

Project Update:

Latest news from Australia's 'small but mighty' offshore wind project, Blue Mackerel.

10 June 2026

Environmental surveys, project timeline and approvals

In this project update we share:

- News on our recent environmental survey work
- Update on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS)
- What's coming up on our engagement schedule and where you can connect with the team
- An update on our project timeline

Environmental surveys

Benthic surveys

We recently completed our autumn benthic (seabed) surveys, with the team spending eight days offshore with four days on a smaller vessel (First Class) and four days on the larger Samson Explorer. These surveys will help us understand the types of habitats on the seabed and the marine life that lives there.

Activities included:

- Towed camera surveys
- Use of a remotely operated vehicle (Hydrus) to capture video in deeper areas
- Deployment of Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS)

The team also collected sediment and water samples, which will be analysed to assess environmental conditions and identify small invertebrates living in the seabed.

Highlights from the works included a curious young humpback whale spotted breaching near the vessel and a white shark checking out the underwater equipment.



PAMs

We've also completed our latest round of three-monthly passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) servicing. Using an acoustic release system, our team retrieves the seabed equipment via a buoy, services it, downloads data collected, replace batteries, and checks its performance. Once all this is complete, the equipment is returned to the seabed. The PAMs record whale and dolphin calls as well as background underwater noise, while shark loggers detect any tagged sharks passing through the survey area.

Aerial and boat-based surveys

Our aerial and boat-based surveys are continuing (fortnightly and monthly respectively), weather permitting. During aerial surveys, marine mammal specialists record whales, dolphins and other large fauna along the coast and up to 50 km offshore. Boat surveys focus on seabirds, with marine mammal observers added during whale migration season. With migration now underway, small numbers of humpback whales have been sighted, along with a variety of seabird species.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) update

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has released final EIS guidelines following the public comment period that closed on May 11, 2026.

The EIS Guidelines set out the requirements for how Blue Mackerel must undertake its environmental impact assessment and can be viewed via the [EPBC portal](#).

Upcoming engagement sessions

You can find us at the following upcoming events – we'd love to connect with you!

We're keen to engage with the community, share updates, and answer any questions you may have:

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| 16 June | Fish Creek Primary School
(Offshorewind4kids) |
| 18 June | Bright Sparks, Kalimna Forest Tech |
| 20 June | Foster Farmer's Market (with the offshore wind developer group) |
| 25 July | Seaspray Hall pop-up (10am–12pm) |
| 25 July | Woodside Hall pop-up (2–4pm) |
| 28- 30 July | Seafood Directions, Sydney (with the offshore wind developer group) |

[More about our engagement events here](#)

What's next?



The Blue Mackerel team is continuing its assessments and is planning on submitting a competitive bid to the Victorian Government's auction process due to start in August 2026.

Work will continue on environmental studies, construction and operational planning, and final regulatory approvals will be required before applying for a commercial licence, with a plan to start construction of the project in 2033. The project would be operational in approximately 2035 for up to 35-years.



Connect with us

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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