



Metocean and Geotechnical Investigations
Management Plan:
Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

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Document control

Rev	Date issued	Purpose	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved
0.1	05 March 2025	Draft issued for internal review	LFR: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	TFL: Approvals and Consenting Manager HGI: Communications Officer KMC: First Nations Adviser	DGH: Project Director
1.0	14 March 2025	Issued for publication on BM Website	LFR: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager		DGH: Project Director
1.1	16 February 2026	Scheduled update and review	IHU: Regional Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	LFR: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager TFL: Approvals and Consenting Manager	
2.0	11 March 2026	Scheduled update and review	IHU: Regional Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	LFR: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager	TFL: Approvals and Consenting Manager

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.

Connect

To find out more about the project, or contact our team, call **+613 9021 0602**, email **info@bluemackerel.com.au** or visit **www.bluemackerel.com.au**

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

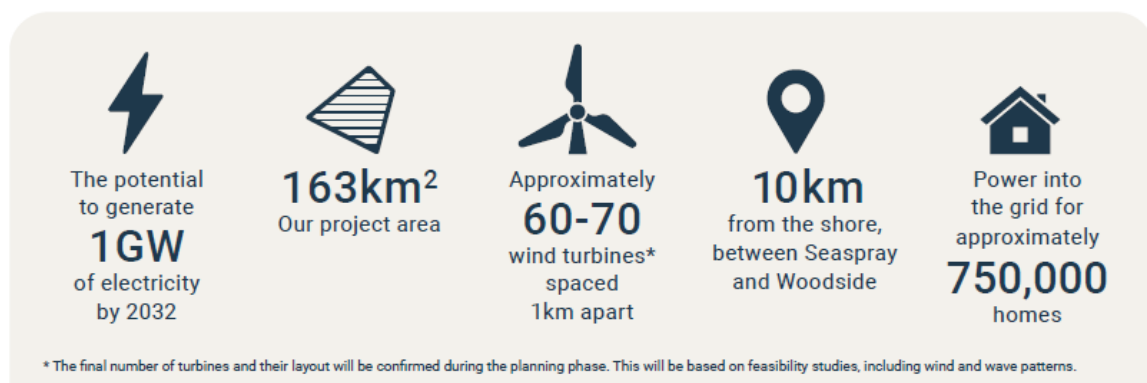
This Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES):

- sets out the engagement that will be undertaken in relation to the licence activities described in the Blue Mackerel Metocean and Geotechnical Investigations Management Plan (Management Plan) that was approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) on 14 February 2025.
- includes the requirements of Section 82 of the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Overview

Blue Mackerel is a proposed offshore wind project, located approximately 10km off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country between Seaspray and Woodside Beach. The project could deliver up to 1GW of renewable energy – that's enough to power up to 750,000 Victorian homes per year.



In April 2024, Blue Mackerel was awarded its feasibility license by the Australian Government, which allows the project to undertake detailed feasibility studies and seek planning approvals. Successful planning approvals are necessary to receive a commercial licence and support a Financial Investment Decision (FID) from Blue Mackerel owners to construct the project.

Blue Mackerel is being developed by [JERA Nex bp](#), a 50:50 joint venture between JERA Co. and bp.

With more than 15 years' global experience in offshore wind, JERA Nex bp is one of the world's largest offshore wind companies and an end-to-end developer, owner and operator. The company's combined portfolio includes approximately 13GW of net potential generating capacity: around 1GW of installed capacity, 7.5GW in development, and 4.5GW from secured leases.

JERA Nex bp draws on the strength of two world-leading companies - JERA's track record in delivering and operating offshore wind projects with bp's extensive development portfolio and offshore energy expertise.

The Management Plan describes the activities to be undertaken within the licence area to:

- deploy a Floating Light Detection and Ranging system (FLiDAR) and a directional waverider buoy (DWB) for up to three years to survey metocean conditions

- carry out geotechnical surveys over approximately five weeks to survey the geology below the seabed.

The surveys will help inform detailed planning, environmental and engineering assessments that will be completed over the coming years.

Community and stakeholder consultation in the development of Blue Mackerel is critical to project success. At each phase we will seek out local knowledge and expertise to build understanding, seek feedback and help shape the project to minimise impacts and create lasting environmental, economic and social benefits for Gippsland, Victoria and Australia.

1.2.2 Project location

The project feasibility licence area is located off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country, Gippsland. The proposed wind farm will be approximately 163km², and 10km offshore, between the townships of Seaspray and Woodside Beach in the local government area of Wellington Shire Council.

The feasibility licence area is close to the VicGrid connection point near Giffard. Neighbouring proposed offshore wind farms include - Star of the South, Great Eastern, Aurora Green, and Navigator North. Additional projects are located further south, including Orsted Offshore Australia and High Sea Wind. *See Figure 1.*

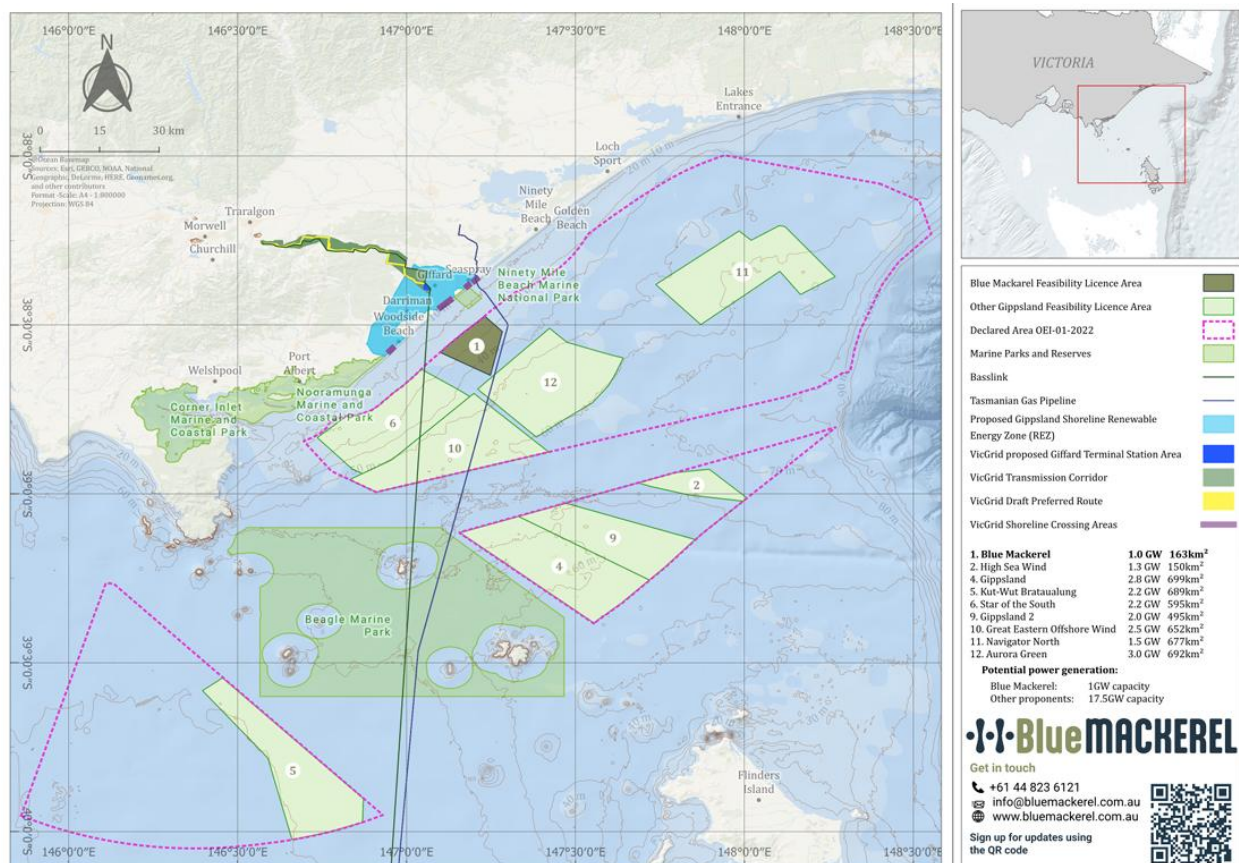


Figure: 1 Project site location.

1.2.3 Traditional Owners

The site is part of an interconnected cultural landscape that includes both land and waters. This cultural landscape includes Traditional Owner cultural values and uses for Sea Country.

The Blue Mackerel team is working in partnership with the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the Land and Sea Country on which the project is planned. 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.



Figure 1: Blue Mackerel feasibility site area

1.2.4 Project indicative timeline

Blue Mackerel is currently in the feasibility, design and approvals phase. Once all the required approvals are in place, construction can begin. Blue Mackerel could be delivering renewable energy by 2032. A high-level indicative timeline is provided in Figure 3 Blue Mackerel indicative timeline below.



Figure 3: Blue Mackerel indicative timeline

1.2.5 Legislative Requirements

The *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024* (the Regulations) that sit under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act) set out a wide range of requirements, including consultation requirements for the development and implementation of Management Plans.

The consultation requirements include identifying stakeholders under the defined categories that have been included in section 2.1 of this SES. The Regulations that set out the requirements of a SES, and where this plan has addressed those requirements is shown in the table below.

Table 1. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Regulations

Section 82 (2) – Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Where addressed
(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the plan must require the stakeholder engagement strategy to:	
(a) set out a list of stakeholders that the licence holder has identified; and	4.1 List of stakeholders identified
(b) describe the process that the licence holder used to identify those stakeholders, and the process that the licence holder will use to identify stakeholders in the future; and	0
(c) include a summary of any claims raised about any adverse effects that changes in the licence activities might have on the stakeholders consulted; and	5.2 Claims raised
(d) for each such claim—include an assessment of the merits of the claim, and a statement of whether the licence holder considers the claim to have reasonable merit; and	5.2 Claims raised
(e) for each such claim that the licence holder considers to have reasonable merit—include details of:	5.2 Claims raised
(i) the measures (if any) that the licence holder is to implement to address the claim; and	
(ii) the measures (if any) that the licence holder is to implement to ensure that the measures mentioned in subparagraph (i) are effective, and are likely to remain effective; and	
(e) describe the licence holder's process for continuing to engage with stakeholders and managing complaints from stakeholders;	6 Continued engagement 7 Managing claims and complaints
(f) describe how the strategy will be updated and kept current (including by identifying any new stakeholders); and	8 Publishing and updating this strategy
(g) include any reports included in a management plan under paragraph 81(2)(c) (reports on the outcomes of consultation).	6.4 Managing responses and records
Section 82 (4) – Publication of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Where addressed
(4) The plan must require the licence holder to:	
(a) publish the stakeholder engagement strategy on the licence holder's website before the end of 30 days after the management plan is first approved; and	See bluemackerel.com.au
(b) keep the stakeholder engagement strategy on the licence holder's website until the licence ceases to be in force, or the licence holder ceases to hold the licence; and	8.1 Publishing the SES
(c) ensure that any changes to the stakeholder engagement strategy are reflected in the published stakeholder engagement strategy.	8.2 Updating the SES

2 Management plan activities

The approved Management Plan licence activities include metocean and geotechnical investigations that were conducted within the feasibility licence area awarded to Blue Mackerel, see *Figure 4 Blue Mackerel metocean and geotechnical investigations map*. Activities commenced early March 2025 and the geotechnical investigations were completed by the end of March 2025. Metocean activities are ongoing within the feasibility licence area.

A summary of the activities is provided below. Further information, pictures, diagrams, location maps and coordinates are included in the Metocean and Geotechnical Investigations Management Plan Summary published on the OIR website.

2.1 Metocean investigations

Purpose

The term 'metocean' is a combination of the words meteorological and oceanographic. Metocean surveys obtain wind, wave, current and other atmospheric and oceanographic data. The data acquired will be used to support the planning and design of the proposed offshore wind farm (OWF) infrastructure.

Activity summary

The metocean investigation uses a floating light detection and ranging system (FLiDAR) located in approximately the middle of the licence area to measure wind profile, turbulence intensity and direction. A separate DWB is located near an outer boundary of the licence area to measure wave action. Both are anchored to the seabed and have monitoring equipment and navigation aids. They will remain in place for up to two years.

2.2 Geotechnical investigations

Purpose

Geotechnical investigations will collect detailed information on the physical properties of the seabed and the underlying sediments to build up a picture of the local geology of the licence area. Data from the investigations will be analysed as a key input for assessment of locations and engineering design of infrastructure.

Activity summary

Within the feasibility licence area at different locations, a large vessel operating under dynamic positioning drilled 5 core samples of approximately 8cm diameter and 50m deep into the seabed. Next to each borehole a cone penetrometer test to 50m was carried out to measure ground resistance. To enable sampling of the shallow geological layers, 13 boreholes of up to 6m in depth were drilled. A grab sampler was used to collect between 20 and 25 sediment samples of approximately 32 litres of soil from the seabed. Once collected, the samples were stored on the vessel and then sent to a laboratory for analysis and testing.

A further 6 shallow boreholes collected samples from the area between the feasibility licence area and the shore, to enable assessment of a potential electricity cable route. The activities in that area are subject to approvals under the Victorian *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and area therefore not part of the Management Plan.

2.3 Location of the seabed marine surveys

The metocean and geotechnical investigations are being undertaken within the Blue Mackerel feasibility licence area and the transmission and infrastructure investigation area/corridor shown in the detailed map BMNPW-SEN-PLN-0011-1.0-Management Plan SES-20260311 – Annual

in Figure 3 Blue Mackerel metocean and geotechnical investigations map below. The Passive Acoustic Monitors and Acoustic Telemetry have been deployed as part of the environmental assessment program and are therefore exempt from inclusion in the Management Plan.

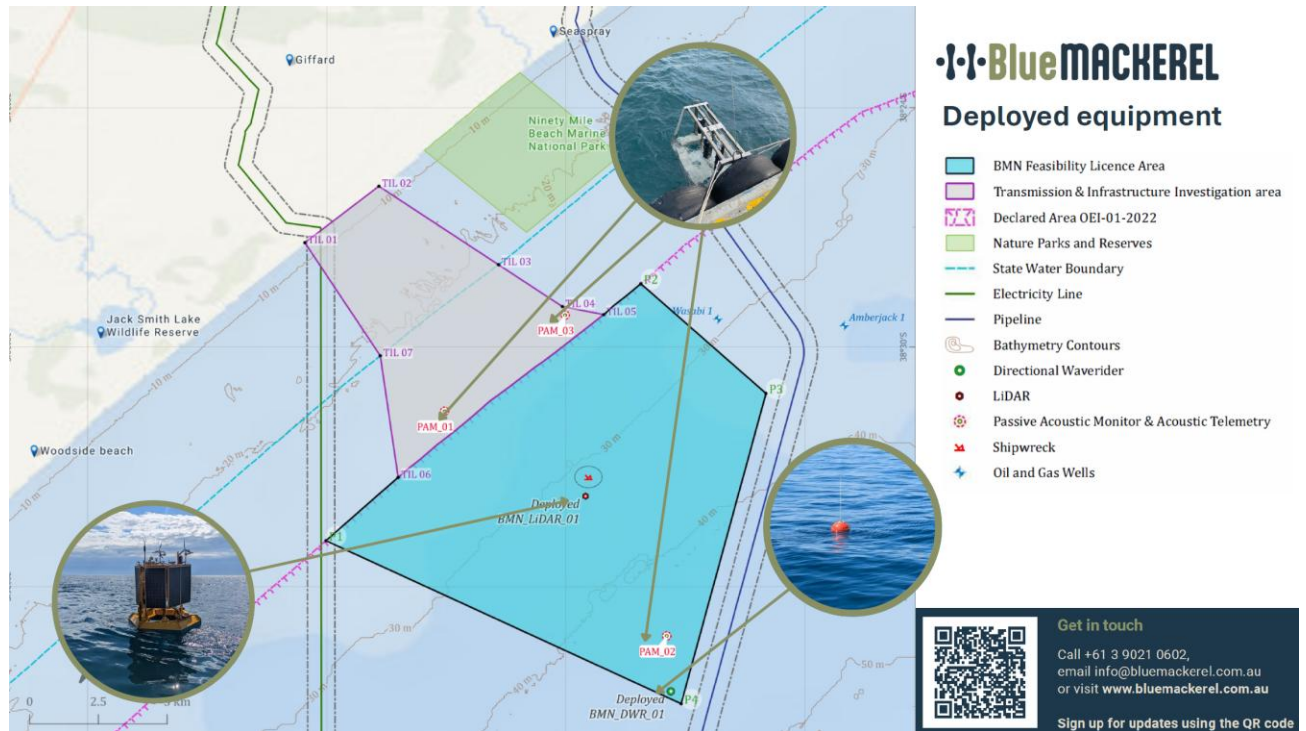


Figure 4: Blue Mackerel metocean and geotechnical investigations map

3 Engagement Objectives

3.1 Blue Mackerel Project

This SES aligns with a whole of project engagement strategy and framework which sets out a strategic approach to engagement and communications for Blue Mackerel throughout the feasibility licence process.

The following overarching engagement objectives will drive project delivery:

- Build trusted relationships with communities and stakeholders through a commitment to being authentic, transparent, respectful and responsive.
- Provide timely and clear communications to build knowledge about the project and to support effective participation of communities and stakeholders.
- Ensure community and stakeholder feedback, concerns and aspirations are understood and clearly demonstrate how these have been considered and, where possible, incorporated in project planning and design.
- Seek community and stakeholder feedback on how they prefer to participate and identify opportunities for meaningful and enduring social and economic benefits.

- Consult with other proponents in the area to understand their timelines and avoid engagement fatigue.
- Remain open to learning and adapt our approach based on new insights or changes.

3.2 Metocean and Geotechnical Investigations Management Plan

The objective of this SES is to identify persons, organisations, communities and groups in relation to the Management Plan activities and undertake engagement activities in accordance with regulation 82 of the OIR Regulations as set out in *Table 1* above.

4 Stakeholders

4.1 List of stakeholders identified

An extensive identification process (described in section 4.2.1 below) was undertaken in accordance with section 64 (1) of the Regulations, for development of the Management Plan.

In preparation of this SES in relation to the licence activities, stakeholders were reviewed and have been set out in **Appendix One – Stakeholder List** in accordance with the stakeholder types described in Section 82 (1) of the Regulations.

4.2 Stakeholder Identification

4.2.1 Process undertaken

Regulation 64 (1) of the OEI Amendment Regulations 2024 requires licence holders to make reasonable efforts to identify and consult with defined stakeholder types. The process used to identify stakeholders in preparation of this MP is outlined in *Figure 5 Process for stakeholder identification* below.

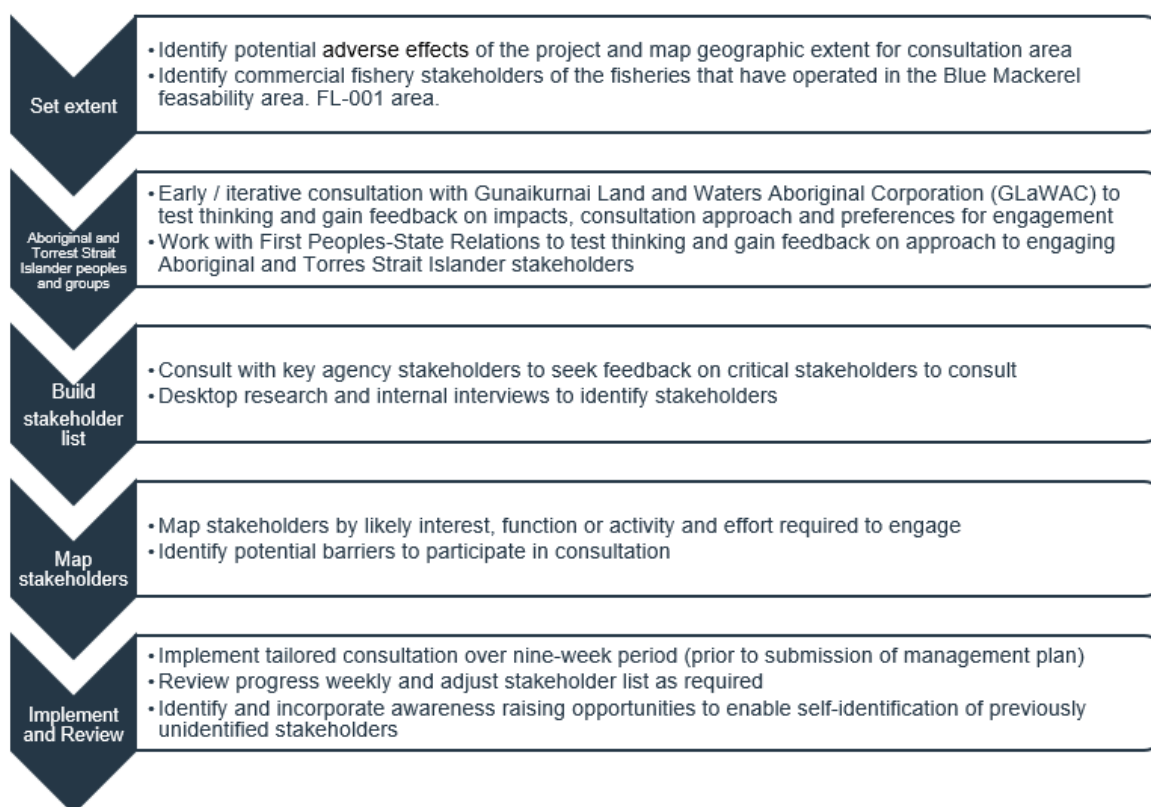


Figure 5 Process for stakeholder identification

4.2.2 Geographic extent

The geographic extent of stakeholder identification and engagement activities is shown in *Figure 6* below.



Figure 6: Geographic extent of consultation outreach

4.2.3 Research and information

The key sources of research and information that have assisted with stakeholder identification, and which continue to support identifying stakeholders, are listed below:

Online searches: Google searches based on interest groups and topics of interest have been undertaken, including searches of community directories on local council websites and geospatial mapping in the project area and surrounds.

Publicly available plans and referrals: Reviews of publicly available plans and referrals have been undertaken for projects with similar interests or occurring in the project region, including reviews of EPBC Act Referrals, Victorian Environment Effects Act Referral, Victorian Environmental Effects Statement Consultation Plans and other publicly available reports.

Consultation with government agencies and Traditional Owner organisations: Discussions with government agencies and the Registered Aboriginal Party, GLaWAC, has assisted in identified organisations or individuals and organisations that may be affected or interested.

Prior knowledge of stakeholder groups from other projects: The project team have identified known stakeholders based on their collective experience working on projects of a similar nature, and within the project area/region.

Traditional and social media scanning: Media alerts and social media scans to identify potentially interested parties or organisations which have publicly expressed interest or commented on related activities.

Seeking recommendations from other stakeholders: The project team meet and ask known stakeholders if there are any other people or groups which we should reach out to and seek their input including community groups, local government authorities and agencies, special interest groups.

Building awareness of project to support self-identification: Using a broad program of engagement and communication activities to build awareness of the project and proposed marine surveys and encourage people to reach out to project team to provide feedback and input, via website, email and phone or to request a one-on-one briefing.

4.2.4 Identifying stakeholders and actions

The following steps were identified in the first release of this SES. *Table 2* below has been updated in this release to include activities undertaken over the last 12 months since this SES was published.

Each communication related to the MP activities and Blue Mackerel project updates created the opportunity for additional stakeholders to engage with Blue Mackerel.

Table 2. Activities enabling identification of additional stakeholders

Audience	Identification activity	Further identification activity
Stakeholders	• Advance notice of activity commencement, changes, updates, etc to existing stakeholders including requests to pass on project information to potential new stakeholders. • Opportunity to opt out if information is not relevant.	• Issued three activity notices to (Blue Mackerel North) BMN stakeholder database • Published two information bulletins referencing deployed monitoring equipment • All information bulletins and notices were also published on the Blue Mackerel website • Blue Mackerel held one public webinar covering environmental monitoring activities, including FLiDAR, PAMs and DWR. Three other webinars were held on the project: project overview; construction; community benefits.
Public notices	• Use of regional newspapers that reach broad public audiences and encourage engagement • Publishing notice of activity commencement and periodic reminders • Including links to maps that encourage self-identification of new stakeholders	• 23 public notice advertisements were published in local Gippsland media publications, with topics ranging from activity commencement notices, community information sessions and project updates. Each advertisement included contact details for Blue Mackerel and therefore an opportunity for stakeholders to contact the project.
Social media	• Publishing notices of approval of MP and activity commencement and encouraging sharing of news and self-identification of new stakeholders	• Three social media posts providing public updates and reminders about equipment presence and duration
Fisheries	• Engaging services of commercial fishing associations to publish activity notices • Offer opportunities for members to meet with us to discuss activities, locations, concerns • Asking members if they wish to provide their contact details for direct engagement with us	• Meetings with the South Eastern Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-Op Limited (LEFCOL), San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op (SRFC), Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) prior to launching FLiDAR and DWB to discuss locations • SIV issued eNewsletter to members regarding start and completion of activities • Eight SMS notifications regarding deployment of FLiDAR and DWB by SETFIA to their eastern commercial fisher database, five additional SMS messages sent re Blue Mackerel updates

Audience	Identification activity	Further identification activity
		- Blue Mackerel also subscribed to SETFIA's new mapping service added to their stakeholder database and notices service - Meetings with SRFC, LEFCOL, SETFIA, SIV and GHaTFA for updates and coexistence discussions - Engagement of external fisheries consultant to identify commercial fishers active in the FL001 area and consult regarding coexistence
Media scanning	Scanning media services and news feeds and following up potentially interested and new stakeholders that may be apparent in the published information	Blue Mackerel regularly scanned media feeds and local news for potential stakeholders
Desktop research	- Conducting six monthly review of information sources for potentially new stakeholders - Broadening desktop search terms based on new media themes to search for potential new stakeholders	Comprehensive review completed in November 2025 with new stakeholders identified and added to stakeholder management system
Community information sessions		- In the 12 months since the first issue of this SES, Blue Mackerel has held a total of 29 community engagement events that provided the opportunity to engage with new and existing stakeholders. Events included: - two offshore wind or renewable energy conferences - twelve Blue Mackerel advertised drop-in information sessions - four Blue Mackerel project webinars - eleven combined offshore wind developer sessions including community fairs, markets, and events.

5 Past Engagement and Claims Raised

5.1 Past engagement

Extensive consultation was undertaken in the development of the Management Plan including: community mail-outs; newspaper advertising; social media posts; community drop-in sessions; participating in regional offshore wind conferences; participating in advisory committees with various government agencies; an on-line webinar; direct communications to the project stakeholder database via email and phone; personal and group meetings. The engagement activities are included in the Management Plan summary published on the Blue Mackerel website.

5.2 Claims raised

Overall, there were limited enquiries, claims or objections raised regarding the project's geotechnical and wind and wave measurement surveys.

During consultation undertaken for the development of the MP, claims relating to potential adverse effects of changes to licence activities on consulted stakeholders were identified, assessed, and managed in accordance with the relevant regulations. These claims were summarised for the MP and are presented

in *Table 3* below. An additional column has been included to identify how the project has actioned commitments arising from consultation.

Since the first release of this SES, stakeholder engagement in relation to the project's moored equipment, as well as its geotechnical and wind and wave measurement surveys, has been broad and extensive.

No new claims have been raised by stakeholders in relation to this MP.

Table 3: Claims raised, assessed, and management measures

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Provided guidance on actions required for compliance with Maritime Safety Information (MSI) protocols, including engaging with the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO), coordinating with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC), and alignment with COLREGs for navigation safety.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit.	Blue Mackerel addressed the feedback and advised it would comply with their guidance and provided information on past notices.	Blue Mackerel will consult with its vessel contractors to ensure AMSA notices to AHO and JRCC are met. Blue Mackerel will also prepare communications for marine user stakeholders regarding commencement of activities, including area maps, activity summaries and vessel contact details.	Vessels contracted by BMN issued 5 NtMs to the AHO. BMN also engaged with marine users identified in its stakeholder database and via fishery associations. See update included in table 4.2.4.
Heritage Victoria First Peoples – State Relations	The project should engage suitably qualified marine archaeologists to support geotechnical investigations	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit due to the culturally significant values of the Sea Country.	Blue Mackerel engaged a marine archaeologist following consultation with stakeholders to undertake a submerged landscape assessment. Blue Mackerel will comply with particular manner obligation 18 of the EPBC decision, which requires that geophysical survey data is analysed by an underwater archaeologist prior to undertaking geotechnical survey and that no geotechnical survey is undertaken within 100m of where they consider underwater cultural heritage to be present. Blue Mackerel will ensure that geotechnical borehole locations are in a technically and culturally appropriate place in consultation with the marine archaeologist. Blue Mackerel will engage with GLaWAC throughout the	The underwater heritage report will describe any maritime and cultural heritage to be avoided (if applicable). Blue Mackerel marine archaeologist will prepare plain language material that summarises the results of any submerged landscape assessments, which will be shared with GLaWAC. Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing communication with GLaWAC, Heritage Victoria and First Peoples - State Relations Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council. The underwater heritage report will outline any maritime and cultural heritage to be avoided (if applicable).	Blue Mackerel consulted a marine archaeologist and GLaWAC prior to undertaking geotechnical surveys in accordance with its EPBC approvals conditions. The assessment of underwater cultural heritage is in progress. Blue Mackerel signed an Engagement Agreement with GLaWAC (April 2025) and maintained communication as follows: • Provided project updates (including on cultural heritage and cultural values assessments and environmental assessments) to GLaWAC at quarterly meetings (operational) in April, June, and November and a biannual meeting (strategy) meeting in September. • Discussed GLaWAC's participation in environmental

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
			geotechnical investigations and facilitate two-way knowledge sharing throughout the submerged landscape assessment process. Blue Mackerel will also engage with the Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation throughout the geotechnical investigations and facilitate two-way knowledge sharing throughout the submerged landscape assessment process. Blue Mackerel will keep Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council informed throughout the geotechnical investigations.		surveys for two-way knowledge sharing. • Provided project updates on an ad hoc basis via email and calls. Blue Mackerel met with Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation in March, April and May and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in July. Both organizations receive regular project updates. Blue Mackerel met with Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council in January and provided updates via email. Blue Mackerel will continue to keep the Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council informed of project progress. Blue Mackerel is about to commence work on the cultural and historic heritage and cultural values assessment. This work will include the peer review of Blue Mackerel's approach to its underwater cultural heritage impact assessment.
Victorian Fishing Authority	Blue Mackerel should ensure comprehensive engagement with fishing representative bodies (Seafood Industry Victoria, RLRAG, VR Fish and Abalone Council).	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit due to the wide range of species caught in the project area.	Blue Mackerel followed up with Seafood Industry Victoria, RLRAG, VR Fish and Abalone Council and requested briefings / shared information.	Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing check-ins with fishing stakeholders and provide advance notice of marine activities, and review outcomes after surveys. Communication methods and materials will be updated based on feedback to minimise risks and maintain trust.	Project briefings, reminders of deployed FLiDAR and DWB and engagement on draft wind farm turbine layout have been held with industry organisations and fishermen's cooperatives. See update included in table 4.2.4.
First Peoples – State Relations	There is the potential for cultural connection to migratory species	Blue Mackerel considered this	Blue Mackerel expanded engagement to western Victoria, northern Tasmania and the south	It is a requirement of the contract with the geotechnical contractor to monitor and record marine fauna.	The geotechnical contractor monitored and recorded marine fauna as required by its contract. Marine

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
	that migrate or pass through the Land and Sea Country where the marine surveys will be undertaken. Blue Mackerel should ensure its engagement provides adequate opportunities for people with potential cultural connection to migratory species to be informed and provide feedback.	claim to have merit. Eels, swift parrot, migratory seabirds (including short-tailed shearwater), whales and sea eagle may migrate to or pass through the feasibility licence area (FLA).	coast of New South Wales to reach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that may have a cultural connection to migratory species that migrate to or pass through the area of Blue Mackerel's surveys, to seek their feedback. This engagement used a variety of communication methods, including phone calls, emails, posted letters (with copies of project brochures, posters and Information Bulletins) and face to face drop-in visits. Species of cultural significance identified were eels, swift parrot, migratory seabirds including short-tailed shearwater (mutton birds), whales and sea eagle. Geotechnical surveys will be undertaken in accordance with particular manner obligations 2, 4-6 and 12-14 of the EPBC decision, which require that geotechnical surveys are undertaken in a manner that will minimise impacts on cetaceans, including whales. Lighting will be kept to the minimum needed for safety reasons or to carry out the survey and use technology (directional or low intensity lighting, shielding, installation of filters) to reduce impacts on fauna. Lighting on the FLS is outside the spectrum that either displaces or attract species. This will minimise impacts on seabirds and shorebirds flying at night, including short-tailed shearwater.	The FLiDAR will have a camera attached, which will monitor constantly for birds that use the project area during the FLiDAR's deployment. The Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) aboard the geotechnical vessel will keep written logs of all marine species observed and actions taken to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the EPBC particular manner obligations. Daily reports will be submitted to Blue Mackerel. These reports will be submitted for incorporation into the National Marine Mammal Database within two months of completing the surveys. Blue Mackerel and its environmental consultants will prepare plain language material that summarises the records and impacts on any species of cultural significance, which will be shared with GLaWAC, Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council for their assessment of impacts. Blue Mackerel will also share outcomes with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that may be directly affected. Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing communication with GLaWAC, Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council and the other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that may be directly affected.	Mammal Observers maintained written logs and submitted daily reports. Reports were reviewed and marine mammal data was submitted to National Marine Mammal Database within two months of completing the surveys as required. The first analysis report from the camera on the FLiDAR has been received. The remainder of the data will be processed following the FLiDAR's servicing. The monitoring will be extended for the next 12 months (from March 2026). Environmental studies are underway. Updates are regularly provided to GLaWAC via agreed methods. Discussions are underway to enable GLaWAC's participation in environmental surveys for two-way knowledge sharing, including about species of cultural significance. Blue Mackerel will also be undertaking a cultural values assessment (CVA) which is expected to summarise and record impacts on species of cultural significance. GLaWAC will be consulted as part of the CVA. Blue Mackerel has maintained communication with GLaWAC, Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council as set out above. Blue Mackerel will continue to consult GLaWAC via agreed methods. Blue Mackerel will keep the Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation, Bunurong

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
			Blue Mackerel will ensure indigenous science and values are incorporated into environmental assessments. Eels, swift parrot and sea eagles are unlikely to be impacted by the geotechnical surveys and DWB deployment.		Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council informed of project progress.
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)	The stakeholder noted its interest in the outcomes of the surveys for the potential contribution to its mapping of Country. The stakeholder identified its interest in participating in viewing the core samples before they go through destructive sampling. The stakeholder advised it would need to confirm GLaWAC's preference for the repatriation of the geotechnical samples. The stakeholder noted its interest in understanding impacts on whales and the mitigations that would be in place to minimise impacts. The stakeholder noted its concern about impacts on migrating birds between Tasmania and Victoria as well as bats.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit due to the stakeholder's role representing the rights and interests of the Gunaikurnai people. Migrating whales, birds and bats may pass through the FLA.	Blue Mackerel has maintained proactive contact with GLaWAC via phone calls, emails, and meetings to obtain advice on measures to address affects. Blue Mackerel has maintained proactive contact with GLaWAC via phone calls, emails, and meetings regarding the handling, management, and repatriation of the geotechnical samples as well as GLaWAC's potential involvement on-board the geotechnical survey vessel and in the laboratory at the opening and assessment of the core samples. The measures described in the row above will address impacts on migratory species of concern. Blue Mackerel will continue to engage GLaWAC to continually manage this claim.	The monitoring and maintenance described in the row above will monitor the effectiveness of these measures.	Actions taken to give effect to this commitment are set out above.

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
	The stakeholder noted that the swift parrot and orange-bellied parrot used to pass over Wilsons Promontory.				
Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation	The stakeholder identified species of significance to the Kurnai people including magpie geese, the eastern koel, the pelican, blue wrens, whales, migratory robins, and stingrays.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit due to the significance of the various species to the Kurnai people. Pelican, whales, migratory robins and stingrays may occur within or move through the FLA. Blue Mackerel is implementing measures to mitigate impacts on migratory and marine species.	The stakeholder suggested Blue Mackerel engage with groups that are currently studying birds in the coastal areas. The measures described in the row above will address impacts on migratory and coastal species of cultural significance. Blue Mackerel will continue to engage the Kurnai Aboriginal Corporation to continually manage this claim.	The monitoring and maintenance described in the row above will monitor the effectiveness of these measures.	Actions taken to give effect to this commitment are set out above.
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	The stakeholder identified migratory species of cultural significance to Bunurong the project should consider when undertaking all surveys. The stakeholder requested to be kept informed and to be added to the project's mailing list.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit due to the cultural significance of the migratory species to Bunurong people.	The stakeholder has been added to the project mailing list, and a meeting in early 2025 is planned to meet their new Renewable Energy and Climate Action Liaison Officer. The measures described in the row above will address impacts on migratory species of cultural significance.	The monitoring and maintenance described in the row above will monitor the effectiveness of these measures.	Actions taken to give effect to this commitment are set out above.

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
			Blue Mackerel will continue to engage Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to continually manage this claim.		
Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council	The stakeholder did not note any specific impacts of concern regarding the activities subject to the MP. The stakeholder noted its expectation of transparent, authentic, and respectful communication that would enable its Board and community to be kept updated and asked to be added to the project's mailing list.	Blue Mackerel considers the claim to have merit and will ensure ongoing communication and consultation regarding the project.	The stakeholder has been added to the project mailing list, and the SSTK database and all Blue Mackerel Stakeholder Engagement Strategies.	Meetings with the stakeholder will be scheduled quarterly to provide progress updates. The stakeholder will be automatically included in all external communications and consultation will be requested by Blue Mackerel for future MP development as set out in Stakeholder Engagement Strategies.	Actions taken to give effect to this commitment are set out above.
Esso Orsted Southerly Ten Iberdrola Palisade	Stakeholders requested that Blue Mackerel share information proactively regarding timing, location of its marine investigations to enable the stakeholders to adequately coordinate with their own operations.	Due to the close proximity of the Blue Mackerel surveys to other operations and activities in Bass Strait, Blue Mackerel considered these requests for information exchange to be reasonable, productive and mutually	Blue Mackerel has established productive two-way engagement with all nearby asset owners and adjacent offshore wind licence holders and will proactively coordinate survey activities with these stakeholders. Blue Mackerel, and all Gippsland offshore wind developers are part of the Offshore Gippsland 12 (OG12) Group, which also has subgroups for Planning and Environment and Fisheries Coexistence. Blue Mackerel will share information on the timing and location of our surveys with	Project updates are a standing agenda item of OG12 meetings and documented in meeting minutes. Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing communication with all nearby asset owners and offshore wind licence holders to ensure we are not impacting one another's works.	BMN has participated in monthly Offshore Group of Developers (OGD) fisheries subgroup meetings to share information regarding marine investigations (Geotech 1 in March 2025) and deployment of moored equipment.

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
		beneficial to all parties.	the other developers in these groups during regular meetings.		
Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative Limited (LEFCOL)	Concern relating to potential entanglement risk (with the FLiDAR and DWB) for Danish seine fishers. Communications and ensuring engagement reach Lakes Entrance fishers.	Blue Mackerel considers this claim to have merit, but due to the low number of Danish seine fishers in the FLA, there is a low entanglement risk. Nevertheless, Blue Mackerel will implement measures to address the claim.	Blue Mackerel will work closely with this stakeholder and develop a communications plan to actively notify Danish seine fishers during deployment and operation of tethered equipment. Arranging a direct connection to Lakes Entrance fishers through LEFCOL and will give them an opportunity to help position the FLS and DWR to lower risk of entanglement. Communication materials will be co-designed with LEFCOL to ensure they are personalised and easily digestible, including simplified maps, timelines, and a clear schedule of deployment and retrieval of tethered equipment.	Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing check-ins with LEFCOL, provide advance notice of equipment deployment/retrieval, and review outcomes after surveys. Communication methods and materials will be updated based on feedback to minimise risks and maintain trust.	Engagement with LEFCOL and commercial fisheries representatives in February 2025 prior to deployment of FLiDAR. A dedicated industry event was held at LEFCOL site in November 2025 to engage with fishers on the draft layout of the BMN FL-001, and reminder to attendees of the deployed FLiDAR and DWB. A further 8 email communications, 1 phone call, and 3 project updates have been made with LEFCOL since the acceptance of this MP.
San Remo Fishermen's Cooperative (SRFC)	Wish to consult and work with the offshore wind industry but are concerned about how coexistence would work as they have no experience with the offshore wind industry. Want sufficient notice and clear maps of geotechnical activities and environmental monitoring equipment locations.	Blue Mackerel considers this claim to have merit.	Blue Mackerel will work closely with this stakeholder to provide information and education to the Board and members on the offshore wind industry, and to understand the specific questions and concerns of the fishing fleet based at the coop that will be provided to Blue Mackerel via SRFC General Manager. Blue Mackerel has sought feedback on methods to continue consultation and develop further maps and communications with feedback	Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing check-ins with SRFC, provide advance notice of equipment deployment/retrieval, and review outcomes after surveys. Communication methods and materials will be updated based on feedback to minimise risks and maintain trust.	Engagement with SRFC and commercial fisheries representatives in February 2025 prior to deployment of FLiDAR. A dedicated industry event was held at SRFC site in November 2025 to engage with fishers and GHaTFA on the draft layout of the BMN FL-001 and reminder to attendees of the deployed FLiDAR and DWB. A further 14 email communications, 1 site visit, and 3 project updates have been made with SRFC since the acceptance of this MP. The coop

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
			from SRFC. Blue Mackerel has advised SRFC of the ongoing rights of commercial fishers in its licence area FL-001 and advised it will work with them to identify and minimise potential impacts.		manager has also presented to the OGD fisheries subgroup, of which BMN is a member and was present.
Online survey respondent (identified as a beachgoer).	Be mindful of migration of marine and bird life in the proposed area during surveys. Blue Mackerel's FLA is home to a wide range of marine and bird life.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit.	Geotechnical surveys will be undertaken in accordance with particular manner obligations 2, 4-6 and 12-14 of the EPBC decision, which require that geotechnical surveys are undertaken in a manner that will minimise impacts on cetaceans, including whales. Lighting will be kept to the minimum needed for safety reasons or to carry out the survey and use technology (directional or low intensity lighting, shielding, installation of filters) to reduce impacts on fauna. Lighting on the FLS is outside the spectrum that either displaces or attract species. This will minimise impacts on seabirds.	It is a requirement of the contract with the geotechnical contractor to monitor and record marine fauna. The FLS will have a camera attached, which will monitor constantly for birds that use the FLA during its operation. The MMOs aboard the geotechnical vessel will keep written logs of all marine species observed and actions taken to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the EPBC particular manner obligations. Daily reports will be submitted to Blue Mackerel. These reports will be submitted for incorporation into the National Marine Mammal Database within two months of completing the surveys.	Blue Mackerel has its two-year cetacean (whale and dolphin) surveys well underway. These surveys are part of a suite of comprehensive studies and impact assessments that will help us design the wind farm responsibly, minimising impacts and meeting the highest regulatory standards. Our cetacean surveys involve: Aerial (plane based) and boat-based surveys over our project area and the surrounding region. The studies will allow our marine mammal specialists to understand how whales and other cetacean species use our project area and surrounds, including the numbers present, seasonality and migration patterns and their behavior. Technical modelling studies will be undertaken based on these results to inform the impact assessments and to develop measures to avoid, minimise and manage potential impacts.

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
Online survey respondent (identified as recreational fisher).	Maintain fishing availability during marine surveys. Blue Mackerel's FLA is used by recreational fishers, many of whom are holiday makers in the nearby town of Seaspray.	Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit.	Fishing access will be retained during the marine survey campaigns for both recreational and commercial operations. Where short-term, temporary restrictions may be required (for marine safety), Blue Mackerel will work closely with affected users to provide advance notice and communicate alternative arrangements.	Blue Mackerel will track all notifications provided to recreational fishers and document any feedback or concerns raised. Periodic check-ins with local fishing communities (e.g., short surveys or informal discussions) will assess whether advance notices are clear and timely, and if any short-term restrictions are understood and accepted. Onsite vessel crews will maintain communication protocols to ensure real-time adjustments can be made if issues arise, with lessons learned feeding back into improved future engagement.	Issued activity notices to BMN database (including stakeholder and VR Fish). See update included in table 4.2.4.
Additional Stakeholders Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA)	Blue Mackerel should coordinate survey efforts with other offshore wind proponents to minimise potential cumulative impacts.	Due to the high number of FLAs granted in the Gippsland Declared Offshore Wind Area, Blue Mackerel considered this claim to have merit.	Blue Mackerel has established productive two-way engagement with all nearby asset owners and offshore wind licence holders and will proactively coordinate survey activities with these stakeholders. Blue Mackerel is actively collaborating with other offshore wind proponents via OG12 coordination group and Planning and Environment and Fisheries Coexistence sub-group meetings, to coordinate, communicate and collaborate on development activities).	Project updates are a standing agenda item of OG12 meetings and documented in meeting Minutes. Blue Mackerel will maintain ongoing communication with all nearby asset owners and offshore wind licence holders.	BM has participated in monthly OGD fisheries subgroup meetings to share information regarding marine investigations (Geotech 1 in March 2025) and deployment of moored equipment.
Director of National Parks (DNP)	Advised they do not require further consultation on the MP due to the nature of the activities and the distance of the licence	Blue Mackerel considers the claim to have merit and will ensure ongoing consultation on	Director of National Parks and their preferred contact details have been included in the SSTK database and all Blue Mackerel Stakeholder Engagement Strategies.	Will be automatically included in all external communications and consultation will be requested by Blue Mackerel for future MP development as set out in Stakeholder Engagement Strategies.	Three project updates have been sent to the DNP.

Stakeholder	Summary of the claim	Assessment of the merits of the claim	Measures to address the claim	Monitoring and maintenance of effectiveness of measures	Monitoring and maintenance actions undertaken since February 2025
	area from Australian Marine Parks (AMPs). However, they would like to be consulted regarding future Management Plans for activities that may have an impact on AMPs.	the project generally, and specifically on planning for further MPs.			

6 Continued engagement

Blue Mackerel is committed to its overarching project engagement objectives and meeting the engagement requirements in the regulations. This section outlines the process for consultation and communication regarding the Management Plan licence activities.

This section outlines the process for consultation and communication regarding survey activities and their potential impacts, including the tools and key delivery phases.

6.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stakeholder Engagement

Blue Mackerel recognises the role of GLaWAC representing the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the country adjacent the Blue Mackerel Feasibility Licence area, and will continue to engage with it as a partner during the activities outlined in this MP. Blue Mackerel also understands the importance of ongoing consultation with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations as stakeholders during the activities outlined in this MP and the importance of all consultation continuing to be 'rights-based'.

During the development of the Management Plan, Blue Mackerel extended its consultation outreach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders distributed geographically across Victoria, the south coast of New South Wales and northern Tasmania. These stakeholders were identified as having a known or potential cultural connection to a species and/or the Sea Country affected by the activities under the MP. Given the limited response from most of the geographically dispersed groups, further engagement will be undertaken to establish if they wish to have ongoing engagement with Blue Mackerel.

6.2 Engagement phases

Four key engagement delivery phases that will occur during the licence activities and expected timings are summarised in *Figure 8* below.

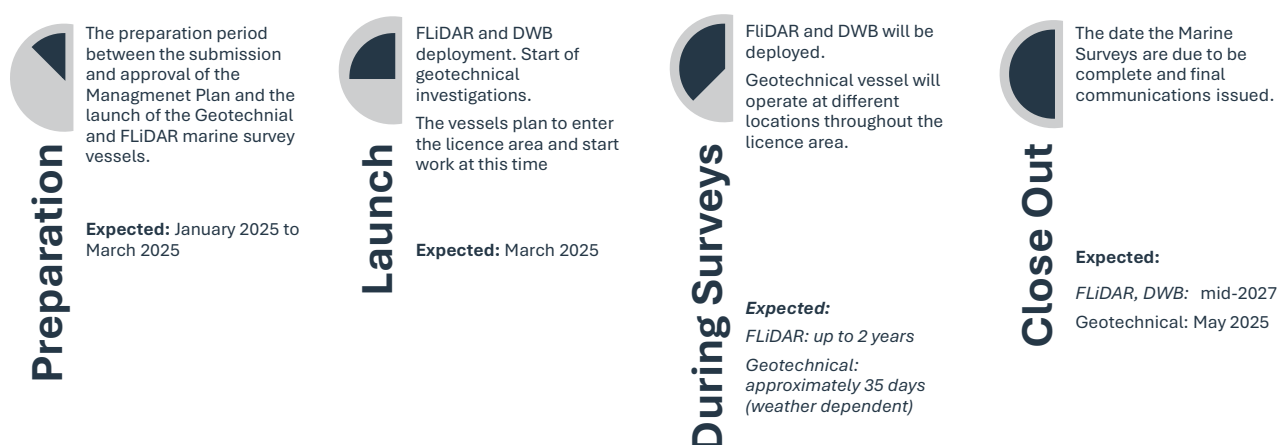


Figure 8: Key engagement phases for the Management Plan licence activities

6.3 Engagement methods

Given the broad range and geographical spread of stakeholders, information will be provided via different methods. The table below sets out a range of methods and communications channels have been used to

date and will continue to be used, to reach different stakeholders, and support self-identification from new stakeholders.

Table 4: Engagement methods

Method / Channel	Information Focus	Stakeholder Focus	Engagement Phase
Ongoing contact channels	Dedicated contact channels are included on all communications, and stakeholders are encouraged to contact us. Channels are monitored daily and responded to within two business days. Phone: +613 9021 0602 Email: info@bluemackerel.com.au Contact Us webform: www.bluemackerel.com.au/connect	All	All
Project Website, including activities webpage	Updates to the marine survey activities webpage including: dates; locations; status; downloadable documents including: - Detailed activity map - Information bulletins / fact sheets - Management Plan Summary - Stakeholder Engagement Strategy - Public notices - Links to social media posts Website: www.bluemackerel.com.au	All	All
Information bulletins Fact sheets	Information bulletins provide general updates on project activities and will have a section that shares the latest information updates on the activities, such as progress, key dates, where to read more information, community information sessions, and how to contact the project team. Fact sheets will also be developed to include standalone specialised information about the marine survey activities. Development will focus on questions being asked, requests for further information, Q&As, key topics of interest or concern.	GLaWAC Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups Commercial activity people or groups Communities Recreational fishers	- Preparation - During surveys
General updates	Email advising activity updates where applicable including: - Management plan approval - Commencement / reminder / completion of activities - Activity summary - Where to find out more information - How to contact the project team - Information bulletins - Fact sheets as relevant - Publication of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Summary of Management Plan on project website.	All stakeholders, with email addresses registered in stakeholder database (unless opted out of updates)	All
Targeted updates and engagement	Using the BMN stakeholder management system, targeted emails will be sent to specific stakeholder types, depending on their roles and / or interests, potential impacts, and key survey milestones. Information may include: - Preparations before activity commencement, such as: management of submerged cultural landscapes and heritage and specific locations of equipment - Safe navigation information	Departments, Agencies, Authorities GLaWAC Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups Other licence holders Commercial activity people or groups Communities nearby Recreational fishers	- Preparation - During surveys - Close out

	- Detailed activity descriptions, images, diagrams - Maps with details of co-ordinates and other marine infrastructure locations - Commencement dates, durations, changes in dates due to weather delays or disruptions - Reminders of equipment locations - Completions of activities - Encouragement to meet with us for further discussions where there may be questions and concerns.		
Meetings/Briefings	Meetings (face to face or online) will be requested with key stakeholders to provide updates on key activities, answer questions and listen to any concerns, will occur via invite or request. Meetings will also occur in response to requests to meet.	All stakeholders (by invite or request)	- Preparation - During surveys
Public Notice Advertisements	Information of broad potential interest to communities including: - Notices of commencement of new activities - Community information sessions - Project status from time to time and reminder on how to engage with the project.	Commercial activity people or groups Communities nearby Recreational fishers	- Preparation - During surveys - Close out
Notice to Mariners	The vessels contracted to deliver the licence activities will make a formal request to the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) to issue a Notice to Mariners. The advice issued will include: - Vessel details and contacts - Blue Mackerel contact details - Activity description - Area map with coordinates - Safe navigation requested - Duration of operations The vessels will advise the AHO of activity completions.	AHO will promulgate the Notice to Mariners through their prescribed channels.	- Preparation - Launch - Close out
Member associations	Commercial and recreational fishing industry associations and cooperatives will be requested to share notices of activities with their members including the same content as for Notice to Mariners. Blue Mackerel will consult with the relevant organisation to ascertain their preferred communication channel/s to their members and depth of information to be sent. Where such organisations offer their service on a fee basis, Blue Mackerel is generally supportive of that approach subject to a fair and reasonable assessment of contractual conditions.	Commercial activity people or groups, specifically commercial fishers	- Preparation - Launch - During surveys - Completion
Text message	Blue Mackerel will engage the SETFIA to send mobile phone text messages to its extensive list of commercial fishers, that extends broadly beyond their member base.	Commercial activity people or groups, specifically commercial fishers	- Preparation - Launch - During surveys - Completion
Webinars	Webinars are planned to ensure stakeholders are able to access information if they are unable to attend in person pop up information sessions. Video archives of the sessions are posted online at Videos Blue Mackerel	Community members Recreational fishers Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups Other licence holders	- Preparation - During surveys

Pop up information sessions	Pop up information sessions are a planned face to face activity, which may “pop up” at key events or locations which are likely to encourage stakeholders or passers-by to find out about the project. These sessions will address whole of project matters. Marine survey information will be available to be discussed.	Communities nearby Recreational fishers Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups Other licence holders	• Preparation • During surveys
	Community events will be published on the project webpage as they are scheduled, and may also be published in public notice advertisements and via social media as applicable depending on the location of the event and the existing direct engagement previously undertaken by Blue Mackerel.		
Social Media	Posts to share key licence activity updates including: • Management plan approval • Activity commencement and completion • Community information sessions LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/bluemackere/	Departments, Agencies, Authorities Other licence holders Commercial activity people or groups	All phases

6.4 Managing responses and records

For this MP, a dedicated stakeholder database was established to record all Blue Mackerel stakeholder interactions and to support reporting on engagement and communications. All stakeholder interactions were recorded. This included contact details, date, time and record of interaction, feedback and how this feedback has been responded to or considered in development of the MP.

All data that informed this MP was collected and recorded in accordance with the applicable privacy and data management requirements.

To support the growing engagement requirements as the BMN project moves into more advance phases, and improve functionality for email communications and tracking, a new stakeholder management system was implemented in November 2025. During the transition to this system, all stakeholder records were subject to a comprehensive audit and enhanced task management workflows and reporting was implemented.

7 Managing claims and complaints

This section has been updated to reflect additional functionality in the new stakeholder management system.

7.1 Feedback, complaints and claims

7.1.1 Feedback

Feedback is something shared with BMN about what we could do better, what we are doing well, or a request for further information. BMN welcomes feedback and will acknowledge all feedback unless advised by the contributor that a response is not required.

7.1.2 Complaints

A complaint is when someone is not satisfied with something in relation to the Blue Mackerel project, is within BMN's control, and the complainant would like BMN to assess it appropriately and respond with the outcome of the assessment.

BMN will acknowledge receipt of a complaint within one business day. Complaints will be assessed with the relevant technical team member and the Blue Mackerel Project director and will determine what actions may be required to address the matter, and the timeline for actions.

BMN will assess and respond to complaints as soon as possible, and timings will depend on the nature of the complaint that was raised. All complaints will be recorded in the BMN stakeholder management system, along with the assessment, outcomes and follow up communications.

7.1.3 Claims

A claim is a formal term in the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022* that applies when a Management Plan is being developed for activities in an offshore wind licence area. Claims refer to matters raised about any adverse effects that changes in the licence activities in the Management Plan might have on the stakeholders consulted in the development of Management Plan.

Assessment of claims will include the following steps:

1. The licence holder must assess the merits of the claim and state in the applicable Management Plan whether it does have reasonable merit
2. For each claim that the licence holder considers having reasonable merit, the Management Plan must detail the measures to be implemented to address the claim and ensure they are effective.

BMN will communicate a summary of the assessment outcomes with the party who raised the claim.

Some assessments may take time to complete, for example if the assessment requires completion of an environmental study that is underway. In such cases, BMN will advise proposed timings. Claims, along with assessment and responses will be recorded in the stakeholder management system and included in the applicable Management Plan for submission to the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator.

7.1.4 Contact methods

Feedback, complaints and claims can be made to Blue Mackerel through the channels below or directly with a team member when we're out in the community.

Mail	HWT Tower, Level 7, 40 City Road, Southgate Complex, Melbourne, Victoria 3006
Phone	+61 3 9021 0602
Email	info@bluemackerel.com.au
Web form	Concern or complaint?

7.2 Privacy and Confidentiality

All information provided through the complaints process is treated as confidential and handled in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the company privacy policy.

7.3 Cultural Safety¹

All feedback, complaints and claims that relate to matters of importance to Traditional Owners or First Nations peoples will be assessed and responded to by team members who have completed cultural awareness training and have demonstrated sensitivity in their engagement with First Nations peoples.

Any responses to feedback, complaints and claims about matters of importance to Traditional Owners or First Nations peoples will be underpinned by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

8 Publishing and updating this strategy

8.1 Publishing the SES

The 2025 SES was published on the project website and existing stakeholders were advised.

This updated 2026 SES will be published on the project website [Resources | Blue Mackerel](#) and existing stakeholders will be advised.

8.2 Updating the SES

Any revised versions of the SES will be published on the Blue Mackerel website and existing stakeholders will be advised.

Engagement with stakeholders is monitored to ensure that engagement methods continue to provide stakeholders opportunities for engagement and that the information they are seeking in relation to the licence activities is sufficient.

Monitoring, assessment and actions are being undertaken using the following processes:

- a standing 'consultation progress' agenda item is included in the fortnightly project team meeting at which the community engagement team members share:
 - feedback, questions and concerns being raised
 - claims and complaints raised, support required from technical team members
 - outcomes of complaints that have been resolved
 - issues emerging as observed in media monitoring
 - matters raised by other offshore wind developers at consultation sharing meetings.
- technical project team members will advise any new information that should be communicated to stakeholders.
- assessment of the matters raised will identify whether:
 - additional information should be prepared
 - additional community sessions or webinars should be offered
 - additional communication channels should be assessed and / or implemented
 - meetings or workshops should be requested with certain stakeholders.
- where new information and / or engagement opportunities are identified, responsibilities and timelines for delivery will be determined.

¹ Cultural safety is defined as 'an environment that is safe for people: where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience, of learning, living and working together with dignity and truly listening'. (Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2019, Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework, Victoria State Government, Melbourne, viewed 18 October 2025, < DELWP-Aboriginal-Cultural-Safety Framework.pdf> (pg. 3).)

The initial SES was reviewed after six months of its publishing, however no changes were required at that time. This updated SES will be routinely reviewed every 12 months.

Appendix One – Stakeholder List

Stakeholder Types: section 82(1)		Stakeholders identified
Government department, agency or authority that has functions that relate to the MP activities		
(a) - Department, Agency, Authority	Air Services Australia (ASA) Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner (AEIC) Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Australian Hydrographic Service Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) Bureau Of Meteorology (BOM) Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Department Of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Department Of Defence (DoD) Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISER) Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Department Of Transport And Planning (DTP) Director of National Parks (DNP) (DCCEEW department) Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Environment Regulation (DCCEEW department) First Peoples - State Relations Gippsland Ports Heritage Regulation and Assessments (DCCEEW department) Heritage Victoria Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) Minister's Office (Federal) - Department Of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Minister's Office (Federal) - Department of Industry Science and Resources Minister's office (State) - Climate Action, Energy and Resources National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) Net Zero Industries - Offshore Renewables (DCCEEW department) Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) Offshore Wind Energy Victoria (OWEV)(DEECA) Parks Victoria (DEECA) Ports Victoria Regions, Environment, Climate Action & First Peoples (DEECA) Safe Transport Victoria State Emergency Service - Victoria VicGrid (DEECA) Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Water Policy (DCCEEW Department)	
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or groups that have native title rights and interests in relation or adjacent to FL-001		
(b) (c) (d) - First Nations	Gunaikurnai Land And Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)	

Stakeholder Types: section 82(1)		Stakeholders identified
Other licence holders under that Act in the same area as FL-001		
(e) - Licence holder, offshore electricity	Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Ltd - Aurora Green Macquarie Group - Great Eastern Offshore Wind Navigator North Project Pty Ltd - Origin / RES Ørsted Offshore Australia 1 Pty Ltd - Gippsland 01 & Gippsland 02 Southerly Ten - Star of the South, Kut Wut Brataualung	
People or organisations in or near the licence area FL-001, who carry out a commercial activity under a licence or permit and may interact with the MP activities		
(f) - Commercial, permit, marine activities	Abalone Council Victoria APA Group Bass Strait Scallop Industry Association (BSSIA) CarbonNet (DJSIR) Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) Eastrock ESSO Australia Pty Ltd Gillnet Hook And Trap Fishers Association (GHATFA) Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-Op (LEFCOL) Mitchelson Fisheries Ltd San Remo Fisherman's Co-op (SRFC) Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) Southern Ocean Exploration Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA) Southern Squid Jig Fishery	



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