



29 August 2019

GET INVOLVED IN AUSTRALIA'S FIRST OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

Australia's first proposed offshore wind project – the Star of the South – is kicking off consultation with local communities and stakeholders ahead of site investigations starting later this year.

Input is being sought from Gippsland communities, government, peak bodies and marine users with feedback to inform the approach to initial site investigations.

The first stage of the site investigations off the south coast of Gippsland include measuring wind and wave conditions, understanding the seabed, gathering information about water depths and identifying any features such as unmarked shipwrecks or buried cables.

Studies will also be undertaken to collect important data about patterns of marine animals as well as economic studies to identify potential local job and industry opportunities.

The Commonwealth Government granted the project an exploration licence in March 2019, paving the way for technical and environmental studies to confirm the project's feasibility and inform early planning.

Public consultation sessions are being held in Morwell, Yarram, Woodside, Leongatha, Lakes Entrance and Port Franklin in September to provide an overview of the works and an opportunity for people to speak with the project team.

People can also share their feedback online with consultation open until 26 September 2019. Initial site investigations for the Star of the South are expected to start from late 2019.

The proposed Star of the South project involves building wind turbines out at sea with cables and substations connecting power to existing infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley, providing a reliable and consistent source of energy to hundreds of thousands of Victorian homes and businesses.

The project could bring offshore wind to Australia for the first time, creating a new industry and supporting local jobs and training in the Gippsland and Latrobe Valley communities. Offshore wind is a strong driver for economic development, with a proven track record of creating jobs during construction and operation.

To learn more about the Star of the South and upcoming information sessions starting on Thursday 12 September or to comment online, visit starofthesouth.com.au/getinvolved

Quotes attributable to Star of the South Executive Chairman, Terry Kallis:

"This is an exciting and important step for the Star of the South project as we get out and talk with local communities, stakeholders and industry.

"Community feedback and stakeholder input will help inform our approach to the site investigations. These detailed studies are an essential part of understanding the site conditions and the feasibility of bringing offshore wind to Australia for the first time.

"Offshore wind is globally recognised as a large-scale contributor to the energy mix in countries like the UK, Denmark, Germany and France and is being introduced to the United States and across Asia, so we see a lot of potential for Australia to enjoy the benefits of offshore wind into the future."

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