

Project update

Blue Mackerel's activities are in full swing – both on land and at sea. Recently, we completed drop camera work to get additional imagery of the seabed, and we're continuing to capture great data from our wind and wave measuring equipment.

We've also been out and about in Gippsland – meeting locals and listening to what matters most. That's why we're excited to talk about our Community Benefits, a program designed with the community, for the community. We want you to tell us what better off looks like.

In this bulletin you'll learn about:

- Community Benefits Program
- Upcoming events
- Engagement agreement with GLaWAC
- Taking to the water – our recent investigations
- Meet the team
- What's next?

Community Benefits Program

We're developing a Community Benefits Program. To do that, we need your ideas. What would make a real difference to where you live? Is it local energy solutions? Grants for clubs? Nature projects along the coast? Or a brand new initiative? However you choose to take part, we're here to listen.

How to have your say

To help kick things off, we've created a Conversation Toolkit. It's a simple guide to spark ideas and chat with others - at home, at the footy club, or over a cuppa about the project and the Community Benefit Program. Use it to capture and share what matters to you, and send it back to us online or by post.



Want support? We can host a conversation with your group. We can also provide an experienced facilitator to help run your session. If you'd like a hand – let us know and we'll make a time.

You can also get involved through our local drop-in sessions and community events happening over the next few months link. [Or, if you're short on time, take a few minutes to complete our survey.](#)



Upcoming events

Over the coming weeks the Blue Mackerel team will be popping up at local markets and community halls across Gippsland to chat about the project, answer your burning questions, and hear your ideas for the Community Benefits Program.

You can find us at the following drop-in sessions

**Saturday
21 June**

Sale
Producers Market
8.00am – 1.00pm



**Saturday
28 June**

Traralgon
Traralgon Farmers
Market
8.00am – 1.00pm



**Friday
4 July**

Seaspray
Surf Life Saving Club
5.00pm – 7.30pm

**Saturday
5 July**

Seaspray
Community Hall
10.00am – 1.00pm

**Saturday
5 July**

Woodside
Woodside Beach
Hotel
3.00pm – 6.00pm

**Winter Webinar
Wednesdays**

Zoom
9, 16 July
6, 13 August
6.30pm – 7.15pm



**Wednesday
23 July**

Toora
Toora Hall
4.00pm – 6.00pm

**Wednesday
30 July**

Loch Sport
Community House
4.30pm – 6.30pm

**Thursday
31 July**

Woodside
Woodside
Community Hall
4.00pm – 6.00pm

Gippsland Offshore Wind Days are back!

Blue Mackerel is continuing our participation in the Gippsland Offshore Wind Days events, attended by all of the other developers. Swing by to learn more about offshore wind and you can focus on the development area of most interest to you.

You can find us at:

Toora

Wednesday 23 July, 4pm – 6pm

Toora Hall
23 Gray Street, Toora

Loch Sport

Wednesday 30 July, 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Loch Sport Community House
222-236 National Park Road, Loch Sport

Woodside

Thursday 31 July, 4pm – 6pm

Woodside Community Hall
Cnr Prince St and Austins Rd Woodside

Winter Webinar series

Prefer to join online? Tune into our four-part Winter Webinar series to learn about:

Webinar #1

Blue Mackerel Project Overview

Wednesday 9 July, 6pm – 6.45pm

Webinar #2

Community benefits

Wednesday 16 July, 6pm – 6.45pm

Webinar #3

Environment protection

Wednesday 6 August, 6pm – 6.45pm

Webinar #4

All things construction

Wednesday 20 August, 6pm – 6.45pm

To learn more, complete the survey or register for webinar series, please visit

www.bluemackerel.com.au



Engagement Agreement signed with GLaWAC

Blue Mackerel is pleased to announce the signing of an Engagement Agreement with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). This agreement represents a significant milestone in our relationship and commitment to working in partnership with the Gunaikurnai people to help accelerate the energy transition and deliver lasting benefits for Gippsland.

“Signing an agreement with GLaWAC is an important step in Blue Mackerel’s ongoing development process and formalises our commitment to working collaboratively with GLaWAC and the Gunaikurnai people, respecting their rights, culture, and aspirations. We look forward to building a lasting partnership that delivers meaningful, long-term benefits for the Gunaikurnai community and the broader Gippsland region.”

Anil Chanana, Country Manager Australia.



Listening and learning about Sea Country

Our geotechnical and metocean surveys each began with a Welcome to Country followed by a cultural briefing from Uncle Lloyd Hood, of GLaWAC. Held on the vessel and quayside at Barry Beach, Uncle Lloyd played a meaningful part in each contractor induction speaking about his background, his community, and his Country, sharing stories in a way that participants felt lifted their learning.

We believe that building our knowledge of Gunaikurnai culture is essential if we are to deliver meaningful, long-term benefits for the Gunaikurnai and other First Nations peoples. We will continue to invest in our own learning in the future - as well as in creating opportunities for our contractors and consultants to do the same. Thank you to Uncle Lloyd for so generously sharing his time and yarns.



Uncle Lloyd Hood delivering the Welcome to Country and cultural briefing prior to FLiDAR launch on 9 March 2025



Uncle Lloyd Hood delivering the Welcome to Country and cultural briefing to Fugro’s crew on 8 March 2025

Taking to the water – our recent investigations



Drop camera survey

In May 2025, we carried out a drop camera survey across our project site. This involved lowering a high-definition camera system above the seafloor. Detailed video footage of underwater features and habitats was captured, helping us to build an even clearer picture of the seabed.

We targeted areas of interest that were identified in earlier geophysical studies. Getting as much detail as possible helps us refine upcoming engineering assessments. It will guide where turbine foundations could go, and help map possible routes for our underwater export cables.

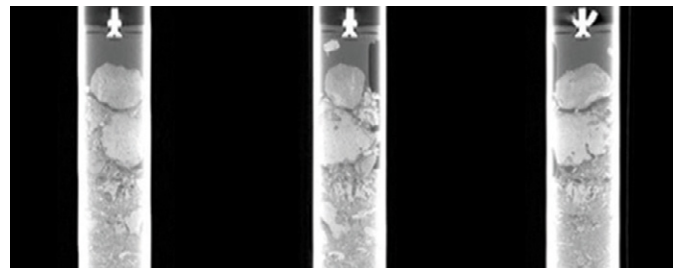
Excitingly, we captured new images of the SS Glenelg, a steamship sunk in 1901. We've shared this footage with Heritage Victoria who document and understand underwater heritage in our state.

Cultural heritage assessments

Our geotechnical investigations gave us vital data to inform our project design. It also offers something more: clues to the past hidden beneath the seabed.

Bass Strait hasn't always been the ocean. When sea levels were lower, First Nations people walked, hunted and cared for Country on plains that now lie deep beneath the waves. With guidance from GLaWAC and marine archaeologists, we're sharing our findings to help trace those stories.

The purpose of the assessment is to understand and protect places with Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be part of the underwater landscape. This could include scattered artefacts, stone arrangements and shell middens. We're excited about including cultural heritage in our future project planning.



Core samples of the seabed taken from our feasibility licence area viewed with x-rays.

Meet the project team

Tim Flowers

Approvals and Consenting Manager

Blue Mackerel is thrilled to welcome Tim Flowers, who's come on board to lead our environmental and regulatory work. Tim brings 17 years of experience in the energy industry, having worked on a wide range of projects across Australia and New Zealand. Most recently, he was Head of Environment at Beach Energy, where he led environmental performance and managed regulatory approvals across the organisation.

He's also no stranger to building relationships to get projects off the ground. Before jumping into energy, Tim spent 10 years in aquaculture, working across industry, research, and government regulation. These days, you'll find him outdoors whenever he can – fishing, or enjoying time with his family.

Welcome, Tim!

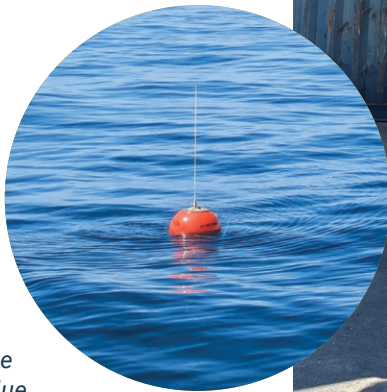


Floating LiDAR ahoy!

Floating Light Detection and Ranging buoys. Other than a mouthful to say out loud, what is it? The clue's in the name. It floats and sends out invisible light beams and tracks how the light bounces back and measure wind speeds.

Together, our Floating LiDAR and Directional Wave Rider buoy are gathering data on wind, waves and other environmental conditions. All of this will help decide the layout of turbines.

A reminder that this floatational equipment will be in the water for up to two years – so if you're heading offshore, please steer clear. You can check their exact locations on the map here: www.bluemackerel.com.au/page/planning-and-investigations



Directional Wave Rider Buoy in Blue Mackerel's feasibility licence area.



What's next?

We're starting our marine mammal, shorebird and seabird surveys in the coming weeks – this is part of our detailed environmental assessments that will continue for the next few years.

We look forward to carrying out more engagement with stakeholders and local communities in the coming months as we progress our engineering investigations and design development.



Did you know?

Offshore wind turbines are designed to operate for around 25 years. But with regular maintenance, they can continue generating clean electricity for up to 40 years. At the end of their life, turbines are either upgraded with new technology or carefully decommissioned. Up to 90% of their materials – including steel, aluminium and other metals – can be recycled or reused, helping reduce waste and support a circular economy.



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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