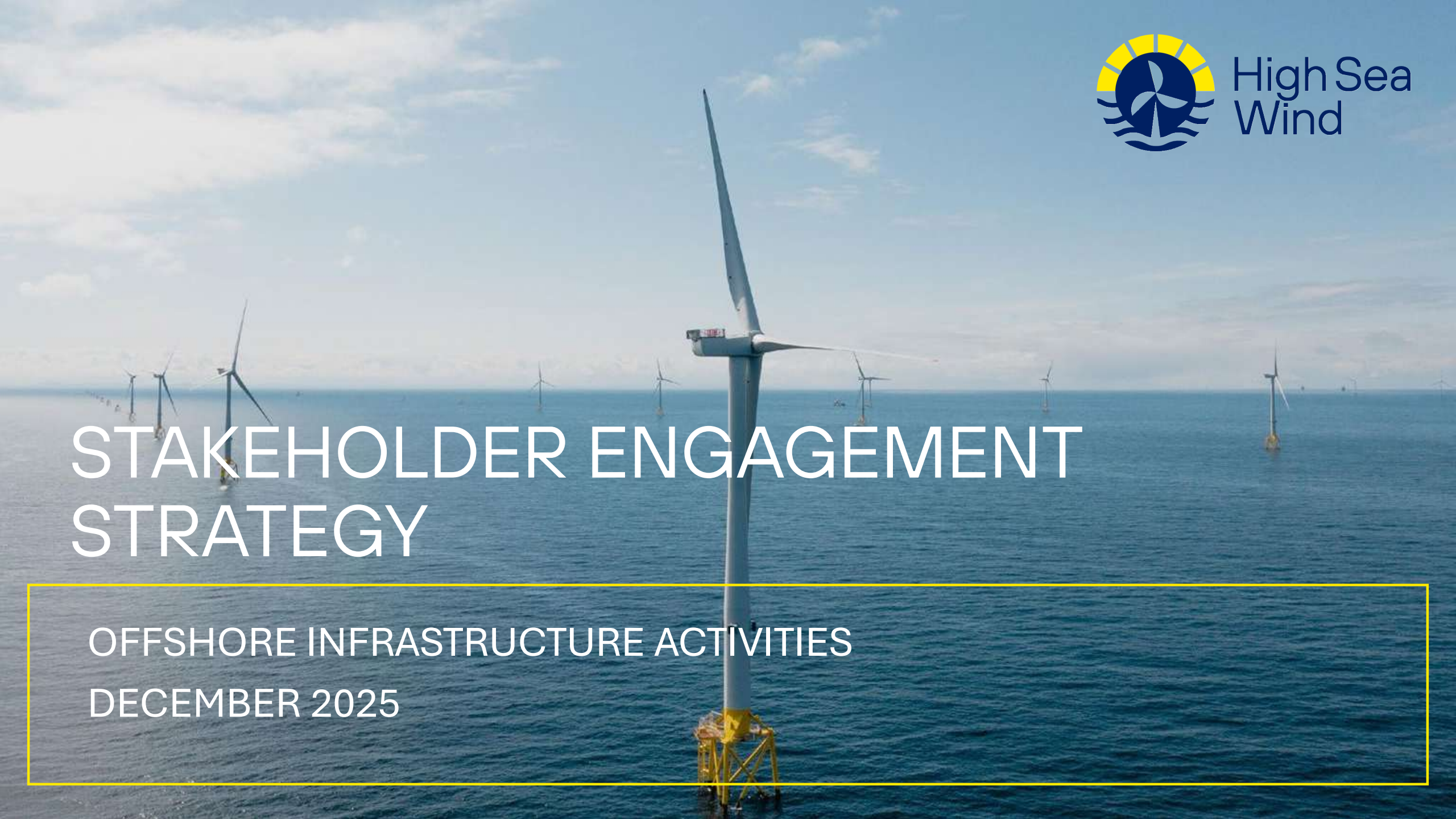


STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2025

High Sea Wind acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, where we live, work, and grow. We honour their enduring connection to land, waters, skies, and culture, and are committed to walking alongside First Nations peoples in respectful partnership.

Contents

Definitions for the purposes of this strategy

Feasibility licence – a licence awarded under the *OEI Act* that allows a potential developer (licence holder) to conduct assessments to determine the feasibility of an offshore infrastructure project, such as a wind farm. In this instance High Sea Wind Feasibility Licence (FL-002).

OEI Activity – those that involve the deployment, construction or operation of any infrastructure, structure or installation that is fixed or tethered to the seabed to explore for a renewable energy resource or establish the commercial or technical feasibility of exploiting a renewable energy resource. Activities of this nature require a licence and other authorisations under the OEI Act.

Stakeholder – persons, organisations, communities or groups that may be interested or potentially affected by the High Sea Wind project.

Adverse impact – a negative effect (real or potential) resulting from the proposed activity.

Adjacent – next to or very near something – in this case, the proposed activity.

Merit – when something – in this case, a claim – is likely to be accurate or truthful.

Acronyms and abbreviations

OW – Ocean Winds

HSW – High Sea Wind project

OEI – Offshore Electricity Infrastructure

OEI Act - *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act)

OEI Regs - *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022* (OEI Regs)

LiDAR –Light Detection and Ranging

GW – Gigawatt

GLaWAC – Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

VCAT – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

OGD – Offshore Gippsland Developers

NtM – Notice to Mariners

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Purpose and scope of this strategy

This Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (this strategy) is a requirement under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act) and is consistent with the requirements set out within the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022* (OEI Regs). High Sea Wind's commitment to stakeholder engagement goes beyond regulatory compliance. As a project developed by OW, a global leader in offshore wind, this strategy reflects our organisational standards for transparent, collaborative, and value-driven engagement.

This strategy outlines High Sea Wind's approach to stakeholder engagement during the feasibility licence project phase, which is expected to run from late **2025 to 2031**. This strategy guides engagement while OEI activities are being undertaken and supports High Sea Wind to deliver meaningful, timely and accessible engagement through these early project phases. It is also informed by OW's three strategic commitments for engagement: Integrity through Honesty and Transparency, Promote Collaboration, and Value Creation with a Focus on Delivery.

This strategy focuses on engagement with stakeholders for activities undertaken within the feasibility licence area only and does not describe the broader approach to stakeholder and community engagement within the Gippsland region.

In the early stages of an offshore wind farm, there are several activities that are routinely conducted to gather regional and site-specific information to assess the feasibility of a project. The relevant early-stage activities that will be undertaken within the feasibility licence area include:

- Floating Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) buoy
- Geotechnical studies

High Sea Wind is committed to engaging with all stakeholders throughout the project and will share engagement opportunities and the latest project information on the project website.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

About Ocean Winds

Born out of a strategic alliance between EDP Renewables and ENGIE, Ocean Winds (OW) develops, finances, builds and operates offshore wind farms all over the world. Every day, OW increases its capacity to generate clean energy for millions of homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ocean Winds is taking offshore wind power generation to its full potential, leading the global energy transition into a greener future. Ocean Winds is:

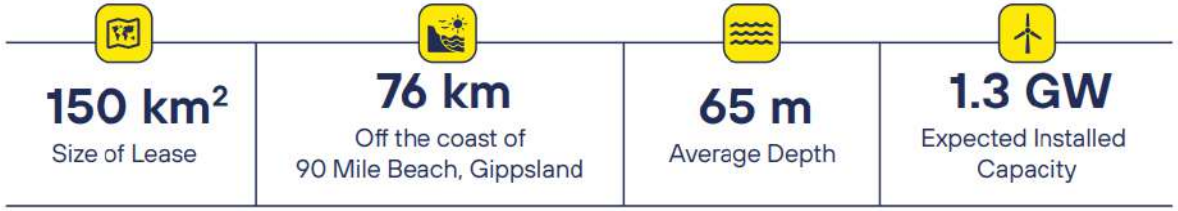
Globally committed OW is committed to the development of the offshore wind sector and leading the energy transition.

Locally focused OW is committed to building long-term, trust-based relationships with stakeholders, engaging not just through consultation but through collaboration and co-creation. By embedding transparency and purpose, OW ensures that stakeholder engagement creates shared value and supports sustainable growth. As the **100% shareholder** and developer of the High Sea Wind project, OW reinforces this commitment by leading with integrity and delivering value across all stages of the project.

About High Sea Wind

The High Sea Wind (HSW) project will have a capacity of **1.3 GW**, enough to power **1 million** Victorian households for a year and avoid **5.3 million** tonnes of CO_2 emissions.

The project will support the commitments made by the Australian and Victorian Governments to reach **net zero by 2050** and brings significant economic benefits to the Gippsland region.



Project phases

Our **Current Focus**

With our feasibility license granted in **April 2024**, HSW is working closely with local, regional, and federal authorities to secure environmental approvals and develop management plans that balance sustainability with economic opportunities.

At the same time, we are refining the technical aspects of the project, including turbine placement, infrastructure design, and environmental impact mitigation. These assessments are critical in shaping an efficient and resilient wind farm that integrates seamlessly with Australia's energy grid. Stakeholder input remains essential as we progress toward commercial licensing, construction, and long-term operation.

Area identification
Federal government conducts preliminary assesments

Area declared if suitable
Minister for Climate Change and Energy makes decision on final declared area

Public consultation on proposed area
Open for minimum of 60 days

Feasibility licencing
Developers apply for feasibility licences, which last for 7 years

Feasibility Licence Management Plan approved
Deployment of Lidar buoy and beginning of geophysical surveys

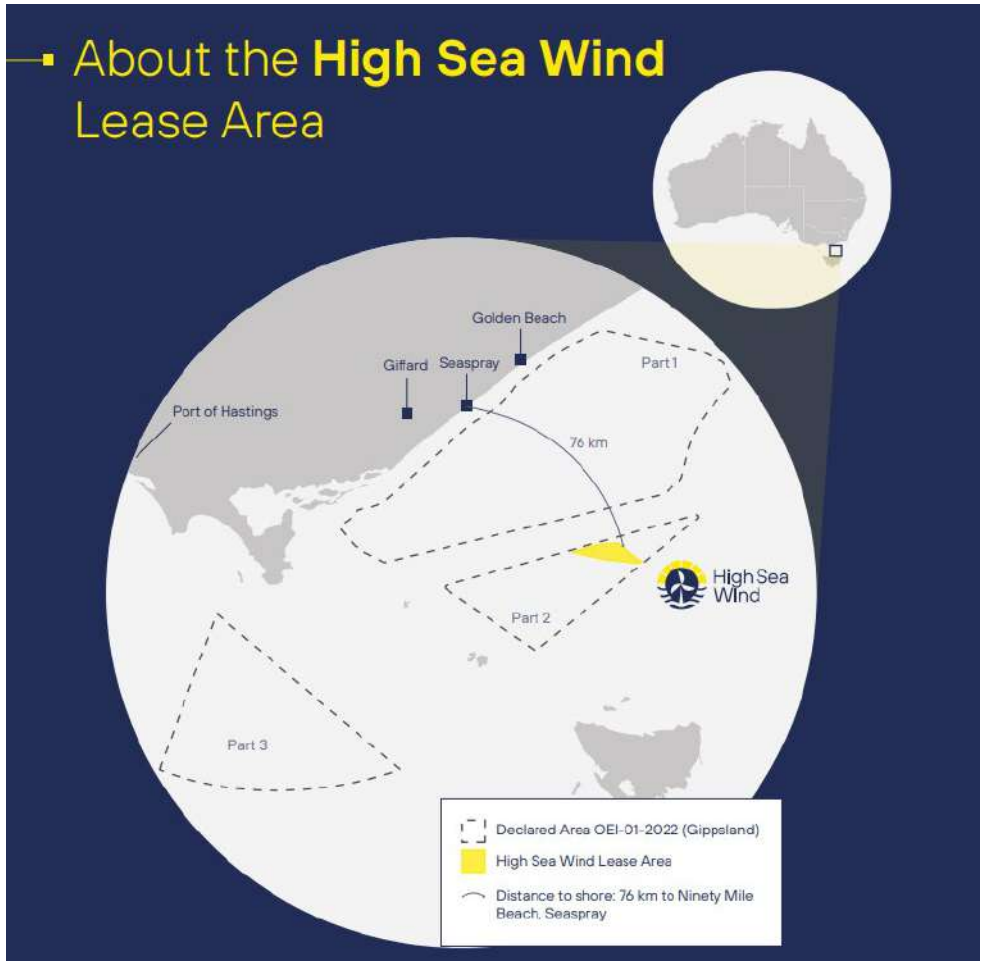
Environmental surveys and impact assessment
Opportunity for community and Traditional Owner inputs 2025-2028

Comercial licence application
Opportunity for feedback to manage co-existence

Construction, operation and decommissioning
Ongoing consultation to manage co-existence

Completed | Next Steps

Project context



The declared Gippsland Offshore Wind Zone represents a significant opportunity for Gippsland and Victoria. High Sea Wind was awarded one of 12 feasibility licences in the Gippsland Offshore Wind Zone.

The High Sea Wind area is approximately **76 km** from the shore and **150 km²**.

About Gippsland

Stretching from Melbourne to Victoria's eastern border, Gippsland features mountain landscapes, open plains, coastline, and some of the most productive agricultural land and commercial fisheries in Australia.

The Gunaikurnai people are the Traditional Custodians of much of the eastern Gippsland region. They have looked after Country for thousands of years and maintain a deep and ongoing connection to it.

Gippsland has been an energy powerhouse for more than half a century, with its onshore coal production and offshore oil and gas resources supplying the country's energy market.

The development of Australia's first offshore wind industry in Gippsland presents many opportunities for the area. Through strategic planning and meaningful community engagement, these benefits can deliver ongoing social, economic and environmental value to the region.

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Better practice engagement principles

We apply the following principles to our engagement approach:

Collaborative
We will work together with licence holders, where appropriate, and interested parties to support consistent information sharing and reduce engagement fatigue.

Clear, accurate and timely communication
Provide and receive information in a clear, accurate, relevant and timely manner, recognising the need for consent where required, and a differentiated approach depending on experience of renewable energy infrastructure, socioeconomic and cultural contexts.

Inclusive and accessible
Recognise, understand and involve communities throughout the lifecycle of the project. This includes providing diverse communities and Traditional Owners with opportunities to receive and provide information in language and formats that they need to participate meaningfully.

Partnership based
Community engagement and the benefits scheme must seek to build partnerships with identified stakeholders.

Enables self-determination
Extent to which Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal communities are provided with meaningful opportunities to determine how they can best benefit from the development in the short and long term.

Empowers communities
Engagement seeks to provide communities with the information, skills and opportunity to co-design outcomes.

Transparent and fair in its processes, decision-making and outcomes
Clearly identify and explain a fair and transparent process for business decision-making that respects community input associated with the development of the renewable energy infrastructure. This includes iterative feedback loops and transparency regarding why community input was or was not incorporated. We will disclose both positive and negative perceptions and impacts transparently.

Accessibility of grievance mechanisms
Appropriate grievance mechanisms are in place and accessible to all relevant communities and stakeholder groups. Clear processes are in place that lead to appropriate remedies.

Can be measured and evaluated
We will measure the negative and positive impacts of engagement activities and iterate yearly engagement plans to reflect our lessons learnt.

Engagement approach

High Sea Wind's approach to engagement is based on the better practice principles and is designed to be **transparent, inclusive**, and **consistent** throughout all project phases. This approach aims to build long-term relationships with stakeholders and deliver positive outcomes for people, the environment, and communities.

This consistent approach to engagement across the project will ensure that:

- Technical and operational considerations are captured and considered in early project activities as well as construction, operations and delivery
- Relationships with stakeholders that may not be directly affected by early project activity can be built over the life of the project through regular and consistent engagement across all project phases
- There is a robust record of ongoing engagement to support the planning approvals process and demonstrate the project's genuine commitment to meaningful engagement
- Stakeholder feedback and concerns are captured, considered and responded to in a timely manner for each Management Plan and associated activity
- Strong partnerships are built, so that opportunities to deliver value to local communities can be identified early
- The engagement approach evolves over time to reflect stakeholder needs and regulatory and legislative requirements as the project progresses.

Stakeholder identification

For the purposes of consultation, the project has made a distinction between those stakeholders who are required by legislation to be consulted about proposed activities – and those stakeholders who will be kept informed of project activities as part of our commitment to best practice engagement.

High Sea Wind has taken a broad approach to initial stakeholder identification to capture any potentially impacted stakeholders. In addition, the approach has captured stakeholders that may not have a specific interest in the current activities; however, it has allowed High Sea Wind to identify and inform these stakeholders who may have an interest in the broader project or may be impacted by future project activities.

The approach has provided all stakeholders with the opportunity to opt out of future communications if not interested in receiving information on the LiDAR activity, or project, and has provided High Sea Wind with information on how and when stakeholders would like to be engaged in future.

Step	Description
Consider stakeholders identified by legislation / have identified functions	Review categories and groups identified in Regulation 64(1) of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024,* and stakeholders required to be consulted under Condition 3 of Feasibility Licence FL-002.
Define geographic extent and identify stakeholders adjacent to activity or potentially affected by activity	Consider the potential impacts and extent of impacts of the activity subject to consultation. Determine stakeholders who are adjacent to the activity. This would include stakeholders who are located on, or have rights or functions over, land or water close to the activity. Consider activities outside the licence area and potential wider impacts of the activity on stakeholder activities or interests.
Consider available data and resources	Undertake desktop research to identify additional stakeholders not captured in the above steps. Sources include community directories, special interest groups, EPBC Act referrals, NEATs public portal, policy submissions and government databases.
Seek external input	Seek feedback from stakeholders on the identification of additional stakeholders relevant to their areas.
Communicate intended activities	Widely communicate intended activities to enable stakeholders to self-identify.
Refine stakeholder list	Once the initial list of stakeholders is created, continue to review and refine the list based on the potential impact of the activity and future project phases.

Above: Stakeholder identification process

Traditional Custodian engagement

High Sea Wind acknowledges the Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and skies of eastern Gippsland and recognises their enduring cultural and spiritual connection to Country that has existed for tens of thousands of years.

We are committed to meaningfully engaging with the Gunaikurnai and are working closely with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) to establish a partnership agreement that will guide our way of working together through the life of the project. The agreement will align with GLaWAC's "Pathways to Partnership" framework and the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Through transparent, meaningful and respectful engagement, High Sea Wind will strive to deliver a project that respects and protects Country.

Fishing industry engagement

High Sea Wind recognises the long history of fishing in Gippsland and the vital contribution that both commercial and recreational fishing make to the region's economy, communities and way of life.

We are committed to meaningfully engaging representatives across the fishing industry and working collaboratively with both commercial and recreational fishers through all stages of the project.

We have commissioned studies to better understand fishing activity in the feasibility licence area and have engaged industry representatives to provide advice on how to minimise impacts to fishing operators and ensure we can work alongside commercial and recreational fishers.

High Sea Wind is committed to seeking feedback from representatives on proposed activities and keeping fishers informed of planned activities via official notification channels.

In addition to our focus on engaging the fishers directly, we recognise the importance of the wider marine ecosystem for the future of fishing in Gippsland, and the health and prosperity of the region. We are conducting marine baseline surveys to gather information on the marine life in the feasibility licence area, which will help inform the steps that we will take to limit our impact within the licence area and surrounding waters.

Engagement mechanisms

We engage with stakeholders through several methods and channels. The below table indicates which engagement mechanisms have been used to engage on LiDAR activities.

Mechanism	Description	Purpose	Stakeholders	LiDAR
Advertising	Paid information placement in local and state-wide media, and social media. Social media advertising provides an opportunity to geo-target directly impacted stakeholders.	Inform the community about upcoming events, consultation opportunities or potential disruptions. Disruption advertising will be published five – ten days before the work commencing depending on the level of impact. Commonwealth and State EIS/EES consultation will also be advertised ahead of the exhibition period.	All	
Briefings and presentations	Event by invitation, involving presentation of prepared information, with a question and answer session.	Help build or maintain project acceptance or address issues raised, resolve key stakeholder concerns.	Key stakeholders	■
Business liaison group	Appointed network of local business and industry representatives that meets on a regular basis.	In partnership with OGD, create a forum for local businesses and industry to hear about the project and identify opportunities.	Industry stakeholder groups Local businesses and chambers of commerce	
Community benefits program	Program of community-oriented investments and activities funded by OW and co-designed with stakeholders and the community.	Strengthen existing community activities and organisations, create new opportunities or connect individuals or groups. Potential partnerships with OGD.	Community members Local businesses and chambers of commerce Education and research institutions	
Community days and events	Scheduled, open-invitation events staffed by engagement and project team members, involving information displays and activities. Including combined events with Offshore Gippsland Developers.	Build community understanding of the project and provide community members an opportunity to ask questions and express views about the project.	All	■
Community information centre	Fixed information centre with scheduled weekly opening hours.	Enable community members and stakeholders to visit and learn more about the project or ask specific questions.	All	
Community information line	A dedicated project contact number, staffed by a project representative and available during business hours	Create a channel for stakeholders to make enquiries or provide feedback. Contact will be recorded and resolved in line with enquiries and complaints procedure.	All	■
Community information sessions and community forums	Open in-person event, involving either a presentation of prepared information or information stands with project experts.	Provide a mechanism for the community to provide feedback or input into managing and mitigating impact, and gauging community sentiment	Community members	

Above: Engagement mechanisms

Mechanism	Description	Purpose	Stakeholders	LiDAR
Community liaison group	Appointed network of community representatives that meets on a regular basis.	Create a forum for local residents and community members to hear about the project and provide input into impact mitigation and project activities such as community benefits	Community members	
Community survey	Digital or in person survey about attitudes or sentiment towards the project.	Enable the project team to assess community sentiment.	Community members	
Community updates	Written digital or printed communications distributed via email, letterbox drop or published on the website.	Provide a general update on the project status and key upcoming milestones.	All	■
Design renders and animations	Visualisations of key elements, such as turbines, that will be constructed in the existing environment, or construction or development processes	Illustrate the visual impact of the infrastructure or build community understanding of upcoming works.	All	
Door knocks	In-person visits to potentially impacted community members' homes or local businesses.	Advise of upcoming works and potential impacts. If a stakeholder cannot be reached at a door knock, a printed 'sorry we missed you' card will be left behind to give the resident or business owner the opportunity to contact the project team and be informed.	Impacted stakeholders	
Email distribution list	List of subscribers interested in receiving email updates about the project, gathered via the website or during direct stakeholder engagement such as community events.	Use to distribute general and stakeholder-specific project updates and notifications.	All	■
Fact sheets	Printed or digital information sheets explaining and illustrating key elements of the project and potential impacts in simple, accessible terms.	Used to support engagement activities, door knocks or key stakeholder meetings. All fact sheets will be uploaded to the website.	All	■
Letters	Direct, printed correspondence sent by mail or hand delivered.	Respond to correspondence when appropriate, formally invite key stakeholders to briefings or to provide feedback on the project, summarise and document meetings.	All	
Maritime working group	Appointed network of fisheries and other maritime stakeholder representatives that meets on a regular basis.	In partnership with OGD, create a forum for maritime stakeholders to learn about the project and provide input into impact mitigation and project activities such as community benefits.	OGD Fisheries Maritime Environment stakeholder groups	
Notifications	Printed or emailed information sheets, distributed to stakeholders impacted by upcoming works.	Outline upcoming works and impacts and provide contact information for the project team. Notifications will be distributed five – ten days before the work commencing depending on the level of impact.	Stakeholders who are impacted by works (visual, noise or activity impacts) or key stakeholder groups.	

Above: Engagement mechanisms cont.

Mechanism	Description	Purpose	Stakeholders	LiDAR
OGD engagement	Regular meetings with OGD members to share project information and identify partnership opportunities.	Align messaging and engagement with other licence holders to minimise engagement fatigue and increase community understanding and acceptance of offshore wind.	OGD	■
Photography and videos	Still or moving images of the project.	Communicate project progress.	All	
Pop ups	Project information booths at existing community events or high-traffic locations (e.g. local shopping strips)	Provide information about and build local understanding of Ocean Winds and the project, specific upcoming activities or broader initiatives (such as the Community Benefits Program)	Community members	
Project inbox	A generic project email address, published on the website and in communications and engagement materials.	Create a channel for stakeholders to make enquiries or provide feedback. Contact will be recorded and resolved in line with privacy requirements.	All	■
School engagement program	Program of incursions or excursions designed around the project, for primary or secondary school students.	Build local understanding of the project and encourage young people to consider a career in science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM).	School students	
Site tours	Hosted, in-person visits to key on- or offshore sites, by invitation.	Educate stakeholders about the project or resolve concerns.	Key stakeholders	
Social media	Digital networks that allow the sharing of information between virtual networks and communities. Social media posts can be sponsored and geotargeted to increase reach.	Provide updates and notify potential impacts to the community, and create an additional channel for community members to provide feedback or make enquiries.	Community members	■
Stakeholder management database	Central stakeholder management database to record and report on stakeholder interactions including the handling of complaints and enquiries.	Maintain records of engagement and interactions to support formal reporting, the monitoring of the project's performance against engagement objectives, and project evaluation.	Internal use only	■
Stakeholder meetings	In person or online conversations with a set agenda.	Create opportunity for two way exchange of information about ongoing and upcoming project activities.	All as required	■
Webinars (online interactive community sessions)	As per community information sessions, but held online.	Provide a mechanism for the community to provide feedback or input into managing and mitigating impact, and gauging community sentiment	All	
Website	Digital information hub containing project information, factsheets. The website will be developed, updated and maintained for the duration of the project. May include a digital or virtual consultation space or online survey that can be used at key points to engage industry or community stakeholders.	Provide on demand project information to all community members and stakeholders.	All	■

Above: Engagement mechanisms cont.

Assessment of claims

High Sea Wind will use a standardised process to assess claims consistently and objectively for each activity and manage claims accordingly.

When a submission from a stakeholder is received, HSW will classify the submission as either feedback or a claim of an adverse impact resulting from the proposed activity:

Feedback: comments, requests for updates, or offers of services that do not allege a direct adverse impact.

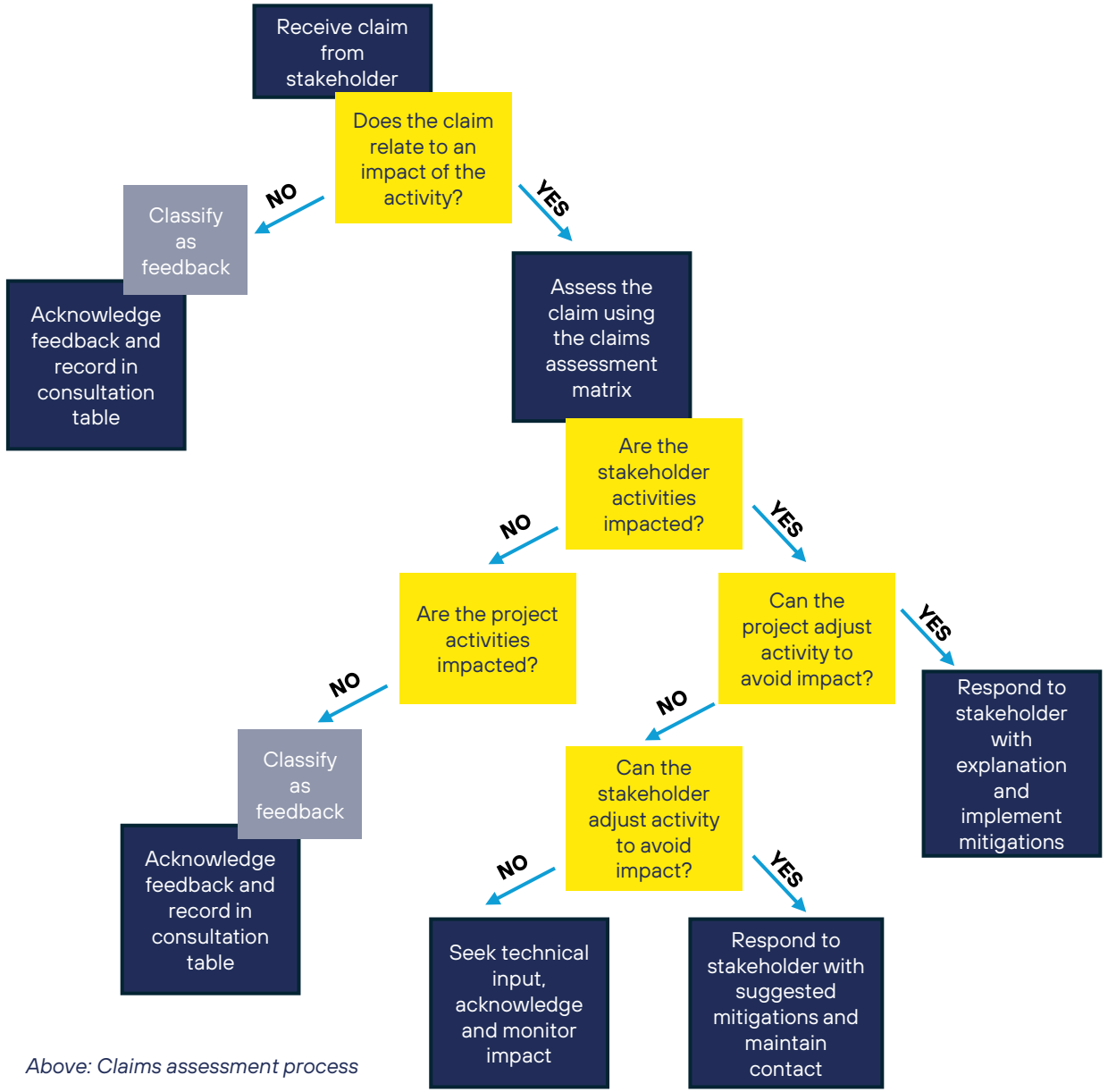
Claim of an adverse impact: a statement from a stakeholder identifying a potential adverse effect of this licence activity on their functions, operations or interests.

The classification is recorded in the consultation register. Feedback items are acknowledged and retained for ongoing engagement but are not assessed as claims under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*.

Where a submission is identified as a valid claim, it is assessed using the project's claims assessment matrix (see next page), which guides proportional and consistent evaluation across consultees.

The claim is assessed against each question in the claims assessment matrix and provided a score based on the response. The number from each column is added together to determine whether the adverse impact to the activity is low, moderate or high.

The claims assessment process will continue to be refined as the project progresses to ensure it is fit for purpose. This will be achieved by monitoring stakeholder feedback and conducting an engagement-focused lessons learnt workshop at the commencement of the activity.



Above: Claims assessment process

Claims assessment process

1. Claim is initially assessed through the claims assessment matrix

The stakeholder engagement and planning teams complete an initial assessment of the claim to determine if the claim has merit and then assign a rating to the claim using the project claims assessment matrix outlined in the table below.

A claim is considered to have merit if it relates to:

- a potential adverse impact resulting from the proposed activity, or
- a potential adverse impact on the proposed activity.

2. Claim assessment is reviewed by project technical teams

The claims assessment matrix, rating and justification is reviewed by the project technical teams and contractors or external parties, where required, to confirm the merit assessment and claim rating. The project technical teams will focus on identifying and mitigating potential impacts of the specific activity.

If claim is considered to have merit, further consultation and discussion with stakeholder may occur prior to the activity commencing.

3. Our activity or their activity is modified to minimise impacts

High Sea Wind project activities, or stakeholder activities, may need to be modified to minimise impacts as identified in the claims assessment process and technical review.

4. Continue to monitor and work with stakeholder if required

High Sea Wind will provide a response to the stakeholder regarding the assessment of their claim and provide further information, including actions the project will take to minimise or avoid impacts or considerations for the stakeholder.

High Sea Wind will maintain open channels of communication with stakeholders throughout project activities. Where modifications to the project or stakeholder activities are no longer fit-for-purpose, High Sea Wind will revisit the claim, and potential impacts, to identify alternative solutions.

If no response is received during the consultation period after multiple attempts to contact the stakeholder, High Sea Wind may assess the potential impact to the consultee's activities based on the project's understanding of their operations and may adjust project activities to minimise impacts to these consultees where appropriate.

	Are the stakeholder activities impacted?	**Can the project adjust activity to avoid impact?**	**Can the stakeholder adjust activity to avoid impact?**	**How significant is the impact to the stakeholder?**
	Can't continue - 3 Some impact - 2 No impact - 1	Unable to adjust - 3 Would impact activity or outcome - 2 Easy to adjust - 1	Unable to adjust - 3 Would impact activity or outcome - 2 Easy to adjust - 1	High Medium Low
Stakeholder name	*Rating*	*Rating*	*Rating*	*Rating*

Enquiries and complaints

What are enquiries and complaints

High Sea Wind is committed to supporting open and transparent communication between the project and its stakeholders. This includes creating genuine opportunities for stakeholders to make enquiries and complaints and receive a timely and considered response.

A complaint is a comment, feedback or report that:

- expresses dissatisfaction and may or may not require action to be taken
- highlights a hazard that is a threat to the safety of people or the environment
- suggests an improvement to an aspect of HSW's approach, conduct or operations.

An enquiry is a:

- question related to the project or associated impacts, benefits or issues
- comment that is neutral or positive in nature that requires acknowledgement.

Channels

High Sea Wind has established the following channels to enable enquiries and complaints to be submitted:

- Project email address : contact@highseawind.com
- Project phone number. 0401 193 946
- Project website: www.highseawind.com

Incoming enquiries and complaints, and all outgoing stakeholder communication and engagement activity, will be recorded in a dedicated stakeholder management database.

Urgent complaints

Some complaints may require urgent action. Urgent complaints will be addressed as soon as possible. Examples of an urgent complaint include safety hazards, health and wellbeing and security concerns.

Enquiries and complaints management

High Sea Wind will follow a consistent complaints and enquiries management procedure regardless of how the enquiry or complaint was received and who it was received from.

The response timeframes will vary depending on the urgency and magnitude of the complaint. This will ensure that all enquiries and complaints are addressed appropriately.

Some complaints may require urgent action. Urgent complaints will be addressed as soon as possible. Examples of an urgent complaint include safety hazards, health and wellbeing and security concerns.

Summary	Detail	Timeframe
Receive and register	Enquiry or complaint is received via project phone number, email, online form, social media or in person.	N/A
Acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of the enquiry or complaint is issued via the same channel the enquiry or complaint is received, unless another channel is requested. The acknowledgement should include: • Clarification of any issues or request for more information • How the enquiry or complaint may be investigated • Expected response timeframe • If possible, the enquiry or complaint should be resolved immediately.	Up to 1 business day depending on the channel
Investigation	Enquiries and complaints will be investigated, and all reasonable attempts will be made to resolve complaints. Investigation may include: • Consult with staff, consultants and contractors • Get relevant data and evidence • Contact community members and other stakeholders.	N/A
Internal escalation	*If required. If the team member is unable to resolve or respond to an enquiry or complaint, it should be escalated to the High Sea Wind Project Manager for response or appropriate delegation.* *Complaints related to the consultation process will be escalated to the Stakeholder Associate in the first instance.*	*N/A*
External referral	*If required. In the event of a complaint, if the complainant is not satisfied with the response and does not feel the complaint has been resolved by HSW, then HSW may refer the complaint to an independent mediator for resolution. The complainant reserves the right to escalate the complaint to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).*	*N/A*
Response and resolution	A response to the enquiry or complaint will be issued via the same channel the enquiry or complaint was received, unless another channel is requested. The response should include an appropriate level of detail to address the enquiry or complaint. In the event of a complaint, the response should include an option for escalation if the complainant is not satisfied that it has been resolved.	As soon as possible and provide an update to stakeholder once per week

Above: Enquiries and complaints management process

Record keeping

High Sea Wind will maintain a comprehensive online stakeholder management database to record:

- Stakeholder names, contact details and areas of interest
- Stakeholder activity in or adjacent to licence area
- Incoming enquiries and complaints
- Outgoing stakeholder communication
- Engagement activities
- Distribution lists
- Stakeholder engagement actions.

Interactions with stakeholders and engagement activities will be recorded within the timeframes set out in the project response timeframes to ensure that accurate and up-to-date records are available to other project team members to maintain consistent interactions between stakeholders and the project.

Step	Timeframe
Acknowledge	Within 1 business day.
Provide an update	If it takes more than 5 business days to resolve a complaint, updates on the progress of resolution will be provided to the stakeholder once per week.
Resolve	No escalation required: 2 business days Escalation required: As soon as possible.

Above: Project response timeframes

Management of this strategy

Updating this strategy

This strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure stakeholders are appropriately consulted throughout feasibility activities. It will be reviewed and, where required updated:

- every 6-months
- when the management plan is updated with new activities
- when new stakeholders are identified
- when new claims of adverse effects are raised.

Each revision of this strategy will be made public on the High Sea Wind project website.

Publication of this strategy

This strategy will be published on the High Sea Wind project website.

FLOATING LiDAR ENGAGEMENT

Activity overview

The first step in investigating the feasibility of the project is to deploy a floating Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) buoy to capture information on the ocean and seabed conditions around the feasibility licence area.

The floating LiDAR buoy will measure components such as wind speed and direction at various elevations, atmospheric pressure, air and water temperature, wave height and direction.

The floating LiDAR buoy will be one of several marine baseline surveys that will be undertaken to better understand the project site and ocean conditions. Findings from these marine surveys will inform the detailed project design and construction methodology. This information will also inform environmental and planning approvals for the project.

Process

- Boat tows LiDAR buoy to position
- Floating LiDAR buoy anchored to ocean floor
- Data collected over period of approximately 12 to 24 months
- Boat tows LiDAR buoy to shore.

Engagement objectives

The engagement objectives for the floating LiDAR phase are to:

- Comply with legislation and regulations
- Introduce project and raise awareness of High Sea Wind
- Gather key contacts and build contact list
- Understand stakeholder interest and impact
- Identify potentially impacted stakeholder list for activity
- Seek feedback from stakeholders on proposed activity
- Gather technical and operational considerations for activity
- Support positive relationships with stakeholders.

Stakeholder identification and classification

Prior to commencing consultation, High Sea Wind conducted a review of the project stakeholder list to identify potentially impacted stakeholders and general project stakeholders for the purpose of floating LiDAR engagement.

This involved considering the extent of impacts of the activity in relation to stakeholder impacts. For stakeholders considered to be within the project's geographic extent, further analysis was undertaken to determine whether the physical presence of the floating LiDAR buoy could impact the stakeholder or their activities. High Sea Wind considered visual amenity of communities, noise impacts, navigation and safety of other marine users, commercial licenced activity that may directly interact with the LiDAR buoy and mooring equipment, cultural heritage values and Native Title rights.

While the FLiDAR deployment directly affects a limited group of stakeholders, our engagement approach intentionally extended beyond those with direct impacts. This broader engagement aimed to foster transparency, build early relationships, and enhance understanding of offshore wind activities within the region.

Once the list was refined, stakeholders were divided into three groups – fishers, other marine users and interested project stakeholders – to allow engagement materials to be tailored to their interests and provide sufficient information for each stakeholder.

Group	Fishers	Other marine users	Interested project consultees
Description	Fishing representative bodies and groups representing fishers that are likely to have some fishing effort in the project licence area	Non-fishing marine users that are known to have an interest in the licence area, including Traditional Custodians	Other stakeholders that may carry out activities in the area, including other fishers and representative bodies, petroleum and offshore licence holders and federal departments with functions related to the activity
Letter content	• Project introduction and timeline • Floating LiDAR overview and coordinates • Coexistence with fishers • Commitment to consultation (with fishers) • Why you have been identified as a stakeholder • How to provide feedback • Project fact sheet	• Project introduction and timeline • Floating LiDAR overview and coordinates • Controls to manage impacts to other marine users • Why you have been identified as a stakeholder • How to provide feedback • Project fact sheet	• Project introduction and timeline • Floating LiDAR overview and coordinates • Stakeholder identification process • Why you may be a relevant stakeholder • How to provide feedback

Above: FLiDAR stakeholder letter content

Engagement overview

Engagement for the floating LiDAR buoy activity commenced in June 2025.

High Sea Wing created tailored letters for three groups of consultees to provide relevant and sufficient information about the proposed floating LiDAR buoy deployment.

In addition to the letters, HSW created a general fact sheet on the floating LiDAR buoy to share with general stakeholders and make available on the project website.

Letters were sent to stakeholders, who were required to be consulted for this activity, in addition to general project stakeholders who were identified as being potentially impacted or interested in the activity.

A follow up letter was sent to all stakeholders who had not responded to the initial email after 30 days.

For stakeholders potentially impacted by activities who had not responded after an additional two weeks, phone calls were made to confirm if the original letter had been received and if the stakeholder had any feedback on the proposed activity.

Meetings were held with several stakeholders regarding the floating LiDAR activity, including:

- Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR)
- First Peoples - State Relations
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- South East Trawl Fishing Association (SETFIA)
- Offshore Gippsland Developers (OGD).

Timeframe	Stakeholders potentially impacted • **Fishers** • **Other marine users** • **Interested project stakeholders**	General project stakeholders
Late June 2025	Email with letter tailored to their interest	Email with floating LiDAR fact sheet
Late July 2025	Email with letter	Email with attached fact sheet
Mid-August 2025	Phone call to confirm email was received and follow up on any response	
Ongoing	• Acknowledge responses • Provide responses to questions • Acknowledge claims or complex enquiries and respond to stakeholder once information is available • Record all interactions in Stakeholder Management Database.	

Above: FLiDAR engagement overview

Stakeholder list

Group	Stakeholders
Commonwealth, State or Territory departments, agencies and authorities	Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) Victorian Fisheries Association (VFA) Gippsland Ports Authority Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) Heritage Victoria
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
Offshore wind feasibility licence holders	Mainstream/AGL/Reventus/Direct - Gippsland Skies JeraNex bp - Blue Mackerel North Southerly Ten – Star of the South and Kut-Brataulung Ørsted Offshore Australia – Gippsland 01 and Gippsland 02 Iberdrola Australia – Aurora Green BlueFloat Energy -Gippsland Dawn Origin Energy/ RES - Navigator North Project RWE - Kent Offshore Wind Corio Generation - Great Eastern Offshore Wind
People or organisations that may carry out activities in or near the licence area	Abalone Victoria Lakes Entrance Fishers Co-op Tuna Australia Corner Inlet Fisheries Habitat Association Future Fish Foundation Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association Commonwealth Fisheries Association Seafood Industry Australia Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV), including Scallop Fisherman's Association

Above: FLiDAR engagement stakeholders

Stakeholder list

Group	Stakeholders
People or organisations that may carry out activities in or near the licence area (cont.)	South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) and Southern Shark Industry Alliance Esso Australia Resources Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Carnarvon Hibiscus Amplitude Energy Emperor Energy Liberty Petroleum Corporation MEPAU Woodside Energy Santos Offshore SGH Energy Shelf Oil
Recreational fishers	Australian National Sportfishing Association Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation Boating Industry Association of Victoria Victorian Game Fishing Association South Gippsland Fishing Club VR Fish
Stakeholders identified under conditions of the feasibility licence	Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) CarbonNet Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Director of National Parks Department of Defence (DoD)

Above: FLiDAR engagement stakeholders cont.

Assessment of claims and feedback

Consultee	Response details	Adverse impact claim	Rating and Assessment of merit	Measures implemented	Owner	Monitoring and actions	Commitment
Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO)	Notify AHO when activity is due to begin. AHO will publish a Notice to Mariners (NtM).	N	N/A – No adverse impact claim	N/A	HSW	HSW will include NtM in project plans. HSW will inform AHO and confirm that a NtM has been issued in the appropriate timeframe prior to commencing any activity.	Notice to Mariners will be provided in an agreed timeframe prior to activity commencement.
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)	Activity has potential navigational safety issues for other mariners operating or navigating through the area of proposed activity	Y	4 – Navigational safety risk to other marine users near activity.	1. Issue Notices to Mariners ≥14 days before any deployment window. 2. Maintain AIS transmission and IALA-compliant lighting/marking on FLS/USV at all times. 3. Provide 24/7 duty phone and JRCC/AMSA contact protocol in the Marine Safety Plan. 4. Maintain exclusion buffer of [300m] around devices; publish coordinates in AUS charts and on project website.	HSW	HSW to include notification requirement in project plan, including consulting with its vessel contractors to ensure AMSA notices to JRCC are met.	HSW will implement Measures 1–4 for all deployments under this Management Plan.
Seafood Industry Victoria	SIV provided opportunity to engage in a partnership arrangement to notify members of proposed activities	N	N/A – No adverse impact claim	N/A	HSW	N/A	HSW will monitor engagement with SIV and consider their channels for future engagement.
Tuna Australia -	Tuna Australia provided the project the opportunity to use its notification system about FLiDAR activities.	N	N/A – No adverse impact claim	N/A	HSW	N/A	HSW will keep Tuna Australia informed of future activities.

Assessment of claims and feedback

Consultee	Response details	Adverse impact claim	Rating and Assessment of merit	Measures implemented	Owner	Monitoring and actions	Commitment
South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association and Southern Shark Industry Alliance	Fishing effort data is not publicly available and there is potential for FLiDAR activity to overlap with fished areas. SETFIA proposed undertaking fishing study to identify whether impacts exist from activity.	Y	5 - HSW has fishing activity reports that provide an indication of fishing activity in the licence area. However, HSW understands some information that SETFIA can provide is not publicly available and therefore is not captured by these preliminary reports. HSW is continuing discussions with SETFIA to determine the appropriate services that will enable fishers to be informed of activity and provide HSW with information on fishing activity in the licence area.	HSW is continuing discussions with SETFIA to determine the appropriate services to use ensure HSW has the most accurate information on fishing activity in the licence area. HSW is in discussions with SETFIA to determine how best to inform potentially impacted fishers of activity and intend to enter into an agreement prior to the deployment of the floating LiDAR buoy. HSW is also engaging with other fishing representative bodies and departments, including AFMA, SIV, Tuna Australia and local organisations to ensure all fishers are represented.	HSW	HSW has established a positive relationship with SETFIA and will continue to meet and engage with SETFIA throughout the FLiDAR deployment to identify whether impacts have eventualised or changed.	Formalise a data-sharing arrangement with SETFIA prior to FLiDAR deployment (e.g. through a service or information-exchange agreement) to obtain verified spatial fishing-effort data within and adjacent to the licence area. Validate and cross-check existing fishing-activity mapping using SETFIA data to confirm that the final FLiDAR location and mooring footprint do not overlap with actively fished grounds. Provide SETFIA and relevant fishers with advance notification (minimum 14 days) of all deployment, maintenance, and retrieval windows, including coordinates and timing, to avoid operational interference. Maintain direct liaison with SETFIA and Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative through the deployment period to monitor whether any operational interactions occur and to agree any responsive measures if required. Report annually (or at activity completion) to SETFIA on outcomes of liaison, confirming whether any interactions or gear conflicts were reported

Assessment of claims and feedback

Consultee	Response details	Adverse impact claim	Rating and Assessment of merit	Measures implemented	Owner	Monitoring and actions	Commitment
Director of National Parks (DNP)	Incidences which occur within a marine park or are likely to impact on a marine park should be reported as soon as possible via the 24-hour Marine Compliance Duty Officer.	N	1 – The activity is not proposed to take place within a marine park so no impact.	N/A	HSW	N/A	DNP will be notified of any future activities should they occur or impact a marine park. DNP notified activities aren't taking place in a marine park.
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Could be potential impacts to Commonwealth fishers from FLiDAR activities	Y	4 - HSW considers the claim to have merit due to the potential impact to stakeholder fishing activity and potential damage to project assets if other marine users are not aware of activity underway in licence area.	HSW has engaged with fishing representative bodies - SETFIA, SIV, CFA and Tuna Australia - and will issue a NtM prior to any activity taking place. HSW has an initial fishing activity report for the licence area and is in discussions with SETFIA about commissioning a more detailed report in order to understand fishing activity.	HSW	HSW will maintain ongoing check-ins with fishing stakeholders and provide advance notice of marine activities, as well as regular updates on the project. Engagement will be tracked through the Stakeholder Management Database.	Formalise a data-sharing arrangement with SETFIA prior to FLiDAR deployment (e.g. through a service or information-exchange agreement) to obtain verified spatial fishing-effort data within and adjacent to the licence area. Validate and cross-check existing fishing-activity mapping using SETFIA data to confirm that the final FLiDAR location and mooring footprint do not overlap with actively fished grounds. Provide relevant fishers with advance notification (minimum 14 days) of all deployment, maintenance, and retrieval windows, including coordinates and timing, to avoid operational interference. Maintain direct liaison with SETFIA and Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative through the deployment period to monitor whether any operational interactions occur and to agree any responsive measures if required.

Assessment of claims and feedback

Consultee	Response details	Adverse impact claim	Rating and Assessment of merit	Measures implemented	Owner	Monitoring and actions	Commitment
Heritage Victoria	Noted the mooring system for the floating LiDAR buoys should not be placed on any seabed feature that may be a historic shipwreck or other form of underwater cultural heritage.	Y	1- Based on a desktop assessment there are no registered heritage values within the feasibility licence area, including shipwrecks or Cultural Heritage as described in 2.2.4.	1. Visual inspection of the location will occur prior to the mooring placement to ensure it is a clear sandy area. 2. There is also a 500m buffer allowance for micro siting to avoid any seabed features.	TGS	Location of moorings and nature of seabed to be recorded during deployment and position adjusted accordingly	We will implement measures 1 -2.
Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative	Potential impacts to fishing activities in the area from FLiDAR activities	Y	4 HSW considers the claim to have merit due to the potential impact to stakeholder fishing activity and potential damage to project assets if other marine users are not aware of activity underway in licence area.	HSW will inform stakeholder prior to any activities commencing in licence area by sharing the NtM directly with stakeholder. HSW will include stakeholder in future consultation	HSW	HSW will maintain ongoing check-ins with fishing stakeholders and provide advance notice of marine activities, as well as regular updates on the project. Engagement will be tracked through the Stakeholder Management Database.	Formalise a data-sharing arrangement with fisheries body prior to FLiDAR deployment (e.g. through a service or information-exchange agreement) to obtain verified spatial fishing-effort data within and adjacent to the licence area. Validate and cross-check existing fishing-activity mapping using SETFIA data to confirm that the final FLiDAR location and mooring footprint do not overlap with actively fished grounds. Provide relevant fishers with advance notification (minimum 14 days) of all deployment, maintenance, and retrieval windows, including coordinates and timing, to avoid operational interference. Maintain direct liaison with fisheries bodies and Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative through the deployment period to monitor whether any operational interactions occur and to agree any responsive measures if required.


High Sea
Wind