

Project Update:

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

17 July 2026

Environmental surveys, GNEC, upcoming engagement sessions

In this project update we share:

- News on our environmental survey work
- Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC)
 - August 18 & 19
- What's coming up on our engagement schedule and where you can connect with us

Environmental surveys

Understanding and protecting Gippsland's marine environment is at the heart of our offshore wind investigations.

Blue Mackerel has been undertaking comprehensive environmental studies across our feasibility licence area, building a detailed picture of the ecosystems, wildlife and habitats that make Gippsland's coastal waters unique.

The data collected will help inform our wind farm design and environmental impact assessment, helping us to avoid and minimise environmental impacts, and meet Australia's rigorous regulatory requirements.

To date, our environmental monitoring program has included:

- 12 boat-based seabird surveys
- 23 aerial wildlife survey flights
- 6 days of shorebird surveys
- 12 months of continuous passive acoustic monitoring
- 8 days and 4 nights of seabed (benthic) surveys

We have a lot more planned, including another full year of marine mammal and seabird surveys.



PAMs

Beginning the week of 20 July Blue Mackerel will conduct its regular three-monthly passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) servicing with a vessel departing from Corner Inlet.

Using an acoustic release system, our team will retrieve the seabed equipment via a buoy, service it, download data collected, replace batteries, and check its performance.

Once all this is complete, the equipment is returned to the seabed. The PAMs record whale and dolphin sounds as well as background underwater noise, while shark loggers detect any tagged sharks passing through the survey area.

We remind marine users to note and avoid the location of our monitoring equipment. See map [here](#).

July engagement sessions

Our project specialists look forward to engaging with the community, providing updates on the project timeline, progress of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), and the latest findings from our environmental survey program.

You can find us at the following upcoming events – we'd love to connect with you, share updates, and answer any questions you may have.

25 July

– Seaspray Hall (10am–12pm)

25 July

– Woodside Hall (2–4pm)

28 July

– Baw Baw La Trobe LLEN: Jobskills Expo (with the offshore developer group)

28-30 July

– Seafood Directions, Sydney (with the offshore wind developer group)

More about our engagement events



Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC)

As Australia's energy transition continues to gather momentum, Gippsland remains at the forefront of the sector's transformation. Tickets are now on sale for the 2026 Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC), taking place on 18-19 August. The event brings together the people, ideas and projects driving Australia's energy transition.

Hosted by the Gippsland Climate Change Network, GNEC provides a platform for industry, government, researchers and communities to explore renewable energy, climate action, workforce development and regional economic transition.

Blue Mackerel is proud to be a Gold Sponsor of this year's conference and will have a strong presence throughout the event as well as an exhibitor booth in Conference Square.

Team members will contribute to a range of discussions covering offshore wind development, environmental research, workforce capability, and pathways into offshore wind careers.



Blue MACKEREL

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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