



Project update

MARCH 2021

Exploring Gippsland's offshore wind potential

We're excited to be exploring Victoria's offshore wind potential off the south coast of Gippsland. The Star of the South project would harness strong offshore winds in Bass Strait to power Victorian homes.

Chat to the team

We'll be in town in late March and April, plus online for a webinar with a presentation and Q&A. We'd love to see you and share what has been happening on the project. See the back page for details.

Transmission route selected

We've been investigating transmission route options to connect electricity generated by wind turbines in the sea to the Latrobe Valley.

The Star of the South project includes a transmission system of cables and substations. We're committed to using underground cables, unless it's not technically feasible or where overhead lines would have a lower impact.

We selected a transmission route for further investigation after talking with landholders, local communities and government, and doing site investigations throughout 2020 on three different options.

The route we're progressing would come to shore around Reeves Beach and travel underground through Darriman, Giffard West and Hiamdale to the Latrobe Valley.

Of the three options considered, this one has the best overall outcome and will be progressed through planning, approvals and design. We're talking with landowners whose property may be suitable to host the transmission infrastructure.

Come along to one of our community events to learn more about the transmission route and ask any questions.





What we've seen so far

Researchers have captured some amazing images while conducting studies out in the field.

School of perch

Studying the marine environment

A key part of planning for Australia's first offshore wind project is collecting environmental data to inform the project's design and approvals process.

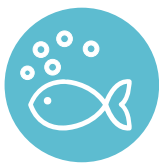
We're partnering with some of Australia's leading scientists and research agencies including CSIRO and Monash, Deakin and Curtin universities to collect data on five key marine study areas.



Black-faced cormorants



Marine mammals



Fish



Seabirds and shorebirds



Benthic ecology



Coastal processes



New Zealand fur seal



Flowering wattle

We're using the data we collect for:

- Environmental assessments
- Models to predict potential project impacts
- Comparing pre- and post-construction conditions
- Building scientific knowledge of the area.

Subject matter experts are collecting, verifying and analysing the data. Findings will be publicly available through the project's assessment and approvals process over the coming years.



Reef and colourful invertebrates from just outside the project area 35 m underwater

Environmental assessment and approvals

We're going through comprehensive environmental assessment and approval processes.

A coordinated government assessment through an Australian Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) will be used to assess potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of the project. We'll prepare our EIS/EES over the coming years. There'll be opportunities to get involved and provide feedback.

The Australian Government's EIS Assessment Guidelines and Victorian Government's EES Scoping Requirements will be released for public comment soon. We'll keep you updated on this process and ways you can share your feedback.

Come along and learn more

Drop by any of the locations below to chat with our team and find out more about the project. If you're keen to hear a presentation, join our webinar. We'll share a video of the presentation for those who can't attend.

Register via our website at starofthesouth.com.au to let us know if you'll be attending.

- Webinar – presentation and Q&A, Monday 22 March, 5.30–6.30pm
- Woodside Beach Surf Lifesaving Club – coffee morning, Saturday 27 March, 9–11am
- Yarram Memorial Park – sausage sizzle, Saturday 27 March, 1–3pm
- Morwell Sunday Market – market stall, Sunday 28 March, 8am–1.30pm
- Lakes Entrance, Central Hotel (pub) – Thursday 22 April, 5.30–7.30pm

Jobs and suppliers

Register your interest in supplying to the project via our Industry Capability Network portal. Details are on our website.

Keeping the community informed

We've established a Community Advisory Group with people from across Gippsland so we can share information, answer questions and seek local advice as we plan for the project. Members are regularly briefed on project updates and key topics.

Ian Gibson, Gippsland local of nearly 40 years, is the independent chairperson. We're excited to have members from Lakes Entrance to Waratah Bay, and from the coast to the Latrobe Valley.

Visit starofthesouth.com.au/community to see who's involved from your local community and to check out meeting agendas, presentations and minutes.



Chairperson Ian Gibson with a few Community Advisory Group members visiting our Yarram community hub

Stay in touch

To get the latest project news and information sign up to receive our monthly e-news updates on our website or follow us on Facebook at **Star of the South Project**.

Drop by our Yarram community hub at 310 Commercial Road on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am–4pm to speak with the team and pick up project information. While you're there, check out our offshore wind mural by street artist Heesco.

More information

To find out more about the Star of the South project and register for updates:

starofthesouth.com.au

1800 340 340

info@starofthesouth.com.au

Star of the South

Star of the South Project

Interpreter service: 13 14 50

MARCH 2021