

Minutes

Community Advisory Group meeting #9

Chair	Ian Gibson	Time	4:00pm – 5:30pm
Minutes	Erin McPherson	Date	2021-11-26
Location	Bundalaguah Hall and online		

Attendance

Members		Project team		Apologies	
Peter Mooney	Jenny Smith	Erin Coldham		Harry Mitchelson	
Tony Wolfe	Wendy Farmer	Sarah Altmann		Marcus McKenzie	
Tony Cantwell	Harry Michelson	Susan McMillan		Jonathan Pintus	
Brent McAlister (for Marcus McKenzie)	Travis Dillow	Stella Bodman		Nina Barry-Macaulay	
Jessica Young	Glenn Stagg	Erin McPherson		Mary-Lou Dixon	
Allan Rogers	Caleb Barlow	Jonas Jacobson		Deb Lucas	
Nicole Jennings	Darren McCubbin	Myles Daniel		Matt Langdon	
Glenn McColl	Jack Winterbottom				

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1	Respond to questions taken on notice	Susan McMillan	8/07/2021	Complete
2	Establish schedule of meetings and meeting topics for 2022	Susan McMillan	31/1/2022	Complete
3	Actions from CAG 12-month review	Susan McMillan	31/1/2022	Ongoing

Key discussion points

Item	Discussion points
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson welcomed guests and new members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glenn McColl, new member for Latrobe City Council (replacing Alison Spence) - Nina Barry-McCauley, new member for South Gippsland Shire Council (replacing Christine Legg) - Jonas Jacobson, Director Technical Development at Star of the South.
2	<p>Standing items and actions from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from CAG meeting #8 will be sent through shortly with minutes from CAG meeting #9. • No conflicts of interest were declared.
3	<p>What's happening on the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to presentation for overview. • Erin Coldham gave an overview of what activities have been happening on the project in the last six weeks. • Star of the South were successful in application for Energy Innovation Fund (EIF) (Vic Government). The fund was set up to bring forward investment in emerging energy technologies. Star of the South will receive \$19.5m, to be matched by \$23.6m from Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. Two other projects were also successful. • Federal Parliament passed the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill following consideration by both houses of Parliament and a Senate Committee. This will put a regulatory framework for projects like Star of the South in place, providing a pathway for projects to obtain seabed licences. While there was some debate about how parts of the Bill were worded, it progressed with support from all sides of government. There is lots of work still to be done on the detailed regulations, licencing scheme and the Minister will need to declare areas suitable for offshore wind, including consultation. Star of the South will need to apply for a licence at the appropriate time. • Star of the South attended COP 26 (Conference of Parties 26) in Glasgow. • Star of the South is making submissions to parliamentary inquiries. This gives us an opportunity to share our view on what the opportunities are to develop the industry and secure benefits for Gippsland and other regions. • Star of the South has been out and about holding pop up information stands and market stalls to reconnect with community, letting them know about the project and sharing opportunities to be involved. • Star of the South hosted an event to thank supporters in Yarram. Many people in the community have offered support and assistance over the years and this was a way to say thank you at the end of the year. Note that this should not be confused

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	<p>with the Community Advisory Group which exists to discuss project matters, communicate information and bring community views to the project team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to BirdLife East Gippsland Group organised by group member Jack Winterbottom. Jack noted it was a good meeting. The project team gave an overview of the project, discussed ongoing survey work and how this links with the assessments. • Star of the South is undertaking community research to understand how people feel about the project. This is done to supplement community consultation activities and to ensure we are using the right communication and consultation methods to reach people. The market research is managed by an independent specialist. We will share the results when available in the new year. • Environmental surveys are continuing • Geotechnical investigations are planned for 2022 both onshore and offshore. • Investigating possible transmission connection to Hazelwood. Fact sheet available on website. Preference is to connect to Loy Yang, but there is so much change going on in the energy market with other projects and energy markets. This work is looking at a back-up option should we be required to connect at Hazelwood. This involves some environmental surveys and landholder conversations • Upcoming community events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Port Welshpool, Fishing competition Saturday 27 November - Port Albert pop-up, Sunday 28 November - Foster Market stall, Sunday 5 December - Sea Days Festival, Old Ferry Terminal 8-9 January • Commercial fishing workshops being held in Lakes Entrance and Port Franklin in December. This is to talk with commercial fishers about how we can work together. • Star of the South has appointed a Fishing Liaison Officer, who will be responsible for working with commercial and recreational fishers. • Star of the South is participating at the Australian Wind Industry Conference in late November. • Shut down period – project offices will be closed over Christmas and team will be mostly away between 24 December – 9 January. • Key investigations planned for 2022 are geotechnical studies onshore and offshore, pelagic fish, whales and birds. The pelagic fish study is in response to concerns raised by Harry in a previous meeting. • Question about next steps to secure offshore renewable energy zones Gippsland, Gladstone and Newcastle are all being considered. This is a decision for the Minister for Energy to make – he is responsible for declaring areas suitable for offshore wind. There is strong recognition that Gippsland is the most advanced region, particularly given extensive work to progress Star of the South and the Victorian Government’s financial commitment to development activities for three offshore wind projects.



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4	<p>What's happening in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glenn Stagg<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Glenn discussed the project and Community Advisory Group with a Gippsland Business Network Group (about 20 members locally).- The Business Network Group knew very little about the project. This confirmed Glenn's thinking that people only take notice if directly affected.- He asked the group five key statements about outcomes of the project and to rank them. Jobs was ranked highest on the list, which is likely reflective of the groups business focus.• Tony Cantwell<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In the middle of applications for Gippsland Community Leadership program. Star of the South are funding a scholarship for 2022.- Committee for Gippsland have been developing an Energy Vision and expect to launch it in early 2022. Will distribute amongst the group once final.• Brent McAlister<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wellington has established a Renewable Energy Forum- Working to lobby and advocate the Victorian Government for Renewable Energy Zones and investment in the area- Applying for a grant to develop a Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness study, which would focus on jobs and skills required, planning and land use needs.• Wendy Farmer<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attended the Star of the South stall at Traralgon Market with Tony Wolfe. Most people who stopped to talk were interested and supportive. Many wanted to know what would happen if coal power stations close sooner than planned. Spoke with around 80-100 people.
5	<p>Ask the engineer!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to presentation for key information.• Jonas Jacobson has been part of the project team for 3 years. He has experience working in Taiwan and has been involved in the very early development of other projects.• Star of the South has developed a draft wind farm layout concept for consultation. Preliminary wind data has been used to develop this layout and show what the wind farm could look like. This layout is expected to evolve and will change many times as the project is developed.• Jonas shared images of the project infrastructure and cables.• There will be around 600 km of inter-array cabling connecting the turbines and offshore substations, and around 150 km between the offshore wind farm and the shore.• Sections of cables are available to view at the project's community hub in Yarram.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about fishing in the wind farm. The project is looking to share the waters with fishers where that is safe and practical. Need to demonstrate to the regulators that this can be done safely and we will be looking to develop a safety plan in consultation with users. • Question about cable burial depth. They could be anywhere between 1.5 m to 5 m below the sea floor. We need to consider if this would be impacted by ocean users and sediment distribution. • Question about whether heat from the cables would change the ocean conditions. No, it is a very small contribution so wouldn't result in change in ocean temperature. • Question about magnetic field from cables. Operating cables generate a magnetic field and we'll need to demonstrate through our environmental assessments that this will not have an impact or can be appropriately mitigated. • Question about what limits the energy output of the project. Output is limited by the capacity of the onshore cables. • Question about any requirements for offshore projects to join infrastructure together – e.g. Star of the South and Marinus Link. There is quite a distance between the proposed projects so it wouldn't be feasible to connect together. Some sharing of onshore infrastructure may be possible dependent on project timing, locations, grid connection points and other factors. Star of the South is developing relationships with other proponents, Ausnet and the market operator to investigate synergies or conflicts and share information. • Question about when a final decision is made for Star of the South to go ahead. The project would first need to secure relevant approvals, a licence to build and operate the project and secure a customer for the electricity generated. A final investment decision is not expected until around 2025. • Question was asked about how long it takes to build the wind farm – around 2-3 years for offshore infrastructure. Each turbine takes about 24 hours to install in good weather.
7	<p>Other items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed schedule for Community Advisory Group meetings in 2022 was shown and will be distributed. Members to contact Susan if there are any concerns with dates/timing proposed.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Naomi to present on COP26 at future meeting	Susan McMillan	9/02/2022
2	Share Star of the South input to parliamentary inquiries	Susan McMillan	9/02/2022



No.	Action	Owner	Due
3	Distribute dates for 2022 CAG meetings and issue calendar invitations	Susan McMillan	31/01/2022

Next meeting

Date	Time	Place
Wednesday 9 February 2022	4pm – 6pm	Regent Theatre Yarram