

# Community Advisory Group

Meeting #23 – 15 November 2023

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the traditional custodians of the land and pay respect to their elders past and present

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Standing items and actions
  - Apologies
  - Minutes and action items
  - Declaration of potential conflicts
3. What's happening on the project
4. What's happening in the community
  - All (20 min)
5. Break (10 min)
6. Focus Topic: Project approvals update
8. Other business
  - Other questions or feedback
  - Suggestions for future agenda items
  - Next meeting – CAG End-of-Year celebration dinner, Carrajung Estate – 14<sup>th</sup> December
9. Meeting close



# What's been happening

- **CAG Site Visit** to Port Anthony and the Toora Windfarm
- **Events:**
  - Global Wind Energy Council,
  - Student Job & Skills Expo,
  - Gippsland New Energy Conference,
  - Gippsland EV Expo – Community Renewables Market,
  - Yarram Secondary College – Broadening Horizons,
  - TRANSFORM Renewable Energy Expo,
  - School Industry Champions Luncheon,
  - Melbourne Boat Show,
  - SGGFC - Snapper & Gummy Fishing Competition,
  - Tarwin District Community Lifestyle & Automotive Festival
- **Presentations:**
  - Manns Beach Improvement Committee,
  - Gippsland Regional Executive Forum,
  - Rotary Club of Sale,
  - TAFE Gippsland Executive Team,
  - Energy and Climate Change Summit,
  - Victoria Major Projects Conference,
  - Gippsland Grammar School,
  - CEC Offshore Wind Directorate,
  - Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association



# What's coming up

- **Events and presentations:**

- Gippsland Jobs Expo – Latrobe City
- Yarram Agricultural Show
- The Middle of Everywhere Christmas Parade
- Gippsland Centre Sale and Mid-Valley Shopping Centre pop-ups
- Innovocean – Ocean Impact Organisation
- Energy Infrastructure & Community Engagement Conference





# What's happening in the community

- **Community updates**

- Wendy Farmer – TRANSFORM Expo

- **Everyone**

- What are you hearing?
- What are the hot topics in your local area?

**Would you like to give an update at the next meeting?**



Share what's happening in your community



## Focus topic: Environmental approvals update

# Approvals update

## Key points:

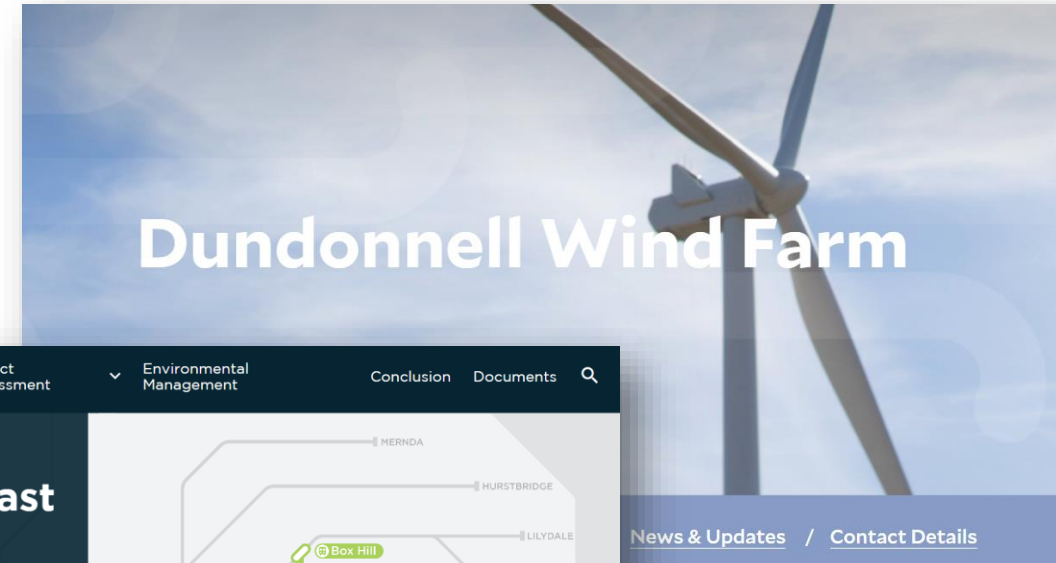
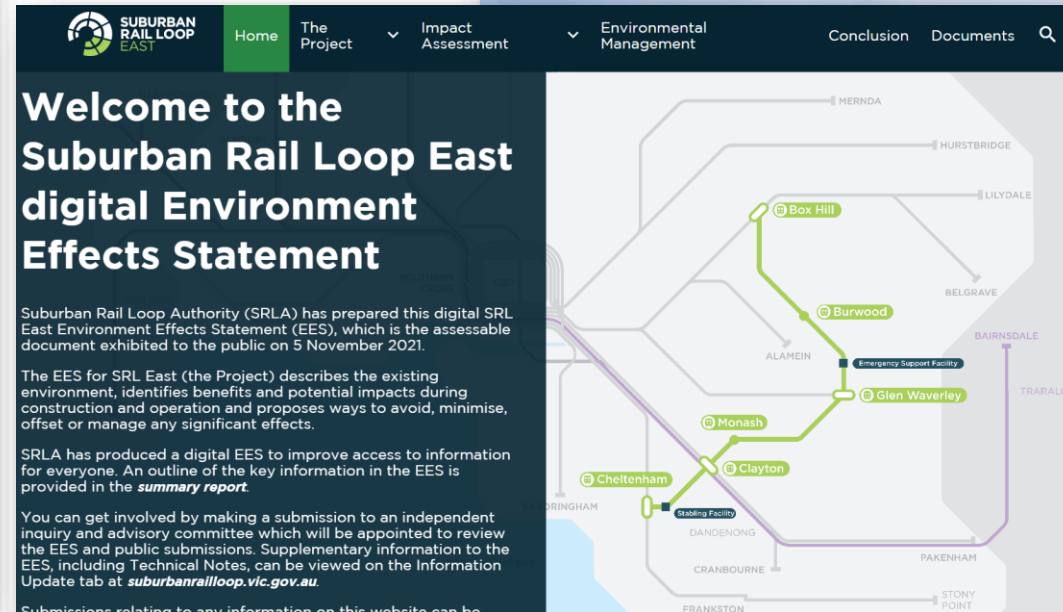
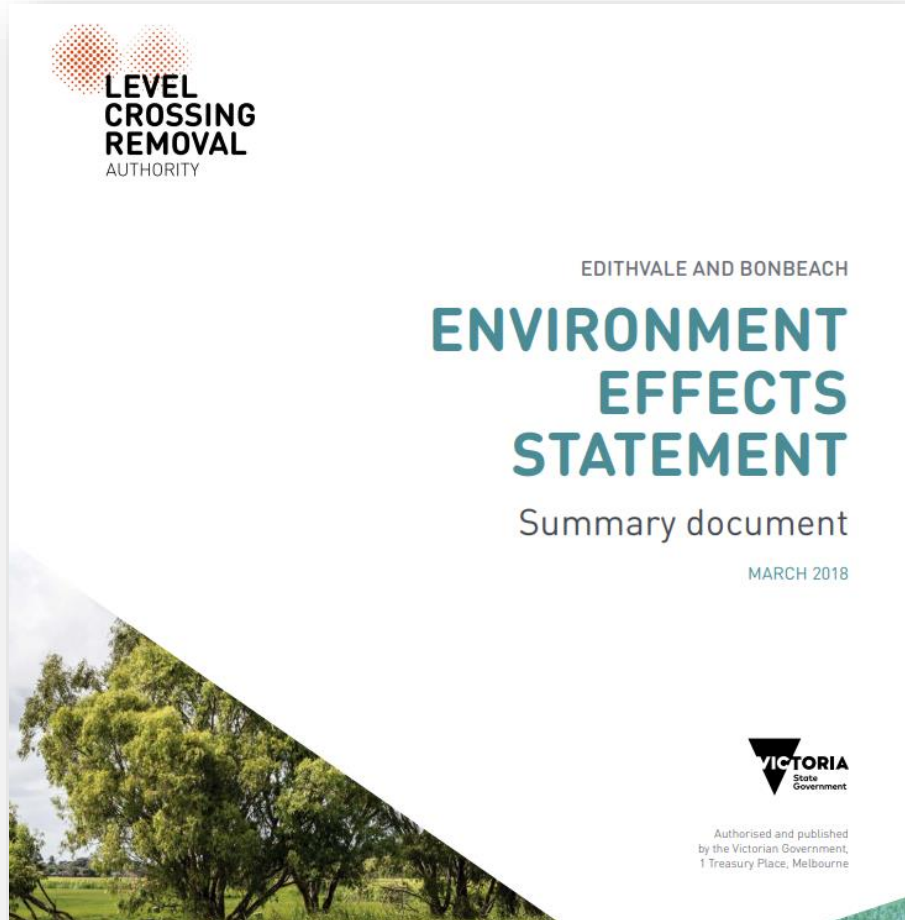
- There have been updates to key elements of the project that affect approvals in the first part of 2023.
- The environmental assessment of the project is being updated to take into account the updates to the project.
- We're working to finalise assessment on the updated project next year.



We're expecting to submit our environmental assessments in 2024



# Environmental assessment update

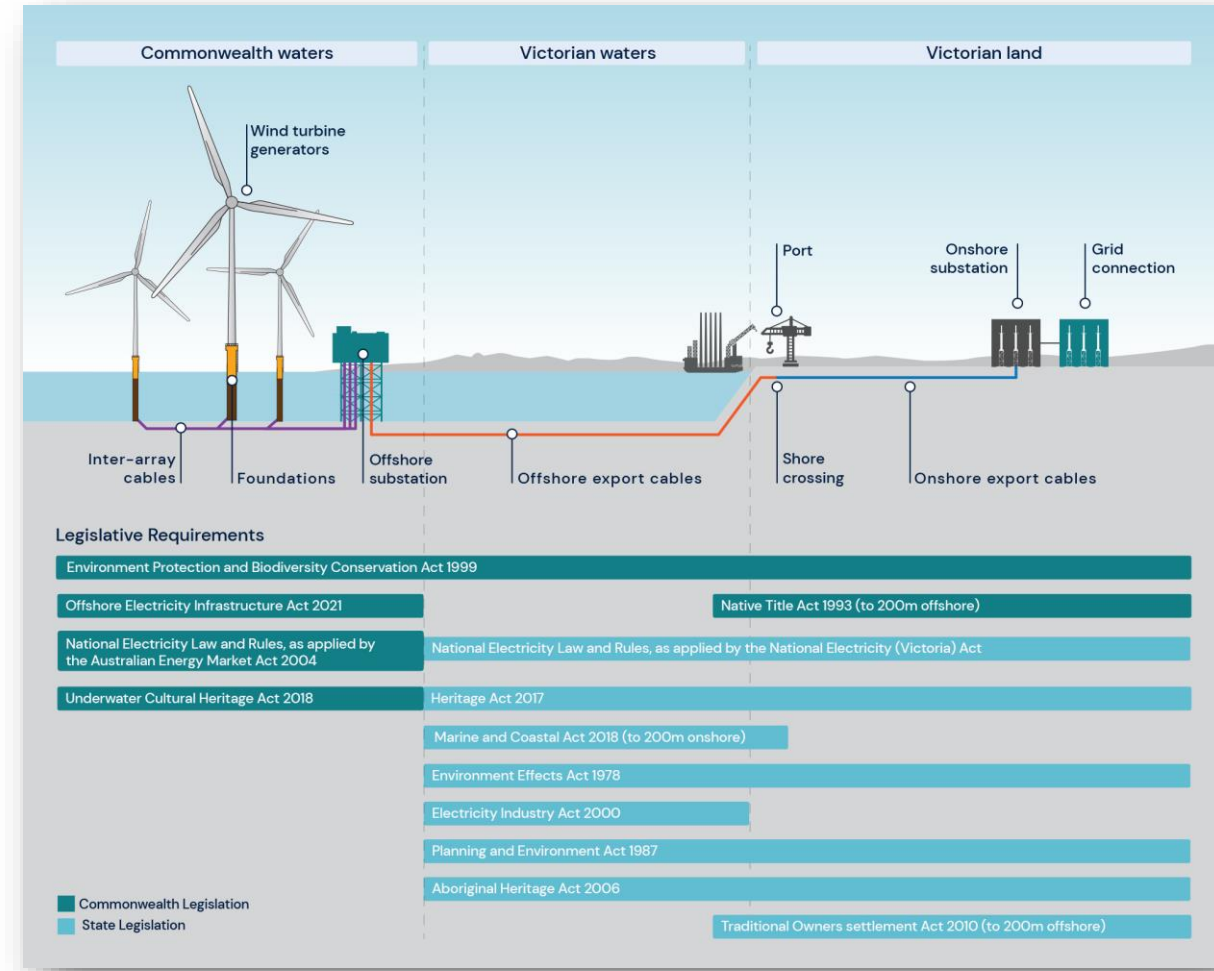


Adam has extensive experience in major project approvals

# Approvals process

A coordinated Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and Environment Effects Statement (EES) is being used to assess potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of the project.

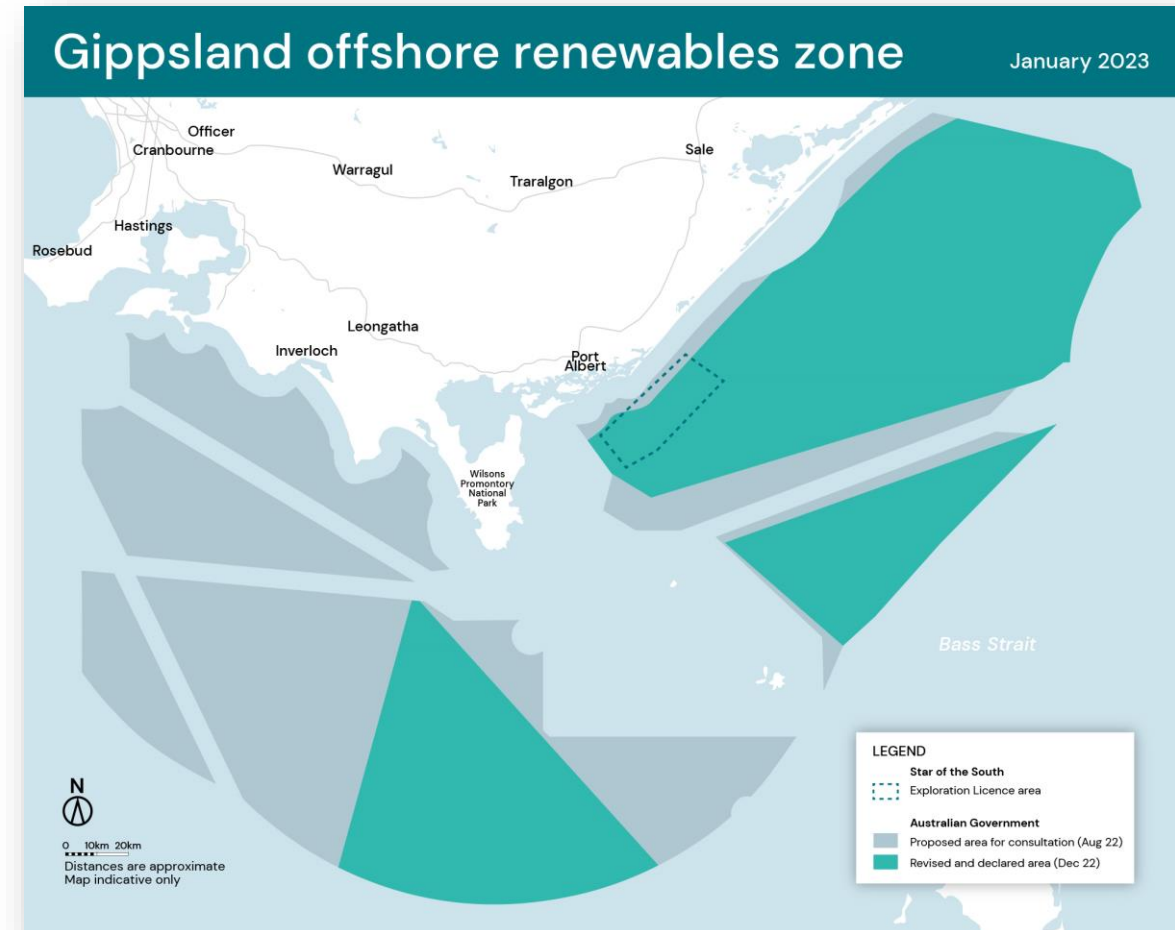
## Key steps in the environmental assessment processes



We'll go through a comprehensive environmental assessment process

# Declared area and turbine design

- Declared area – this reduced the area we've been investigating by around 12% and means all previous reports need to be updated.
- Maximum number of turbines we're assessing has reduced.
- Remodelling of impacts associated with turbines:
  - Collision Risk for birds.
  - Underwater noise.
  - Coastal processes.
  - Construction assumptions.



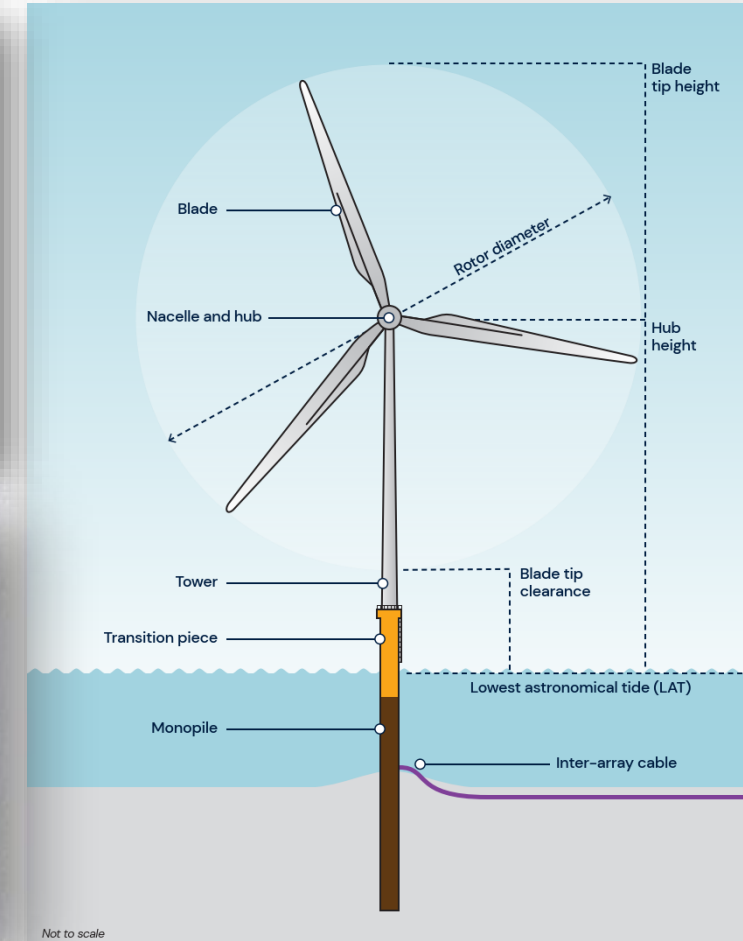
The Gippsland Offshore Wind Zone was declared in December 2022.



# Working to minimise impacts

## Refining the design including:

- Reduced turbine numbers
- Increasing blade tip clearance to a minimum of 35m to allow additional space for foraging birds.
- Assessment of noise mitigations for underwater piling – e.g. Double Bubble Curtains.



We're using the data from our studies to refine the project design.

# Working to minimise impacts

## **Cultural heritage:**

- Significant cultural heritage around waterways and in coastal areas.
- Exploring engineering and design responses such as:
  - Underground boring in key locations
  - Localised changes to transmission easement.

## **Native vegetation:**

- Design refinement to avoid and minimise impacts.
- Looking at areas of higher significance and adjusting design and construction approaches.



Onshore assessments are informing our proposed transmission design

# Next steps



If everything goes smoothly, we hope to have approvals around the middle of the decade.



# Other business

# Other business

- Farewell CAG Member Jess
- CAG End of year Break-up
- CAG Annual member survey,  
- Early December
- Other questions and feedback?
- Suggestions for future agenda items?
  - List on the CAG Member Teams  
Page 'files'
  - Email/call Jason
- Next meeting – 7 February 2024,  
Latrobe Valley, venue and date TBC

## Forward meeting schedule

Date	Location	Topic (tentative, subject to change)
14 December	Carrajung Estate	CAG End-of-Year Celebration Dinner
7 February 2024	Latrobe Valley (TBC)	(TBC)

Thank you for your participation