



Star of the South

Star of the South

EIS/EES


Consultation Plan

AUGUST 2021



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as Traditional Owners of the area in which the Star of the South would be located and pay our respect to their elders past, present and future.

A person in a boat on the water with wind turbines in the background.

Document Title	Star of the South EIS/EES Consultation Plan
Revision	2
Date	August 2021
Document status	Final
Written	Sarah Altmann
Reviewed	Naomi Campbell
Approved	Erin Coldham

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Definitions and abbreviations

Terms and definitions

communication	means the act or process of providing public information about the project.
Community Advisory Group	means a group convened by the project team to provide an avenue for two-way communication, to facilitate information-sharing with local communities, and to obtain local advice to inform project activities and development.
consultation	means the act or process of seeking and receiving feedback from project stakeholders, such as those listed in Appendix A of this plan.
controlled action	means a proposed action that is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance or the environment of Commonwealth land.
EIS/EES	means the coordinated Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement and Victorian Environment Effects Statement process being undertaken for the project
Exploration Licence	means the <i>Exploration Licence: Licence for the conduct of offshore wind energy research and exploration near Gippsland, Victoria</i> , which was granted by the Commonwealth Government on 29 March 2019 and specifies the rights and conditions for the exploration of the licence area off the coast of Gippsland.
feedback	means input and advice from project stakeholders, such as those listed in Appendix A of this plan, provided through formal or information consultation.
licence area	means the proposed project area situated off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria, as specified in the Exploration Licence.
the plan	means this plan, the EIS/EES Consultation Plan, which explains how consultation will be undertaken during EIS/EES preparation and exhibition.
the project	means the proposed Star of the South project.
the project team	means Star of the South Pty Ltd, the proponent proposing to develop the Star of the South project.
Technical Reference Group	means a group appointed by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to provide advice to the department and the proponent throughout the scoping and preparation of the EIS/EES. A Technical Working Group typically comprises representatives from government agencies, local government and statutory authorities.

List of abbreviations

CAG	Community Advisory Group
DAWE	Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment
DELWP	Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EE Act	<i>Environment Effects Act 1978 (Victoria)</i>
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EIS/EES	Coordinated Environmental Impact Statement and Environment Effects Statement
GW	Gigawatt
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
MW	Megawatt
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
TRG	Technical Reference Group

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Star of the South project (the project) is Australia's first offshore wind project, proposed to be located off the south coast of Gippsland.

The project involves installing wind turbines out at sea and using the strong and consistent offshore winds to generate electricity. The electricity would be transmitted to a connection point in the Latrobe Valley, via a transmission system of cables and substations, and connected into the National Electricity Market to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.

The project has been under development since 2012.

In March 2019 an Exploration Licence was granted by the Commonwealth Government to investigate the proposed project area. Site investigations commenced from November 2019 and are ongoing.

In April 2020 the project was referred under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Victorian *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act).

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) issued a decision that the project is a 'controlled action' and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required to assess the effects of works proposed within Victorian jurisdiction.

The project is a joint development by Australian founders and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners – a global leader in offshore wind.

1.2 Purpose of this plan

Consultation is a key aspect of the environmental assessment process. It helps build understanding of the project and its potential effects and enables stakeholder knowledge and views to be considered by the project team in project development and assessments, and by the government in its assessment and approval decisions.

The EIS/EES Consultation plan (the plan) applies to the period of EIS/EES preparation and exhibition which is anticipated to take place between 2020–2022. It sets out how the project team will:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the proposed project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for participation
- Help people understand the project and the EIS/EES process
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EES, in order to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight, and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Use and respond to public input
- Build on previous consultation to involve communities and stakeholders in project development.

1.3 Stakeholder and community consultation and feedback to date

Consultation has played an important role in the project's development to date.

The project team began early discussions with Gippsland communities and interested stakeholders in 2016. Formal consultation during 2019 and 2020 sought to involve people in the project's early development and obtain feedback about specific activities and aspects of the project. Consultation summary reports outlining consultation undertaken and feedback received are published on the project website starofthesouth.com.au.

Key issues and topics of interest raised by communities and stakeholders to date are:

- Jobs, economic and industry benefits from the project
- How environmental impacts will be identified, assessed and avoided or minimised
- Environmental benefits from the project
- How impacts to private property will be minimised
- Any changes to commercial and recreational fishing and boating that could result from the project
- The visual impact of the offshore wind farm and transmission infrastructure
- How construction will be managed to avoid or minimise impacts on communities, landholders, marine users and the local environment
- Support for renewable energy and new forms of power generation in Gippsland
- Effectiveness, cost and reliability of renewable energy.

Feedback to date has been used to inform:

- The project team's understanding of local values, issues and opportunities
- Planning and delivery of site investigations
- The decision to use underground cables where it is technically feasible to do so, in order to minimise impacts on communities and landholders
- Assessment of potential transmission corridors
- Consultation methods and communication channels.



Gippsland consultation session 2019

A Commonwealth EIS will assess relevant aspects of the project across the entire project area, both on land and offshore.

A Victorian EES will assess relevant aspects of the project within Victorian jurisdiction, including transmission infrastructure on land and offshore elements within three nautical miles of the coast.

Both the EIS and the EES will assess direct and indirect impacts associated with the project on its own and in combination with other proposed developments.

A single EIS/EES will be prepared and timing of the Commonwealth and State processes aligned so that accessing information and participating in the process is as straightforward as possible.

The environmental assessment process provides a pathway to some of the approvals required to build and operate an offshore wind farm, however a Commonwealth licence to build, operate and decommission an offshore wind farm will also be needed.

The project components considered under existing Victorian and Commonwealth regulations are shown in Figure 1.

An indicative timeline for the integrated EIS/EES process is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Project components considered under applicable regulations

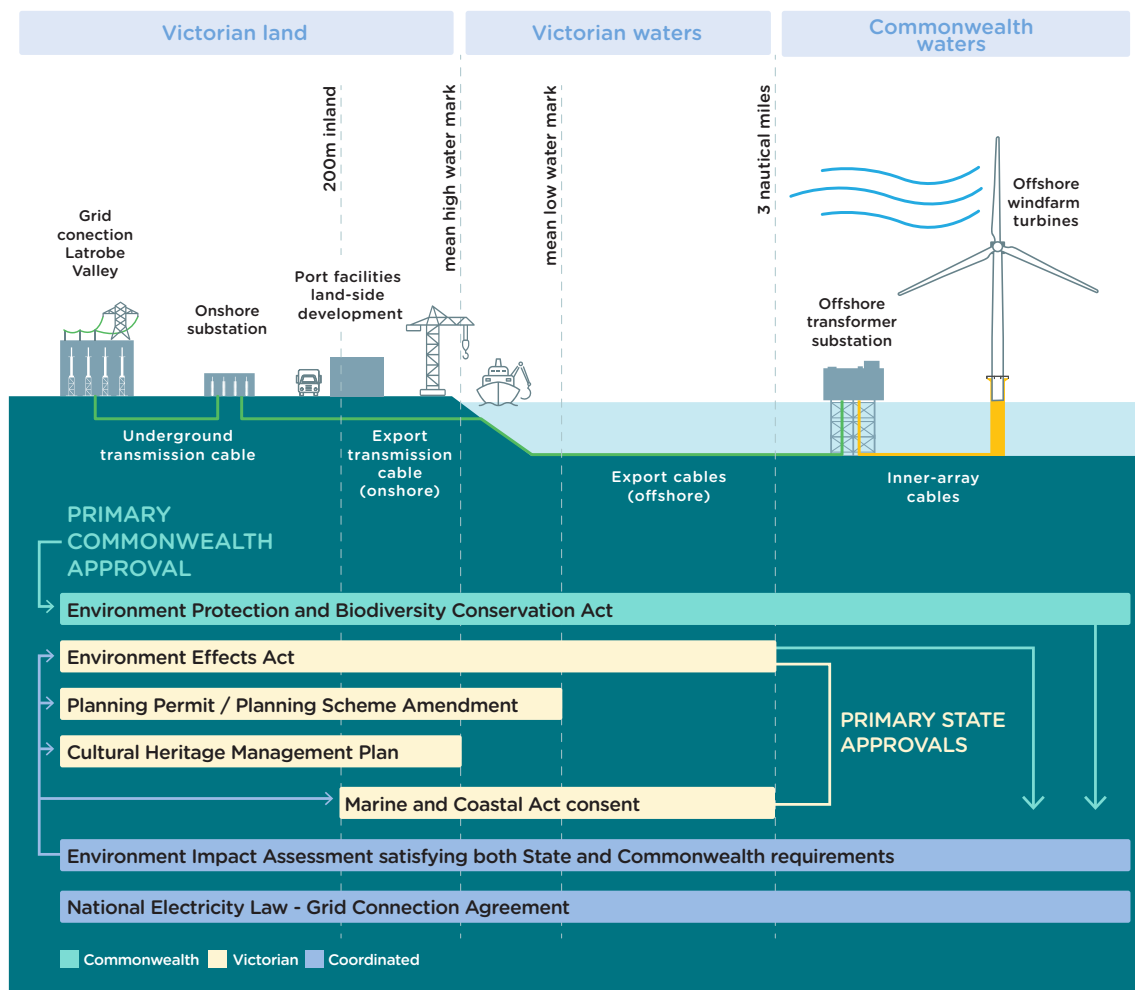
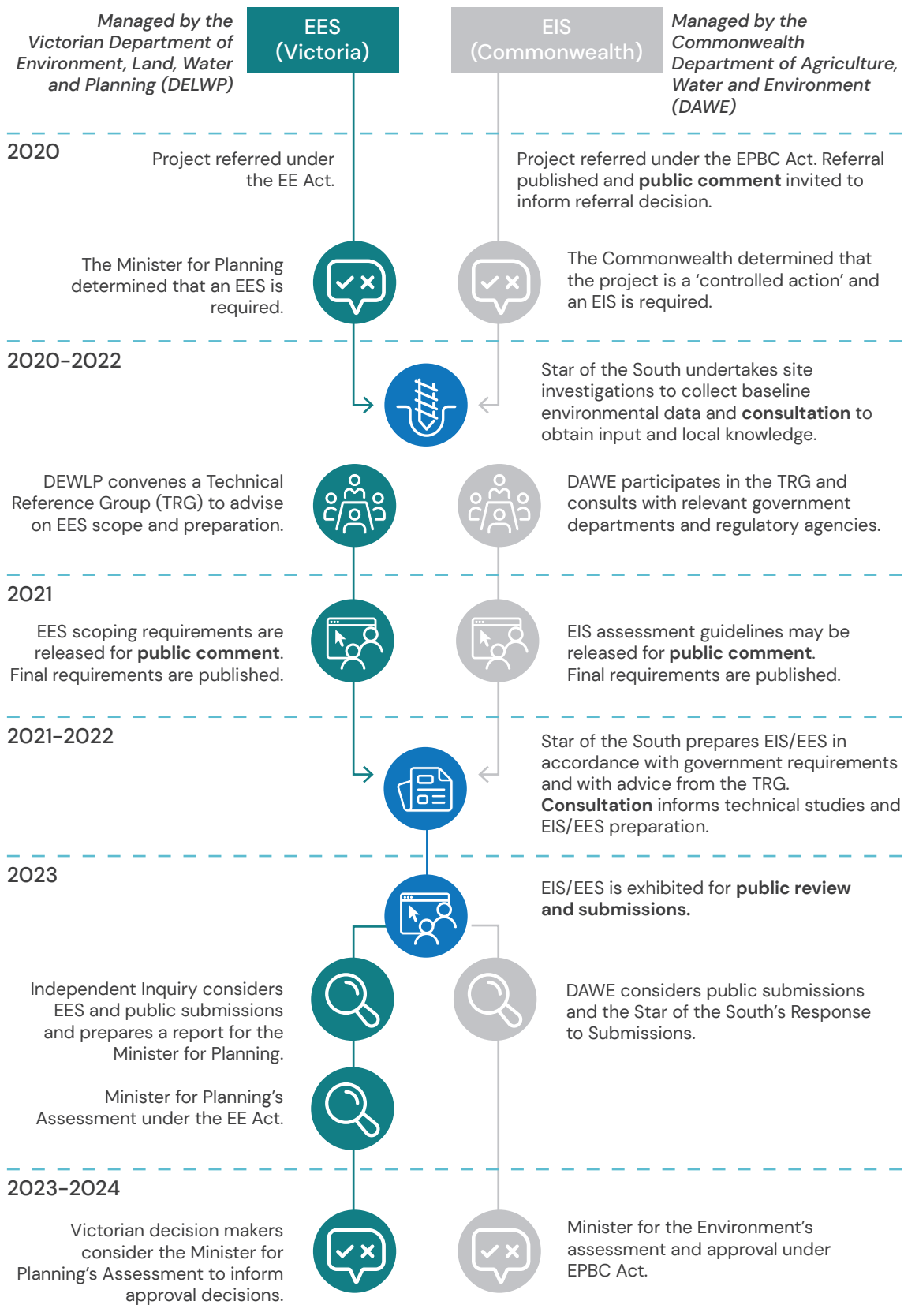


Figure 2: Indicative timeline for integrated EIS/EES process



2. About the project



The Star of the South project is Australia's first offshore wind project.

The proposed offshore wind farm will transmit electricity, via offshore cables, to shore in the vicinity of Reeves Beach. Onshore transmission infrastructure will then transmit electricity from the coast to the Latrobe Valley through rural areas within the Shire of Wellington and City of Latrobe.

The project is proposed to be located off the south coast of Gippsland within a 496m² area, shown in Figure 3. This site offers:

- Good offshore wind conditions with consistent and strong winds
- Suitable water depths of around 20–40 metres
- Access to existing transmission infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley, enabling connection to the National Electricity Market (NEM)
- Proximity to a local workforce, leading education and training providers, and supply chain with electricity generation experience (Latrobe Valley) and oil and gas maritime experience (Bass Strait)
- Proximity to existing ports for construction and operations
- Distance from sensitive environmental areas, major shipping channels and commercial oil and gas fields.

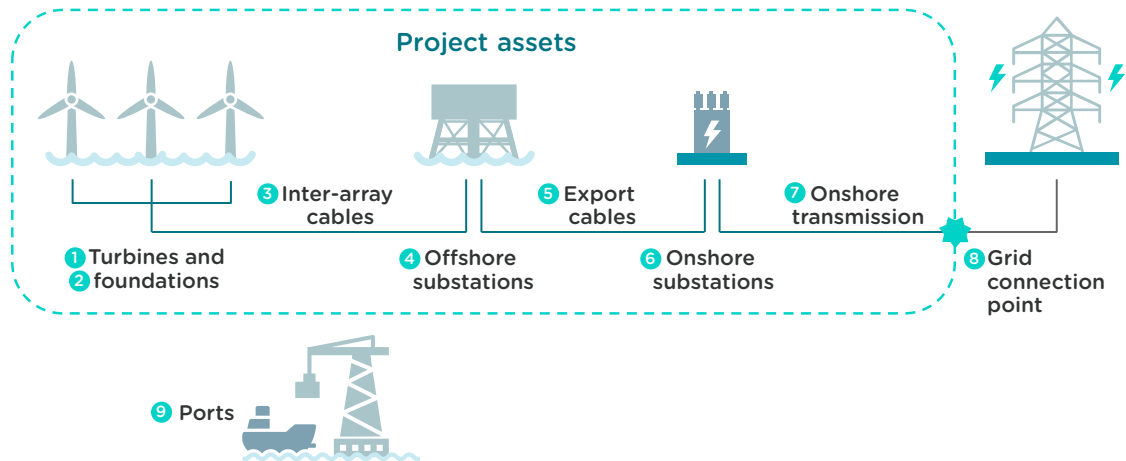
Figure 3: Proposed project location



The project is made up of the following main components, as shown in Figure 4:

- An offshore wind farm with wind turbines installed on foundations in the sea
- An offshore transmission system of inter-array cables, offshore substations and export cables to collect and transfer electricity to shore
- An onshore transmission system of underground (where technically feasible) cables and substations to transmit electricity to the Latrobe Valley
- Grid connection at an existing terminal station.

Figure 4: Project components



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Turbines: Yield electrical power from the wind. 2 Turbine foundations: Structural support for the wind turbine. 3 Inter-array cables: Network of subsea cables connecting strings of wind turbines to an offshore substation. 4 Offshore substations: Collects and transforms electricity from 66 kV to 220–275 kV for transmission. 5 Export cables: Transmits electricity from the offshore substation/s to the land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Onshore substations: Transforms electricity for transmission and grid connection. 7 Onshore transmission: Transfers electricity to the grid connection point. 8 Grid connection: Connects to the grid in the Latrobe Valley, for distribution to consumers. 9 Ports: Supports a variety of construction and operational activities. |
|--|--|

3. Communication and consultation framework

3.1 Objectives

During EIS/EES preparation and exhibition, our communication and consultation objectives are to:

- Inform communities and stakeholders about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities to participate
- Actively involve communities and stakeholders in the project's development and planning to improve outcomes
- Encourage participation and seek input during preparation of the EIS/EES, in order to identify issues of potential concern, obtain local insight and gain feedback on measures to address concerns
- Help people understand the project and participate, by ensuring communication materials are clear and accessible
- Demonstrate how community and stakeholder issues and feedback are being captured and used to inform project development and assessment.



3.2. Relevant legislation and best practice guidance

This plan has been developed with awareness and consideration of the following legislative requirements and best practice guidance:

- Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (Cth)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Vic)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- IAP2 Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum (see more below)
- Victorian Auditor General's Office – Public Participation Better Practice Guide 2015
- National Wind Farm Commissioner recommendations
- Clean Energy Council – Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry, 2018.

3.2.2 IAP2 spectrum

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) defines public participation as the involvement of those affected by a decision in the decision-making process. IAP2's core values of public participation include promoting sustainable decisions by recognising the interests of all decision-makers, actively facilitating the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision, providing participants the information they need to participate in a meaningful way, and communicating to participants how their input affected the decision. (*Source: IAP2 Federation*)

The IAP2 Spectrum is an internationally recognised tool for planning public participation. It includes varying levels of public participation, ranging from:

- **Inform** – To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- **Consult** – To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- **Involve** – To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate** – To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- **Empower** – To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

Consultation during EIS/EES preparation and exhibition will involve informing people about the project and consulting or involving communities and stakeholders in decisions about key aspects of the project and the management of potential impacts. Because the project is subject to legislative, safety, technical and operational requirements, opportunities to delegate decisions to the public through the EIS/EES phase are not expected.

3.3 Communication and consultation approach

The project has been founded and developed with the belief that early, sincere and respectful consultation is an essential component of successful project development.

Project planning will involve some complex decisions that require consideration of a broad range of issues. We will seek to build genuine, trust-based relationships with communities and stakeholders to enable constructive discussion and exploration of these complexities, with a view to achieving greater mutual understanding and beneficial outcomes.

3.3.1 Principles

Consultation is guided by the following principles:

Principle	What this means during EIS/EES preparation and exhibition
Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen with an open mind • Be open and honest about considerations, impacts and opportunities • Explain how and why decisions are being made and how input is used to inform decisions
Responsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt acknowledgement of queries or concerns • Respond to issues, no matter how large or small
Flexible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be flexible in our approach to avoiding or mitigating impacts where possible • Be flexible about how and when we accept feedback so that timely input can shape the project to achieve beneficial outcomes • Seek feedback on our communication and consultation approach and make any necessary adjustments in response to feedback
Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to identify and involve a broad and diverse range of stakeholders in planning and decisions • Communicate in plain English and an accessible format • Use a range of communication methods to reach different audiences through their preferred channels • Use established local networks and groups to keep people informed
Transparency and integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful and honest in all interactions • Share information that allows stakeholders and communities to provide informed feedback • Adhere to all relevant laws and requirements
Accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide key points of contact within the project team for queries or concerns • Take ownership for issues which may arise, particularly those that could have an impact on communities or stakeholders • Provide access to senior team members and technical specialists at information sessions.

3.4 How feedback is used

Community and stakeholder feedback will inform various aspects of the project and preparation of the EIS/EES:

Stage	How feedback is used
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informs options development and assessment• Considered in project scope refinement• Considered in locating and micrositing infrastructure
Planning and environmental assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhances our understanding of the local environment, potential issues and opportunities• Considered in preparing impact assessments• Considered in developing measures to avoid or minimise potential impacts• Informs communication and consultation approach• Informs performance requirements for construction, operation and decommissioning
Construction and operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considered in construction methodology, timing and impact mitigation• Informs communication and consultation approach.

The EIS/EES will document feedback received through consultation and the project team’s response.

We will be clear about which aspects of the project’s development and assessment can be shaped by community feedback, when and why we’re seeking feedback and how it will be used.

In instances where it is not possible to incorporate community or stakeholder preferences, the reasons will be clearly explained and the rationale and process for decision-making shared.



4. Traditional Owners

The Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Owners and hold native title over parts of the proposed project area.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) are the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and will be responsible for evaluating the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We understand that providing accurate and timely information to the Gunaikurnai people is a necessary and important responsibility of the project.

Star of the South takes a partnership approach to engaging with Traditional Owners and will seek involvement on a range of topics beyond Cultural Heritage, such as native title, project design, construction and procurement.

A dedicated Indigenous Engagement Advisor for the project supports a continual and open dialogue, provides a single point of contact on the project team and ensures appropriate and respectful engagement at all times.

5. Stakeholders

The project is expected to attract interest in the Gippsland region and potentially more broadly across Victoria and Australia.

The following broad types of stakeholders have an interest in the project:

- Australian and Victorian Government Ministers and Members of Parliament
- Australian and Victorian Government departments and agencies
- Local government
- Commercial fisheries – individuals and representative bodies
- Recreational fishers and boaters – individuals and representative bodies
- Residents of Gippsland
- Landholders and communities along the south coast of Gippsland and along the project's transmission route
- Emergency services
- Local community groups
- Environment groups
- Electricity market operators, regulators and participants
- Industry and business representatives
- Global and local supply chain
- Local tourism businesses and agencies
- Hard to reach and vulnerable members of the community
- Education institutions
- Media outlets.

A detailed stakeholder analysis is provided in Appendix A.

6. Key messages

Key messages assist in providing clear and consistent information about the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities for public involvement. This plan will be refined and re-published as needed to incorporate updated messages as the project and EIS/EES preparation progresses.

6.1 The project

- Star of the South is Australia's first offshore wind project, proposed to be located off the south coast of Gippsland.
- It has the potential to generate up to 2.2GW of capacity.
- It would provide large-scale, renewable energy to support Victoria's clean, secure and affordable energy future.
- The project involves installing wind turbines out in the sea and using the strong and consistent ocean winds to generate electricity.
- The project would transmit electricity to a connection point in the Latrobe Valley where it would connect into the National Electricity Market to deliver electricity to homes and businesses.
- A major infrastructure project worth \$8-10 billion, it would inject \$6.4 billion into the Gippsland economy and create thousands of jobs during construction and hundreds of long-term Gippsland jobs during operation.
- If the project receives all necessary approvals, construction could begin from the mid-2020s, to deliver power this decade.
- To find out more please contact us by phoning 1800 340 340, emailing info@starofthesouth.com.au, visiting starofthesouth.com.au or following Star of the South Project on Facebook.



6.2 Environmental assessment process

- The project is being assessed through a coordinated Commonwealth Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES).
- The EIS/EES is being coordinated to make finding information and participating in the process as easy as possible.
- An EIS/EES is a comprehensive assessment of potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of a project.
- The scope of the EIS will be determined by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and the scope of the EES by the Victorian Minister for Planning. Public comment will be invited on draft requirements.
- We will prepare the EIS/EES in accordance with EIS assessment guidelines and EES scoping requirements.
- Developing an EIS/EES involves:
 - Studies to understand existing conditions
 - Assessments to determine potential impacts
 - Identifying measures to avoid or minimise any impacts
 - Consultation with stakeholders and communities.
- A Technical Reference Group (TRG) has been convened by the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to advise on the preparation of the EIS/EES. The group includes government agencies, Traditional Owners, regional authorities and councils.
- There will be opportunities for community and stakeholder input to the EIS/EES as studies and impact assessments are undertaken, and throughout its preparation.
- The completed EIS/EES will be exhibited for public comment, and community members and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to make a submission.
- Following public exhibition of the EIS/EES an Inquiry (appointed under the EE Act) will consider the environmental effects of the project. Public hearings may be held as part of the Inquiry process.
- Outcomes of the EIS/EES process will inform government approval decisions including planning approval under the *Planning and Environment Act*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, and consent under the *Marine and Coastal Act*.
- The project will also need a licence to construct, operate and decommission an offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters. The Commonwealth Government is working on a new regulatory framework to enable offshore renewable energy projects like Star of South.
- A range of communication tools will be used to share project information and updates, to promote opportunities for participation in the EIS/EES process, and to share findings about the project's potential impacts and proposed measures to avoid or minimise these effects.

7. Communication and consultation activities and program

Consultation activities and methods will be tailored to suit the project and EIS/EES phase, the matters being discussed and stakeholder preferences. Activities and methods used will evolve to ensure ongoing relevance and in response to feedback.

7.1 Communication tools

Advertising and media	Advertisements, news coverage and interviews in local newspapers, radio and TV channels and on digital news and social media channels will be used to reach a broad audience across the Gippsland region and Victoria.
Website	The project's website provides a central location for information about the project – starofthesouth.com.au .
Videos	Videos are used to communicate information in an engaging and accessible way for a broad audience and shared with the media, posted on social media, the project website and used in presentations to stakeholder and community groups.
Social media	Facebook and LinkedIn are used to communicate project information and updates, promote discussion and respond to enquiries. Key dates and activities, such as information sessions and public exhibition, will be advertised on social media channels.
Printed and electronic newsletters	Newsletters provide project updates and information about how to get involved. Print newsletters are sent to residents across the project area, available from the project's community hub in Yarram and displayed in local shops, libraries and other public spaces where possible. E-newsletters are distributed monthly to subscribers.
Information materials	A suite of project information materials is available on the project website and in hard copy at events, information sessions and the project's community hub. Hard copy information packs are sent via post upon request and to those who have nominated to receive updates by mail. Materials are updated regularly, as the project's development and environmental assessments progress.
Maps and visual aids	Maps and other visual aids such as diagrams, photographs and illustrations are used to show the project location, components, appearance and processes.
3D visualisations	3D images and videos will be used to communicate visual aspects of the project.
Posters and signage	Posters and signs in local communities, such as on community notice boards, will be used to share information with a local audience and raise awareness of the project and opportunities to participate.

7.2 Consultation activities

Public information sessions	<p>Information sessions will be held to explain the assessment and consultation process, provide access to the project team and technical specialists, and accept feedback about potential concerns and suggestions from communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>At the formal exhibition stage, information sessions will be held to display and discuss EIS/EES documentation.</p> <p>Sessions may be held in person and/or via webinar or live online Q&A.</p>
Community Advisory Group	<p>Comprising local community members from different locations, members of special interest groups, Council representatives and project team members, this group facilitates two-way communication and provides local advice to the project team, including on issues being assessed as part of the EIS/EES. Meetings may be held in person and/or via video conference.</p>
Stakeholder briefings, meetings and workshops	<p>Briefings are undertaken to provide information about the project and updates at milestones. Meetings and workshops are held to address and seek input on specific matters from individuals, groups and organisations with local or specialist knowledge. Briefings, meetings and workshops may be held in person or via video conference.</p>
Local office and community hub	<p>The project's community hub is open to the public (<i>dependent on COVID-19 health advice</i>) and provides a place where people can drop in to find information, ask questions and provide feedback or raise any concerns. It also provides a space to display information and hold community meetings, events and presentations.</p>
Community presentations	<p>Presentations are given to community groups with an interest in the project to share information and promote opportunities to get involved. Community presentations may be held in person or via video conference.</p>
Local festivals, events and information displays	<p>The project's participation in local events provides an opportunity for informal engagement and information sharing to raise awareness of the project, the EIS/EES process and opportunities to participate.</p>
Consultation website – 'Get involved'	<p>The project has a dedicated website for online consultation – starofthesouth.com.au/getinvolved. Online feedback methods include surveys, public Q&A, interactive maps, quick polls and a suggestions board.</p>
Community surveys and feedback forms	<p>Surveys and forms are used to collect data and feedback at information sessions, the project's community hub and online.</p>
Social research	<p>Social research is undertaken annually to measure community awareness, views and communication preferences, and to complement formal and informal consultation activities.</p>
Schools engagement	<p>Engagement with local schools will be undertaken where possible to involve young people in discussions about the project and future. Schools engagement may be undertaken online or in person.</p>
Telephone, email and online Q&A enquiries	<p>Community enquiries are received via a free-call number, email, through a website form, online Q&A, social media and in person at the project's community hub. All enquiries are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager system.</p>
Technical Reference Group (TRG)	<p>Convened by government to coordinate advice between statutory decision makers and the project team throughout the EIS/EES process. The project team will work collaboratively with members of the TRG, sharing information, seeking advice and considering their input in preparation of the EES.</p>

7.2.1 Dedicated landholder engagement

The project has a dedicated team to work with landholders where an easement is required for the project's transmission system. This team will regularly meet with landholders and provide updates through email, phone calls and meetings. A dedicated phone number and email address is available for all landholder enquiries.

7.2.2 Dedicated marine user engagement

Recognising the unique needs of this important cohort, the project is working with commercial fisheries, recreational fishers, boaters and other marine users, representative groups and regulators, in order to share and seek information and promote opportunities for participation.

7.2.3 Hard to reach and vulnerable groups

The project team will work with local government and other service providers to identify relevant individuals, groups and those who support them. The best approach will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



7.3 Indicative program

Planned communication and consultation activities are shown below. For current and upcoming opportunities to get involved please visit starofthesouth.com.au/community

EIS/EES phase and indicative timing	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	Activities
2020-21 Site investigations* and scoping requirements/ assessment guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build awareness and understanding of the project, the coordinated EIS/EES process and next steps • Explain how to get involved in consultation and encourage participation • Obtain feedback on community concerns and aspirations for consideration in project development • Gather information and local knowledge to inform site investigations and options assessment • Identify consultation and communication preferences • Promote opportunity for public comment on EES scoping requirements and EIS assessment guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online consultation • Stakeholder briefings and meetings • Community presentations • Live stream information updates and Q&As • Project community hub • Technical Reference Group • Landholder engagement • Emails and phone calls • Social research • Schools engagement • Community Advisory Group • Local events and festivals • Newsletters (print and e-news) • Website and social media • Videos • Media and advertising • Information materials and maps • Consultation summary report
2021-22 EIS/EES preparation, including impact assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about the coordinated EIS/EES process and encourage participation • Explain how feedback has been / is being used in project development • Obtain feedback on specific matters to inform project development and refinement • Involve communities and stakeholders in discussions to thoroughly understand issues and identify suitable mitigations • Identify and implement improvements to consultation approach 	<p>As above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sessions and webinars • Stakeholder workshops • 3D visualisations • Consultation summary report • Technical Reference Group

**Investigations associated with environmental impact assessment. Additional studies may be ongoing past this timeframe to inform detailed design work.*

EIS/EES phase and indicative timing	Communication and consultation	
	Purpose	Activities
<p>2022</p> <p>Formal EIS/EES exhibition, submissions and Inquiry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote the coordinated process and involvement in EIS/EES process and formal consultation • Present and explain EIS/EES findings and proposed mitigations • Provide information about how to make a submission and next steps • Explain how feedback helped inform the impact assessments and proposed environmental performance requirements • Respond to submissions as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIS/EES displays • Formal submission process (managed by government) • Stakeholder meetings and briefings • Community presentations • Information sessions and webinars • Project community hub • Emails and phone calls • Community Advisory Group • Local and industry events and festivals • Newsletters (print and e-news) • Website and social media • Videos • Media and advertising • Information materials and maps • EES Consultation Report
<p>2022-23</p> <p>EIS/EES process complete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back on EES assessment outcomes and approvals • Explain next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder briefings and meetings • Community presentations • Project community hub • Emails and phone calls • Community Advisory Group • Newsletters (e-news) • Website and social media • Media and advertising • Information materials

8. Recording, monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of communication and consultation activities will be continually assessed and adjusted as needed, to ensure the objectives set out in this plan are being achieved.

This Consultation Plan may be modified and updated as preparation of the EIS/EES progresses in order to make improvements, in response to feedback and preferences expressed by participants, to reflect program updates, and/or to ensure a tailored approach is taken to address any emerging issues and opportunities. Any material updates to this Plan must be endorsed by the project's Technical Reference Group.

8.1 Recording feedback

Stakeholder interactions and feedback (both formal and informal) are recorded in the project's Consultation Manager database. This database holds stakeholder information and enables the project team to record and classify enquiries, feedback or complaints to enable accurate record keeping and reporting.

Feedback received through formal consultation is also analysed and reported in Consultation Summary Reports. Reports are published on the project website and supplied to those who participated in consultation.

Any complaints are managed in accordance with the project's Complaint Handling Procedure which is available on the project website.

8.2 EIS/EES Consultation Report

A report outlining consultation undertaken, feedback received and how we responded to that feedback will be produced and included as part of the EIS/EES, in accordance with the EIS assessment guidelines and EES scoping requirements.

8.3 Evaluation

Performance against the communication and consultation framework objectives set out in this plan will be measured through:

- Feedback from the people we engage with
- Social research findings relating to awareness, support and satisfaction
- Quantity and content of survey responses
- Quantity and content of enquiries
- Website and social media statistics relating to reach, engagement and sentiment
- Media monitoring
- Quick polls
- Feedback forms in the project's local office and community hub.

Appendix A – Detailed stakeholder list

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Decision makers	<p>Australian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for the Environment Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning process complies with legislation and requirements Involvement in project development and assessment Optimal outcomes for environment and community Preparation of robust EIS/EES Broader regulatory requirements for offshore wind Community and stakeholder consultation
	<p>Victorian Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Planning Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 	
	<p>Statutory decision makers / Technical Reference Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Aboriginal Victoria Environment Protection Authority Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Heritage Victoria Latrobe City Council Regional Roads Victoria South Gippsland Shire Council Wellington Shire Council West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority 	
Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding and avoiding/ minimising potential adverse impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Native Title Cultural Heritage Management Plan Opportunities for indigenous businesses and job seekers
	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Australian Government	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding project rationale and benefits Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery Community consultation process
	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	
	Australian Hydrographic Office	
	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	
	Bureau of Meteorology	
	Civil Aviation Safety Authority	
	CSIRO	
	Department of Defence	
	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	
	Geoscience Australia	
	Members of Parliament	
	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority	
	Regional Development Australia	
	Victorian Government and statutory authorities	
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions		
Earth Resources		
Emergency Management Victoria		
Gippsland Ports Authority		
Gippsland Water		
Latrobe Valley Authority		
Members of Parliament		
Parks Victoria		
Port of Hastings Development Authority		
Regional Development Victoria		
State Emergency Service		
South Gippsland Water		
Transport Safety Victoria		
Victoria Police (water police)		
Victorian Fisheries Authority		

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Local Government	Councillors, executive and officers from the following councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latrobe City Council • South Gippsland Shire Council • Wellington Shire Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding and avoiding/minimising adverse impacts on council land and assets, the local environment and for local residents and businesses • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy • Community consultation process
Directly affected or adjacent landholders, licence holders and asset owners	AusNet Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on land, licence and/or asset • Involvement in decisions which may affect land, licence and/or asset • Minimising impacts on land, licence and/or asset during construction and operation • Co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)
	Basslink	
	CarbonNet	
	Crown land managers	
	Commercial fishing licence and quota holders	
	Mining tenement holders	
	Petroleum/gas tenement holders	
	Private landholders along the south Gippsland coast and the project's transmission route	
Recreational fishing licence holders		
Local community, business and tourism	Chambers of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation in the local area • Ability to provide local knowledge to enhance the project and delivery and to help avoid/minimise impacts • Opportunities to provide input to the project • Clear information and updates about the project • Maximising local benefits from the project • Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers
	Coast Guard	
	Charter and tour boat operators	
	Corner Inlet Connections	
	Fishing clubs	
	Friends of the Prom	
	Gippsland Climate Change Network	
	Gippsland Environment Group	
	Greening Australia	
	Landcare groups	
	Latrobe Valley Community Power Hub	
	Local businesses and industry	
	Residents of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley	
	Resident / Progress / Ratepayer associations	
	Rotary clubs	
	Sporting clubs	
	Surf Lifesaving clubs	
Tourism agencies and operators		
Yacht clubs		

Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Broader community	Victorian community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Ability to access clear project information • Effects on electricity prices and supply
	Electricity consumers	
Commercial fishing groups	Abalone Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on fisheries and the local environment • Access to the project site, co-existing and/or compensation (if applicable)
	Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association	
	Bass Strait Scallop Fishermen's Association	
	Commonwealth Fisheries Association	
	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	
	Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative	
	Port Franklin Fisherman's Association	
	Seafood Industry Australia	
	Seafood Industry Victoria	
	Small Pelagic Fishery Industry Association	
	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association	
	Southern Shark Industry Alliance	
	Sustainable Shark Fishing Association	
	Tuna Australia	
Victorian Bays and Inlets Fisheries Association		
Victorian Rock Lobster Industry Association		
Recreational fishing groups	Australian Anglers Association (Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale and benefits • Understanding potential impacts from project construction and operation on recreational fishing and boating, landside facilities and the local environment • Access to the project site, co-existing • Opportunities to improve fishing
	Australian National Sportfishing Association	
	Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation	
	Boating Industry Association of Victoria	
	Future Fish Foundation	
	Game Fishers Association of Victoria	
	Gippsland Angling Clubs Association	
	Local fishing clubs	
VR Fish		


Category	Stakeholder	Key interests
Energy market operators and regulators	Australian Energy Market Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project scope, capacity and operations • Grid connection • Safety • National Electricity Market operations
	Australian Energy Market Operator	
	Clean Energy Regulator	
	Energy Security Board	
	Energy Safe Victoria	
Industry groups, peak bodies and NGOs	Clean Energy Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery • Opportunities to regenerate or transition local industries, businesses and the economy • Opportunities for local businesses and job seekers
	Committee for Gippsland	
	GROW Gippsland	
	Trade Unions	
	Victorian Trades Hall Council	
	Victorian Farmers Federation	
Environment groups and NGOs	Birdlife Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding project rationale, benefits and impacts • Understanding and avoiding/ minimising adverse impacts • Opportunities to provide input to project planning and delivery
	Climate Action Network	
	Climate Change Council	
	Environment Victoria	
	Friends of the Earth	
	Victorian National Parks Association	
Educational institutions	Broadening Horizons Gippsland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear information and updates about the project • Future workforce needs and opportunities
	Federation University / Federation TAFE	
	Gippsland TAFE	
	Local training providers	
	Local primary and secondary schools	
	Victorian Skills Commissioner	
Media	Gippsland media (print, TV, radio, online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear information and updates about the project • Involvement in key milestone media opportunities
	Victorian and Australian media (print, TV, radio, online)	
	Specialist media	



Star of the South

The Trustee for The Star of the South Trust

Level 30, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

 1800 340 340

 info@starofthesouth.com.au

 starofthesouth.com.au