

Minutes

Community Advisory Group meeting #7

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4pm-6pm
Minutes	Susan McMillan	Date	2021-08-25
Location	Online		

Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies	
Deb Lucas	Jenny Smith	Erin Coldham		Darren McCubbin	
Tony Wolfe	Wendy Farmer	Sarah Altmann		Marcus McKenzie	
Tony Cantwell	Christine Legg	Susan McMillan		Jonathan Pintus	
Brent McAlister	Dane Heinrich	Stella Bodman			
Jessica Young	Travis Dillow	David Hyett			
Allan Rogers	Harry Mitchelson				
Mary-Lou Dixon	Peter Mooney				
Jack Winterbottom	Allison Spence				
Nicki Jennings	Caleb Barlow				
Glenn Stagg	Matt Langdon				

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1	Respond to questions taken on notice	Susan McMillan	8/07/2021	

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 for CAG meeting #6 (need to fix attendee names).
3	What's happening on the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project newsletter distributed to 50,000 Gippsland homes, highly interested community members and stakeholders w/c 16 August. • Subsea Energy Ocean Business Awards: Star of the South won Collaboration Award with local company Tek-Ocean and French company Akrocean. • Star of the South participating in Wellington Shire's renewable energy forum. • New staff member joined the team, Katrina Langdon, Industry Development Manager. • Star of the South participated in GROW Gippsland Aboriginal Business Forum. • Consultation with local historical societies to obtain inputs to historical heritage assessment underway by consulting firm Lovell Chen. The History of Darriman and Giffard book written by Nicki Jennings and Lisa Harrison has been a great contribution to their studies. • Industry bulletin sent to registered business on our Industry Capability Network (ICN) gateway. Over 500 businesses currently registered on database. • Noise monitoring equipment has been installed to collect data on current noise levels as a baseline for further assessments. • Blue Economy CRC released Offshore Wind in Australia report and Star of the South participated in industry panel webinar. Blue Economy CRC is a research program with partners including Federal Government and CSIRO. Identified huge potential for offshore in Australia. • Star of the South team members took part in Gippsland Tech School online trivia night for Science Week. • Community consultation sessions to be held in September have been postponed pending the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. This phase of consultation is focussed on introducing and collecting inputs to technical studies and collecting inputs. CAG members encouraged to promote in their communities. • The Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill is listed to be introduced to Parliament soon. This is necessary for continued investment in the project. • Get Involved site with online survey for feedback and tool for submit photos to share favourite views to inform landscape, seascape and visual assessment. • Anyone not online can call 1800 340 340 to have information and survey form posted out

Item	Discussion points
4	<p>What's happening in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Smith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Port Albert has been quiet with lockdown but a new restaurant has opened which is a positive sign for the area. ○ Jenny has distributed project information to Port Albert Coast Guard, Port Albert Progress association and on social media pages. ○ Events scheduled for New Years Eve with fireworks and market stalls. • Jack Winterbottom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birdlife East Gippsland hasn't been able to meet recently due to COVID-19 but managed an outing recently for the 10-year survey of the Gippsland Lakes area monitoring bird populations. ○ Bird Life Australia also complete 4 studies per year on farms. This activity led to a presentation to Woodside Landcare Group regarding birdlife in the area – see photos attached of Jack's presentation. ○ Queried use of Cape Barren Goose picture in project newsletter and advised other species of more relevance and interest are shorebirds like Gannets and Bar Tailed Godwit that use the area during migration. • Nicki advised that the Saline Water Outfall Pipeline from Loy Yang to the coast failed and released significant salt water, flooding the area including creeks and dams and causing significant impacts for landholders. Trucks have been pumping water and transporting consistently over the past few days.
5	<p>Focus on 25 technical studies for environmental assessments – presentation and group discussion/questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hyett is an environmental scientist and has worked for AECOM for 20 years. AECOM has over 80,000 employees worldwide with 600 in Australia and conduct environmental impacts studies for major projects. • David provided an overview of 25 technical studies being undertaken for the Star of the South environmental assessments (EIS/EES) – refer to presentation supplied. • Question if material in the technical reports is published in scientific journals – data collected for the assessments may be repurposed and used in this way by the researchers involved. • Question about whether issues like jobs and workforce accommodation are considered social assessment – yes, these are factors are assessed. • Question about when visual photo representations of the project will be available and will they be in Yarram office or toured around – Visual consultants are preparing these and likely to be ready next year. Looking at tools such as videos and virtual reality to show how the project could look. • Question about why noise monitors are in place now - to collect baseline noise levels and inform a model which will predict noise levels from different construction activities and wind farm operation.

Item	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about fishing exclusion zones and whether there have been studies overseas on pelagic fish – project still working through what sharing the waters could look like for this project and awaiting any guidance from government regulations on this matter. Fish and fishing technical studies will draw from published data in Australia and where applicable, overseas. • Question about whether impacts on the existing shared transmission network would be considered technical studies – this is covered through the grid connection process and not the environmental assessments. A good topic for further discussion in a future meeting. • Question about any setback area from turbines for fishing (as raised in previous meeting with Andrew Dyer) – no updates on this, awaiting advice in government regulations and project working through approach to sharing the waters.
7	<p>Other items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group has been established for almost 12-months – a review is planned to seek feedback on how it's going. A survey will be distributed to members. • Suggestions for future discussion topics - Grid connection, wind farm layout • Question regarding wind farm layout, would it be a grid and how much distance between turbines – layout not decided, however turbine site has been narrowed down slightly to a 12-18 MW wind turbine generator.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Confirm day, time, and location for next meeting	Susan McMillan	10/09/2021
2	Nominate two members to provide a community update	Susan McMillan	20/9/2021
3	Update attendee names in minutes for meeting #6 and publish on project website	Susan McMillan	1/9/2021

Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
7 October 2021	4pm–6pm	Bundalaguah Hall / online

Attachments – photos supplied by Jack Winterbottom