

First offshore wind Management Plan approved in Australia

It's shaping up to be an exciting year for the Blue Mackerel project, with several key milestones already reached. In December 2024, the project's Management Plan was submitted to the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR). After the formal assessment period, the Management Plan was approved on Friday 14 February. This makes Blue Mackerel the first offshore wind project to receive approval of a Management Plan under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*.

Our Management Plan approval now paves the way for the next phase of our marine surveys. Over the coming weeks, we'll launch our FLiDAR system and wave buoy to measure local wind and wave conditions and kick off our geotechnical surveys to better understand seabed geology.

Meanwhile, we're continuing consultation to develop our community benefits sharing program and have a busy events schedule planned for the months ahead. Read on for what's next as we ramp up our activities and welcome more community input throughout 2025.

Gippsland Offshore Wind Days

The team will next be at the Gippsland Offshore Wind Days to engage with the community about the Blue Mackerel Project. These industry events offer the public a chance to learn more about offshore wind energy in the region.

Port Albert

Wednesday 12 March, 4–6 pm
Port Albert Mechanics Institute
20 Victoria Street, Port Albert

Golden Beach

Thursday 13 March, 4–6 pm
Golden Beach Community Centre
1/19 Surf Edge Drive, Golden Beach

Sale

Saturday 22 March, 10–2 pm
Nakunbalook, Sale Botanic Gardens
Guthridge Parade, Sale

Leongatha

Thursday 27 March, 4–6 pm
Leongatha Memorial Hall
6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha

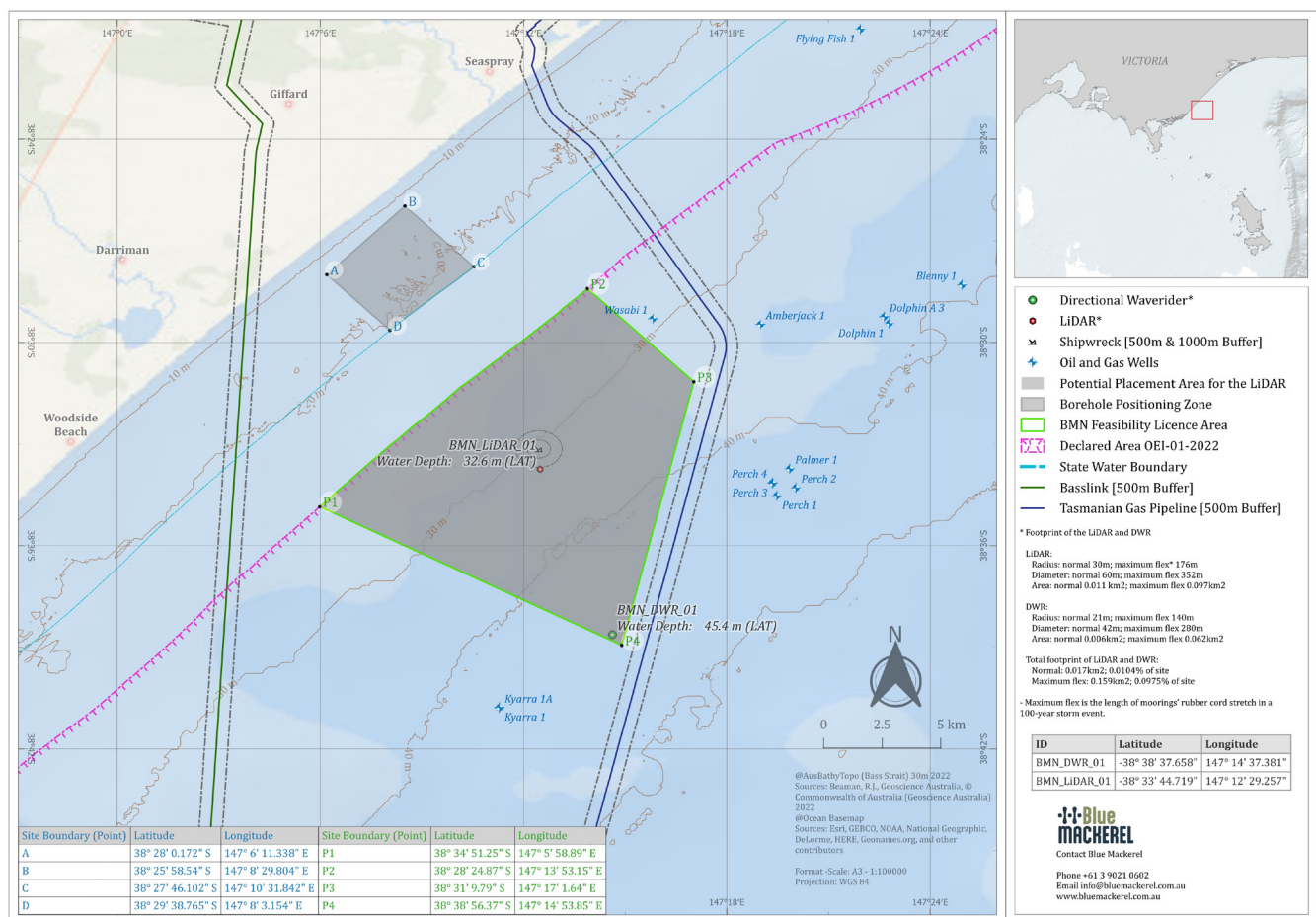
What is the Management Plan?

The Metocean and Geotechnical Investigations Management Plan (Management Plan) is required prior to starting any marine surveys that make contact with the seabed. This is legislated by the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* and *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2024*.

The Management Plan describes our marine survey activities that will take place within the study area. This includes timing, locations, operation details, environment assessment and protection measures.

Up next: Metocean and Geotechnical investigations

Geotechnical investigations, FLiDAR system and wave buoy deployment will be conducted within the project feasibility licence area, and additional activities will also be undertaken in state waters to assess a potential electricity cable corridor area (under *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* consent). Refer to map below.



Activity details

Over three days from 6 March 2025, a FLiDAR (Floating Light Detection and Ranging) buoy will be towed from Port Anthony and anchored on location, along with a separate wave buoy. These buoys will stay in place for up to three years, continuously gathering data on wind speeds, wave height, period and direction, as well as currents and tides.

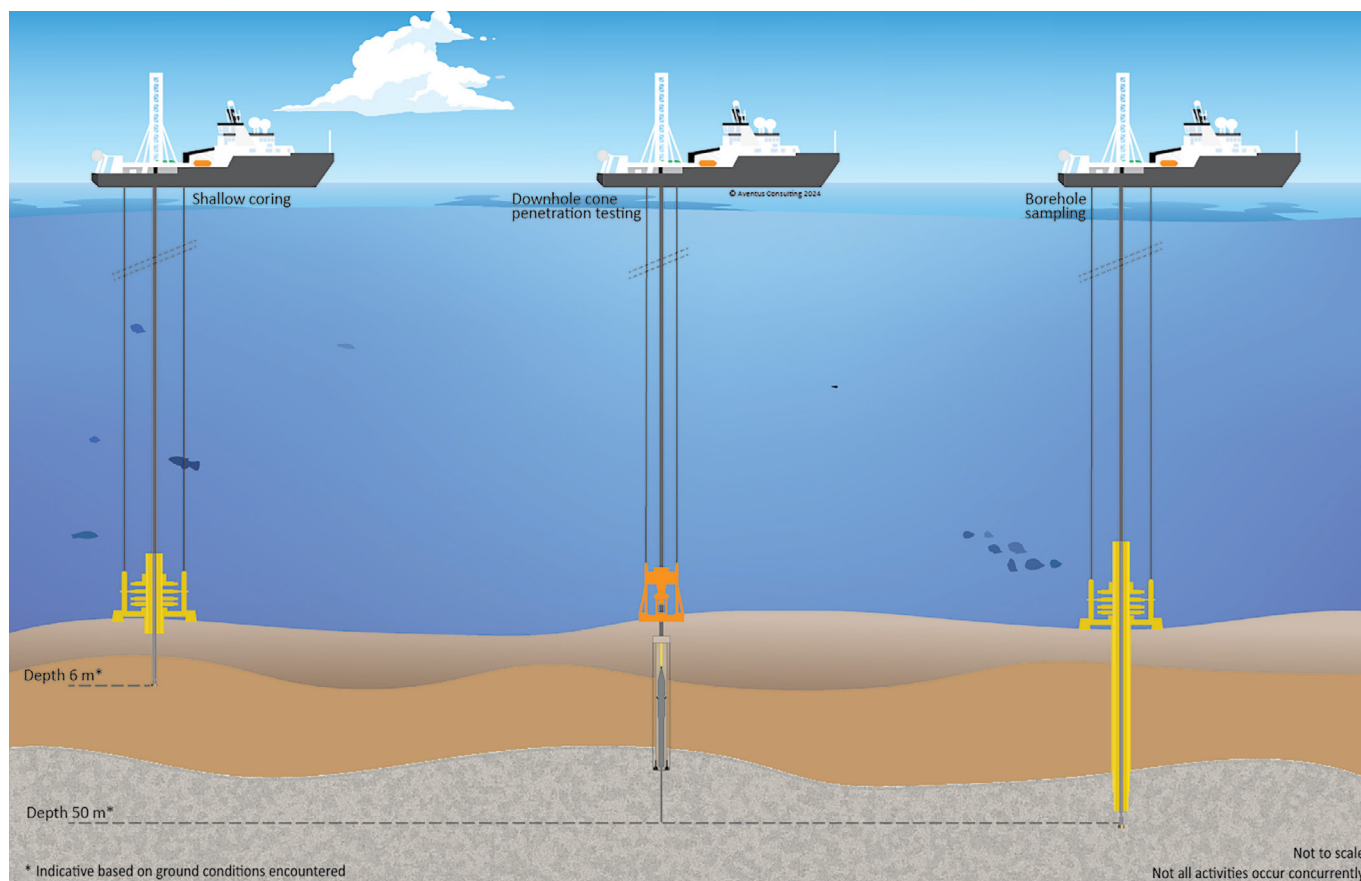
From 10 March 2025, our geotechnical survey vessel (Fugro Mariner) will depart Barry Beach for a 35-day campaign in the project's feasibility licence area. This vessel will drill shallow boreholes and collect seabed samples to understand the geology beneath the ocean floor.

Timings may be changed and activities may take a little longer if there are delays due to weather conditions.

The information gathered through these metocean and geotechnical investigations will help inform future environmental and engineering assessments, including the design of the wind turbines, foundations, and potential export cable routes. Much like our prior geophysical surveys, these studies are essential for helping us plan for our offshore wind project.



FLiDAR system 4m x 4m x 4m above sea level, keel 4.2m below the water line



*Proposed seabed testing inclusive of shallow cone penetration testing (CPT), downhole CPT and borehole sampling.
Image: Aventus consulting*

Let's get (geo)physical – surveys

We're celebrating another project milestone at Blue Mackerel: our geophysical surveys were successfully completed in February 2025. Over that period, two vessels mapped the seabed in the feasibility licence area and between this zone and the shoreline. This data has already helped refine our upcoming geotechnical and wind and wave investigations, while helping us to avoid sites of high environmental and cultural value.



Community benefits

Blue Mackerel is committed to ensuring that communities living near the proposed offshore wind farm share in the benefits.

A community benefit sharing program (the Program) will be implemented if the proposed Blue Mackerel Project is constructed and will operate for the lifetime of the project.

Beginning in 2025 we will be seeking community input into the design and makeup of the benefit sharing program.

Blue Mackerel is commencing consulting with the local community and key stakeholder to develop the Program that will aim to distribute benefits from the project to neighbouring landowners, residents and the community. If you would like to be kept informed about opportunities and upcoming events to engage with us in developing the Program, please subscribe for updates [here](#)

We will continue to seek feedback about our community benefits sharing program through ongoing extensive community consultation with residents, neighbours and other stakeholders.

Do you have any thoughts about how to share the project's benefits?

Please let us know by completing our survey [here](#) or writing to us via our project email info@bluemackerel.com.au

Did you know?

In 1900, a fierce gale off Lakes Entrance sank the SS Glenelg—a coastal steamer that carried passengers, mail, and goods.

Sadly, lives were lost in what marked one of Victoria's worst maritime disasters. Its resting place, now within the Blue Mackerel feasibility licence area, remained undiscovered for over a century—until a single plate bearing the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company insignia confirmed the wreck's identity in 2009.

Great care is being taken by the Blue Mackerel team to leave the SS Glenelg resting peacefully.



Representative image of the SS Glenelg Shipwreck at its found location

Out and about in Gippsland in Summer

Our team made the most of the January long weekend by hosting community pop-ups around Seaspray and Golden Beach. Over three sessions, we chatted with more than 70 locals and holidaymakers eager to learn more about the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project.



The Blue Mackerel community engagement team at Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club

**24
January**

Community pop-up
sessions near
Seaspray Surf
Lifesaving Club

**Have suggestions
on who we should be
consulting for the project?**

Please let us know!

Share your thoughts by
emailing us at:

info@bluemackerel.com.au

**25
January**

Australia Day Surf
Fishing Carnival in
Golden Beach

Much of the discussion centred around our proposed community benefit sharing program, which will roll out if the project is approved. Ideas ranged from supporting community and sporting clubs with hidden costs like insurance, to improving local shared spaces and building cycleways.

Participants also asked about environmental considerations particularly noise mitigation for marine life during construction—along with potential changes to the visual seascape, access to fishing areas, and decommissioning processes. Others were curious about future training and employment opportunities in offshore wind, and how a shared transmission line might connect multiple offshore wind projects to the grid.



Blue Mackerel information pop-up at Australia Day Surf Fishing Carnival in Golden Beach

Who we engaged with

Given the broad range and geographical spread of interested community members and stakeholders, information was provided via different formats and engagement methods.



Community mail-out 8000 local homes and businesses	Newspaper advertisements x3 (reaching 45,000 people via local media and Koori News)	1:1 meetings with 40+ stakeholders and groups
Project Overview brochure	Information Bulletins x3	e-updates x3 (distributed to 285 stakeholders across 196 organisations)
Information stand at GNEC and Gippy Youth Summit)	Project community drop-in sessions x6	4 Planned Developer community drop-in sessions
Direct engagement with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Face to face visits to First Nations community controlled organisations across Gippsland	Emails, phone calls, posted information and offers of briefing to First Nations community-controlled organisations across Victoria, northern Tasmania and the south-coast of New South Wales
Online engagement hub	Online survey	Project webinar
LinkedIn posts x17	Project information line	Email inbox

Meet the project team

Linda French

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager

The Blue Mackerel project team warmly welcomes a new team member to lead its community relations and stakeholder engagement activities. Linda has a depth of experience in regional community relations and First Nation's engagement in Australia, including many years of engagement with the commercial fisheries sector in Victoria.



"Genuine consultation with our communities and stakeholders is essential to our assessment process as we seek to inform, listen and respond to questions and concerns," Linda explained.

"And we aim to build long term, trusted relationships as we move through our different project phases over the coming years in the exciting new offshore wind industry in Australia."

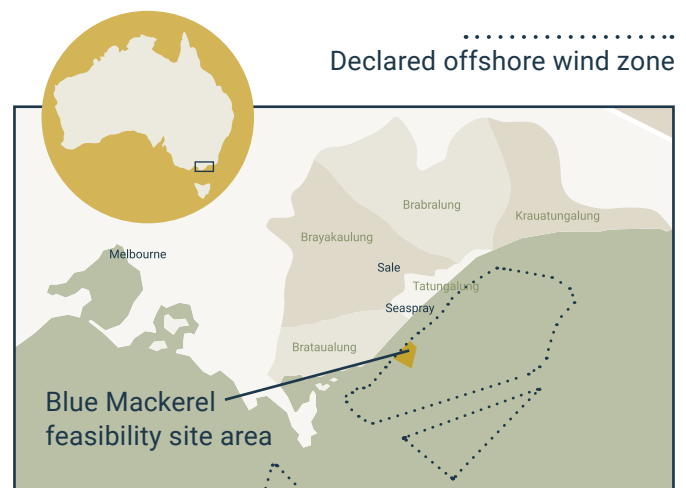


Coastline of Port Anthony

Project overview

The proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project is located off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country, Gippsland, approximately 10km from Seaspray, Victoria. It has the potential to generate 1 GW of power. At full capacity, that's power into the grid for half a million homes a year by 2032.

Blue Mackerel received its feasibility license in April 2024. The project is in the feasibility and planning stage - it's at the beginning. Following environmental approvals, and attainment of a commercial licence, construction of the project would start in 2029. The project would be operational in 2032 for up to 40-years.



We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people that delivers mutual benefit and enhanced stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all First Nations peoples for their lands and waters where we operate.



Get in touch

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