the South will host a stall. Family event all welcome.</li> <li>• Community consultation sessions to be held in September, focussed on introducing EIS/EES to the community and collecting inputs to technical studies for the EIS/EES. Six sessions planned Yarram, Morwell, Leongatha, Woodside, Longford, Port Welshpool. Details to be confirmed in coming weeks. CAG members encouraged to attend and promote in their communities.</li> <li>• Project newsletter will be distributed to 50,000 homes in Gippsland in August. A CAG member list will be included. Copies will be sent out to all stakeholders and highly interested members of the public.</li> <li>• Congratulations to Darren on Gippsland Climate Change Network achieving Community Power Hub funding.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>What’s happening in the community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Mooney: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peter thanked Erin &amp; Sarah for attending the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, noted attendees found it beneficial. Key areas of interest were jobs, local manufacturing, and fishing.</li> <li>○ Peter also is a member of the Delburn Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee. This project is at the approvals stage.</li> <li>○ Locally, key concerns centre around COVID and difficulty finding good long-term jobs locally. Star of the South is discussed in the community with conjecture around job opportunities.</li> <li>○ Saw a Star of the South poster in a local barber shop with information about bird life drawn on it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jessica Young:</li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Key things Jess hears in the community relate to job prospects, project timeline and timing of jobs - especially considering planned closures of Latrobe Valley power stations and loss of forestry jobs.</li> <li>○ Questions about how Star of the South will connect to the grid.</li> <li>○ Noted APA project at Crib Point did not achieve approvals due to dredging being an issue. People ask Jess about dredging for Star of the South.</li> <li>● Naomi responded that the project team take interest in other projects. Star of the South has made the decision not to use dredging and to utilise ports that can facilitate the large infrastructure without dredging.</li> <li>● Andrew noted other reasons for no approval on some projects, include visual impacts from and the easement required for the power line not having been successfully negotiated with local community.</li> <li>● Nicki updated that her community have been swamped with renewable developer prospecting placing stress on locals, however noted that Star of the South is well accepted in the community.</li> <li>● Wendy advised that Friends of the Earth are writing to the government regarding legislation required for offshore wind projects to proceed. Individuals and other groups represented on the CAG can contact Wendy with any contributions.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Guest Speaker - Andrew Dyer, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commenced role in 2015 as National Wind Farm Commissioner. Role expanded in 2021 to Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.</li> <li>● The office facilitates the resolution of complaints and community concerns about new major energy infrastructure projects. The Commissioner also assists industry and governments to identify and adopt best practices.</li> <li>● The office focuses on 3 pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vehicle for people to raise concerns regarding wind, solar, storage and transmission. Assists the public with a clear path to resolving complaints.</li> <li>○ Complaint processing.</li> <li>○ Transparency of projects and ensuring accountability of developers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 2019 Annual Report available on website. 2020 report is waiting for approval from Minister.</li> <li>● Provided an overview of the nature of past complaints and advice, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishment of groups like the CAG, which is compulsory in NSW. Commended SOTS on its community engagement and the formation of the CAG</li> <li>○ Traffic and transport</li> <li>○ Design standards such as set back distances for turbines from homes and roads</li> <li>○ Noise</li> <li>○ Safety</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complaint handling processes</li> <li>○ Transmission and landholder agreements.</li> <li>• Andrew encouraged CAG members to access his website for information and contact his office if needed to raise concerns or seek information.</li> <li>• Nikki commented on the community impact of projects that do not have local support including after construction. The legacy of Basslink is still felt.</li> <li>• Alan asked about safety zones or setbacks similar to those applied onshore being used offshore – yet to be determined, likely to be considered in regulations being developed.</li> <li>• Wendy asked how much visual impact is considered in project assessment and approvals. Andrew advised that proponents need to consider visual impact. NSW has a sliding scale for assessing visual impact whereas Victoria takes a case by case basis.</li> <li>• Glenn asked if the 2020 Annual Report awaiting approval has more recommendations. Andrew responded that there are several recommendations to improve process and assessment. Star of the South team will get a copy and can distribute.</li> <li>• Mary-Lou asked if the Commissioner has a role in developing Offshore Clean Energy legislation. Andrew advised they provide advice to the department working on this.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Workshop – Getting the community engaged in the EIS/EES processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to attached.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Other items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil</li> </ul>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Confirm day, time, and location for next meeting	Susan McMillan	5/08/2021
2	Nominate two members to provide a community update	Susan McMillan	5/8/2021
3	Send link to Commissioner’s website and Annual Report to CAG	Susan McMillan	5/8/2021
4	CAG preparing submission to EIS/EES draft scopes	Ian Gibson	27/8/2021

## Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
25 August 2021	4pm–6pm	ZOOM meeting

## Attachment – workshop notes

### Q1: How can Star of the South help people be aware of, understand and get involved in the EIS/EES preparation?

<p>Group 1 – Naomi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicity – authentic, appropriate language and detail</li> <li>• Communicate the process and timelines</li> <li>• Approach all interest groups (emails) and encourage on-sharing to their broader membership, use council community directory to identify interest groups</li> <li>• Use local newspapers (the bridge), newsletters, Facebook and social media incl. advertising</li> <li>• Add “have your say” section to project website and publish comments and responses</li> <li>• GLaWAC engagement (find near Woodside)</li> <li>• Clear and plain English communications – education focus on building understanding and knowledge, videos, Facebook Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Susan’s presentation on process – target groups</li> <li>• Revisit applicants for CAG to continue relationship and shared interest in project</li> <li>• Use radio to reach older generations and farmers – 3AW, ABC, local stations</li> </ul>
<p>Group 2 – Susan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of acronyms is sometimes inhibiting for general public, using full words and having a blurb describe each acronym</li> <li>• Advertising</li> <li>• Radio – talkback, ABC, 3AW</li> <li>• Social media – Tiktok/snapchat, sponsorship on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp</li> <li>• Newspaper for older generations</li> <li>• Podcast, video</li> <li>• Every time there is a new release – airplay, morning shows, TV</li> <li>• Groups like Victorian Farmers Federation, regional groups, unions</li> <li>• ‘Forums’ for notifying</li> <li>• Letting groups like fishing clubs know</li> <li>• Seasonal activity – tourists/co-ops e.g. Wilsons Prom, visual</li> <li>• Cable corridor vs turbines – 2 scenarios</li> <li>• Wilderness Groups, Friends of the Prom</li> <li>• EIS/EES one pager / summary</li> </ul>
<p>Group 3 – Erin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media to advertise meetings</li> <li>• Social media – Facebook, maybe twitter?</li> <li>• Signage in local, high-traffic area (e.g. at Toora Wind Farm lookout to inform visitors of the proposed offshore wind farm)</li> <li>• Agricultural shows – be where people are wandering past</li> <li>• Handling it well now</li> <li>• Special local issues – ensure Star of the South are going to a local level</li> <li>• Need to try and have an informed debate</li> </ul>
<p>Group 4 - Sarah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS/EES is all framed around negative impacts which leads people to see the project negatively – a challenge to consider</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More news items in local papers, radio, tv</li> <li>• More use of local media for advertising and editorial coverage</li> <li>• Use plain English to communicate so people can understand this complex topic</li> <li>• Is there any need for languages other than English?</li> <li>• Attend local events (e.g. stand at New Year's Eve event at Port Albert)</li> <li>• Older demographic – social media doesn't work for everyone</li> <li>• Consider tourists and absentee owners – e.g. Sunday Island has 130 houses and may be the closest township to the project, there is a board and they are organised. Council can help.</li> <li>• Is Star of the South always reaching the same audience – how to reach those not already engaged? E.g. Lakes Entrance meeting in April full of people already engaged, may be missing out on others who are not already in the know.</li> </ul>
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**Q2: How can Star of the South help people be aware of, understand and get involved in the EIS/EES preparation?**

Group 1 – Naomi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the information with their groups</li> <li>• Attend meetings</li> <li>• Prepare and submit representations</li> <li>• Increase profiles of CAG members (incl. how to contact CAG members)</li> <li>• Regular brainstorm sessions</li> <li>• Invite SOTS to present to CAG groups (e.g. Rotary Clubs, CWA, V3A, Field Naturalists, Soroptimists, CWA, VFF, Gippsland Women's Network, GTLC LVA, Committees for)</li> <li>• Increase awareness of Yarram office and what's there</li> </ul>
Group 2 – Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be accessible</li> <li>• Be approachable</li> <li>• Offer time and forums</li> <li>• Link to closest CAG member / groups already involved</li> <li>• Newsletter offering link to CAG</li> <li>• Office in Yarram – promote through CAG, opening hours</li> </ul>
Group 3 – Erin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information with local groups (e.g. Dane takes information to Committee for Wellington)</li> <li>• Share through networks and groups – spread the information out broadly</li> <li>• Share on CAG members social media platforms and groups</li> <li>• Star of the South to produce a summary of each meeting to share – two or three dot points summarising for people to share with their network</li> <li>• Bumper stickers and hats – hand them out, grabs attention</li> <li>• Engage supporters – they are not as motivated to get involved because they're satisfied</li> <li>• How do you balance the negative with the positive?</li> <li>• Familiar, local faces at Star of the South events could draw in more people and encourage people to open up a bit more – have CAG members present at local outreach events</li> <li>• Can CAG members get involved in Star of the South community activities? E.g. presenting to schools, attending events.</li> </ul>

Group 4 - Sarah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information with local groups (e.g. Jenny shares to Port Albert Progress Association, Coast Guard)</li> <li>• Share Star of the South's Facebook posts</li> <li>• More promotion of CAG members to the community they're in so people know they can reach out (e.g. in media)</li> <li>• Email updates after meetings</li> <li>• CAG members are a conduit between Star of the South and the community – need to be approachable, open to taking questions (but a note that not all are willing/able to be available all the time)</li> <li>• More local media, local newspapers</li> </ul>
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**Q3: What key topics/issues are of greatest interest in the community? Why do you think this is? What are you hearing?**

Group 1 – Naomi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs</li> <li>• Energy security – keep the lights on! – Storms = no power and BIG disruption</li> <li>• Ecology onshore and offshore</li> <li>• Land use – specific to landholders</li> <li>• Compensation</li> <li>• Biosecurity</li> <li>• Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Birds – need to address any misinformation</li> <li>• First project – sets a precedent</li> </ul>
Group 2 – Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs</li> <li>• Traffic/transport</li> <li>• Marine life</li> <li>• How they're constructed</li> <li>• Local manufacturing</li> <li>• Fishing rules</li> <li>• Bird life</li> </ul>
Group 3 –Erin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling turbines, decommissioning?</li> <li>• Jobs – number 1</li> <li>• Manufacturing of components</li> <li>• Use of ports – will that port be utilised?</li> <li>• Jobs, local manufacturing</li> <li>• Transmission could still be an issue</li> <li>• Feel the enviro benefits of the project outweigh direct impacts – needs to be well managed though</li> <li>• Community benefit sharing – can communities invest or are profits made available to community for schemes?</li> </ul>
Group 4 - Sarah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs</li> <li>• Fishing commercial – concerns with access / ability to fish</li> <li>• Fishing recreational – concerns with access, opportunities to attract fish to turbines</li> <li>• Workforce accommodation and local housing shortage</li> <li>• Tourism – tours out to site</li> <li>• Birdlife</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legislation, seabed licence – concern this will be delayed or not happen and Gippsland will miss out on the opportunity</li></ul>
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**Additional suggestion submitted after the meeting**

- Set up a stand at local bars/greyhound races or even a pop up stand at McLoughlins beach and put on a happy hour.
- Sausage sizzle at universities.
- Engage directly with opponents. I wonder if one of the CAG topics can be around direct opposition and invite some vocal opponents to attend? Perhaps a bring a friend type arrangement so not to make people feel uncomfortable.
- The number one question seems to be around jobs. I have a friend who is the managing director of one of the largest employers of onshore construction, installation, operations, and maintenance. I'd be happy to see if he would like to be a guest speaker to the group to discuss skills, qualifications etc needed to get a start in the industry? Perhaps Casper has some contacts in Denmark involved in local manufacturing over there that would be willing to discuss that area.
- Create some "local" 5 minute celebrities to show that the project is already utilising local services and people. Perhaps interview any of the local people engaged in any of the works happening now about how they come about being engaged by SOS and what a project like this means to them or their business.