



About the project



Exploring up to 2.2 GW of energy



7-25 km off the coast



496 km² exploration area



Up to 200 turbines



Operates for around 30 years



Up to 750 construction jobs and 200 long-term jobs in Gippsland



Keep in touch

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News from Australia's first offshore wind project

Star of the South would harness strong Bass Strait winds to power up to 1.2 million homes and create long-term, local jobs.

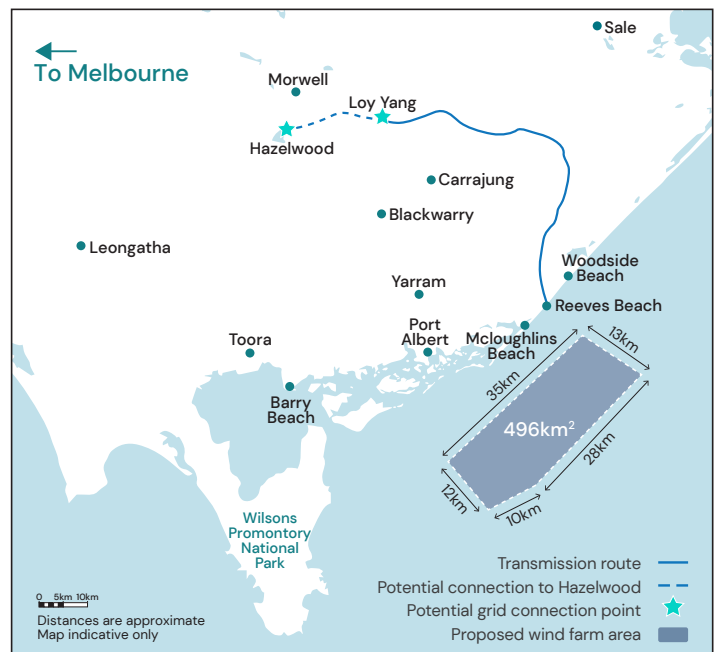
Here's where the project is proposed to be located off the Gippsland coast.

The Australian Government recently announced the Bass Strait off Gippsland as the first area to be formally assessed under its new Offshore Electricity Infrastructure framework.

The framework aims to manage the offshore marine environment in a way that recognises all users and balances competing interests.

The Australian Government released a map of an area which could potentially be suitable for offshore energy development, and sought community feedback over the past few months.

For updates and to find out more, visit dceew.gov.au



Community information sessions

Webinar • Yarram
Foster • Morwell
Woodside

Check the back page for details.



Meet our new CEO

Charles Rattray joined the team in August. His first weeks were spent in Gippsland learning about the region and local communities.

Get to know Charles

- He started his career as an Officer in the Australian Army.
- He lives in Melbourne with his wife, two children and cat.
- He recently completed Port Macquarie Ironman to raise money for young people with brain cancer.
- He has travelled the world, visiting over 100 countries.
- He spent much of his childhood on a dairy farm in western Victoria.

"I'm excited to be part of the Star of the South team leading the establishment of offshore wind in Australia."

Gippsland's energy future

Offshore wind is set to play an important role in keeping the lights on and prices down as Australia moves to a more renewable energy system.

Coal power stations in the Latrobe Valley are retiring and new, large-scale generation is needed.

Offshore wind can bring massive amounts of electricity into the grid, without needing extra land space.

Victoria is planning to generate electricity from offshore wind by 2028 and targeting 9 GW by 2040.

Bass Strait, off the Gippsland coast, is proposed to be the first area where offshore wind projects could be developed.

Strong winds, a skilled workforce and good grid infrastructure make it the ideal place to get this new industry up and running.

Gippsland is leading the way. As it has for the last century, this region will be the home of energy jobs, continuing to power Victoria for many years to come.

We're excited to work with Gippslanders to make it happen.





Sharing project benefits with the community

We love being part of the Gippsland community and want to be a good neighbour, including by supporting local communities with a benefit sharing program.

If approved and constructed, Star of the South would become part of the scenery and you'd probably know at least one person working on the project.

We want to see local communities better off as a result of us being in Gippsland.

It'll take time to plan for the future together, so we're starting a conversation now.

We'd like to hear about the opportunities and challenges facing your community and your big ideas for how we could help address them.

Here's a few of the ideas we've heard so far

Offshore wind
tourist trail
with lookouts

Training to
upskill locals for
offshore wind
jobs

Environment
conservation
projects

Scholarships or
other support
for local
students

Volunteering
for education
programs

Offshore
wind visitor
centre

Supporting
local projects

Supporting local
organisations
and events

Sponsorships
or grants
program



HELLO NEIGHBOUR!

We'll start our community benefit sharing program if Star of the South proceeds to construction. Add your suggestions to our 'ideas board' anytime at getinvolved.starofthesouth.com.au

Two years of marine surveys completed

Our marine surveys wrapped up this year – marking the completion of the biggest ever marine survey program in Bass Strait.

We're proud that this program is helping build scientific understanding of this little studied area.

We used local vessels and partnered with leading scientists and research agencies including CSIRO and Monash, Deakin and Curtin universities, to collect data on marine mammals, fish, birds, seafloor habitats, and tides and currents.

Specialists are now working to process and interpret all the data collected.

We'll use their findings to develop the project in an environmentally responsible way.

Findings will be made publicly available through the environmental assessment and approvals process, expected in 2023.



New Zealand fur seal



Sponges on the seabed

What was involved?



50,000+ observations



13,000+ hours worked



120+ boat and plane trips



200+ hours of underwater video footage



300+ birds tagged



40+ fur seals tagged

Humpback whales spotted by aerial survey





Behind the scenes

Adventurous scientists took boats, planes and hikes to find and observe animals in their natural habitats – rain, hail or shine.



Erin (above left) was part of the team studying seabed habitat.

Using underwater cameras, they were able to see what's living on the seabed. Unsprprisingly, they saw a lot of sand, but also sponges, sea stars, worms, shrimp, crabs and snails.



Rohan's monthly boat trips to find and fit GPS tags on seabirds went out as far as the continental shelf! The light-weight tags run on solar power and fall off when the bird sheds feathers. They send real-time data, 24-hours a day, on exactly where a bird is flying. Scan the QR code to hear from Rohan about his bird surveys.



Brooke (above) camped out on Seal Island with a research team for eight days. They braved the elements in tents with minimal gear and the company of spiders, skinks and lizards! "One of the highlights of this trip was holding a soft and fuzzy little shearwater chick."

All tagging was undertaken by Monash University under animal ethics permits

Transmission update

Star of the South includes an underground transmission system to connect the proposed offshore wind farm to the Latrobe Valley.

Last year we selected a preferred route for our transmission system. Since then, we've been working with land owners, community, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, and environmental and engineering specialists to study and refine the route.

This work will help us minimise the project's impact on native trees and habitat, cultural heritage, farming operations and existing infrastructure.

We're planning to connect to the electricity grid at Loy Yang. As there's a lot of change happening in the region and energy market, we're also investigating an option to connect at Hazelwood.



Above: Digging a test pit to learn more about the local soil conditions
Below: We completed ground investigations along the transmission route this year

Crossing the beach

Transmission cables from the offshore wind farm would come to shore near Reeves Beach.

We're often asked how the cables would be installed without affecting the sensitive coastal environment.



We'd use a special, trenchless construction method to bring the cables in underground. Scan the QR code to watch a video showing how it's done.



Is your business interested in supplying the project?

With Gippsland set to become the home of offshore wind, there will be many opportunities for local businesses of all sizes to support this up-and-coming industry.

Express your interest by going to gateway.icn.org.au, searching for Star of the South Offshore Wind Project and following the prompts.

Will I see the wind farm?

At 7–25 km out to sea, turbines would be visible from shore.

We're often asked what the offshore wind farm would look like if it's built, so we've developed some interactive tools that let you see for yourself.

These tools are based on draft designs and are indicative. They have been created to give an early impression of what you might see if the project is built to its maximum capacity.

Many things can affect the exact placement of turbines including the wind direction, seabed depths, reef areas and other environmental considerations. We'll keep working through our investigations to update the wind farm layout and visuals as the project progresses.

Online interactive map

Visit our website to see:

- Views of the proposed wind farm from different places
- Example wind farm layouts
- Videos and other interactive information.

3D digital model in our Gippsland office

If you're looking for more detail, drop into our office at 310 Commercial Road, Yarram and we'll show you around the 3D digital model on our touch screen kiosk.

Right: Local staff member shows how the 3D model works



Ninety Mile Beach

Artist's impression based on indicative draft design, subject to change

Angling and offshore wind

Recreational fishing, boating and offshore wind can work well together.

In the UK and USA, anglers can throw a line inside an offshore wind farm. We want to do the same here.

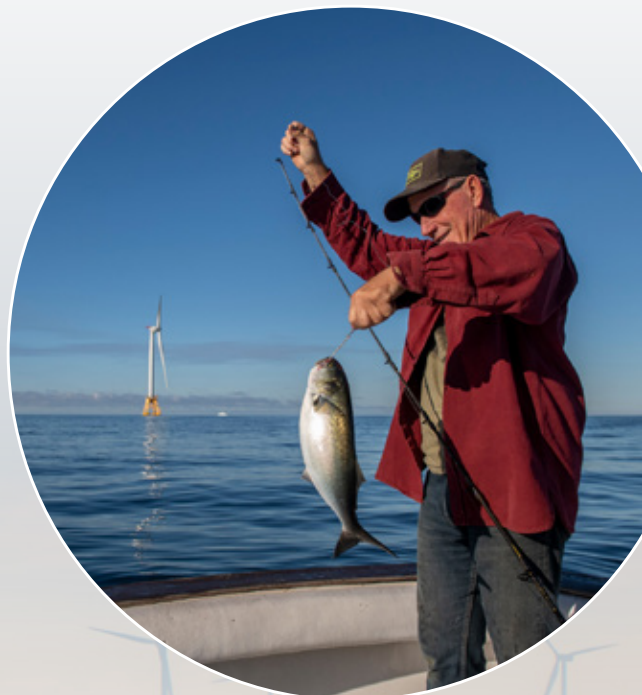
We're planning to share the waters - not to exclude boats or fishers. In fact, we'd like to help make fishing in the area even better!

It's important that we work together and have the right measures in place to keep everyone safe, especially during construction.



Do you fish in Gippsland?

Tell us more and share your suggestions at getinvolved.starofthesouth.com.au



Our local team

Nobody knows Gippsland better than locals.

Whether you call, email or drop by our Gippsland office, you'll be talking with someone who understands the local area.

Meet the team:

- Lachlan is our Fishing Liaison Officer.
- Jason recently joined as Community Liaison Officer.
- Stella is our Communications Officer.

Get in touch if you'd like to talk with us about Star of the South - we'd love to hear from you!



Lachlan, Jason and Stella are all based in Gippsland

Learn about offshore wind jobs

An offshore wind industry would bring good-quality, long-term jobs to Gippsland.

A wide range of different trades and professions are needed to develop, construct and operate an offshore wind farm.

We've created an *Offshore Wind Jobs Guide* for people wanting to learn more about a career in this industry. It includes example job profiles and stories from people working in offshore wind overseas.

We're also working with coal and offshore oil and gas employers in Gippsland to map existing jobs and skills with new opportunities in offshore wind.

We want to see as many Gippslanders working on and benefiting from this project as possible!



Project timeline

If everything runs smoothly, we're aiming to start construction around the middle of this decade and have the first turbine spinning around 2028.

A range of approvals, licences and agreements are needed to proceed to construction, including:

- Planning and environmental approvals from federal and state governments
- A seabed licence from the federal government
- A grid connection agreement from the Australian Energy Market Operator.

We love getting out around Gippsland!

Thanks to everyone who has stopped to talk with us, give feedback and share local knowledge so far.

We hope to see you at our community information sessions in November. We'll continue popping up across Gippsland as work continues on the project. Let us know if there's an event on near you and we'll do our best to get there.



Our team talk with locals at McLoughlins Beach, April



Stella and Nicholas spoke with South Gippsland students at the Foster Secondary College careers fair, June



We popped up in Port Albert, April



Myles presented to Latrobe Valley engineers in Morwell, May



Stella and Julia met students at the Federation University Open Day, August

Come along to talk with our team

- Melbourne Boat Show, 20–23 October
- Community information sessions, 5–10 November (details on back page)
- Yarram Agricultural Show, 19 November

Find out about events we're attending at getinvolved.starofthesouth.com.au

What we're hearing

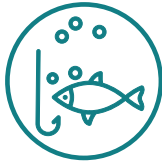
Community feedback is essential to develop a world-class offshore wind project.

Over the years, we've heard from thousands of people. We're using feedback, along with environmental, economic and technical data, to plan and design the project.

These are the most common topics we hear about.



Local jobs and industry opportunities



Fishing in the area



What the wind farm would look like



Managing impacts to communities, landholders and the environment

You can provide feedback any time at starofthesouth.com.au or by contacting us.



Connect with our Community Advisory Group

Regular meetings with this group is one way we listen to community feedback.

Members volunteer their time to learn about offshore wind, discuss project issues and share information in their community.



The group recently took a site visit, visiting Port Albert, McLoughlins Beach, Reeves Beach and Giffard West. Scan the QR code to see a video of what they saw.

Community Advisory Group Chair, Ian Gibson, says the group provides a community voice in the project's planning and development.

"I encourage people to connect with the project directly or through a member of this group, so that ideas, concerns and questions can be discussed and considered early on", he said.



Visit our website to learn more about the Community Advisory Group or contact us to connect with a member.



Members of our team and the Community Advisory Group at McLoughlins Beach, April



Want to support the project?
 Sign our supporter list at starofthesouth.com.au and we'll keep in touch.

We invite you to get involved

Join us at a community information session to hear a project update, talk with our team and share your feedback.

Feel welcome to drop in at any time. We'll start each session with a brief presentation, followed by an opportunity to talk with our team. We look forward to answering your questions and hearing any feedback you have about the project.

WHERE	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Yarram	Sat 5 November	9 am–11 am	Yarram Secondary College, Hothouse
Foster	Sat 5 November	2 pm–4 pm	Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
Webinar	Mon 7 November	5:30 pm–6:30 pm	Online presentation with live Q&A Register at starofthesouth.com.au
Morwell	Wed 9 November	5:30 pm–7:30 pm	Italian Australian Club, Cocktail Room
Woodside	Thurs 10 November	5:30 pm–7:30 pm	Woodside Hall



Photo credit: The Bridge Newspaper

Can't make it?



Call or email us any time



Visit our **website** to watch a recording of the webinar, find information and provide feedback



Visit our **Gippsland office** in Yarram, open on Tuesday, Wednesday and by appointment

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 Star of the South

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This newsletter is wrapped in biodegradable packaging to protect it from the rain.

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