

Regulatory Update:

The latest Regulatory Updates from Blue Mackerel offshore wind project.

23 July 2026

Victorian Government decision on Blue Mackerel project assessment pathway under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978*

The Blue Mackerel project will operate in Commonwealth and Victorian state waters, and include export electricity cables that will cross under the coastline to connect to the electricity grid. Assessments and approvals will be required under various legislation at Commonwealth, State and local government levels.

Victorian approvals

Regarding Victorian Government approvals, we are pleased to advise that the Victorian Minister for Planning has determined the assessment pathway for the Blue Mackerel project under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

The Minister has decided that an Environmental Effects Statement is not required, and the Blue Mackerel project will be assessed through a targeted Environment Report. The statement and reasons for the decision can be viewed [here](#).

The Environment Report must assess the predicted direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the Victorian components of the project on biodiversity values across terrestrial, coastal, estuarine and marine environments. In addition, it must be prepared in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

This decision provides a targeted and proportionate assessment pathway that enables biodiversity impacts to be assessed in an integrated manner, while avoiding unnecessary duplication where environmental effects are already assessed through existing statutory approval processes.

Once completed, the Environment Report must be reviewed and approved by the Victorian Minister for Planning. Approval will only be granted if the Minister is satisfied that the report has adequately addressed the required matters.

Commonwealth approvals

As part of the Commonwealth environmental assessment process, we are undertaking environmental studies over a 2-year period, consulting with communities and stakeholders such as commercial fishers and other marine users. Community and stakeholder feedback will be considered in the development of the project and the environmental assessments.

Mid to late 2028, there will be a formal process for the public to review and comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including the environmental studies and impact assessments.

We will continue to provide updates and opportunities for engagement with the Blue Mackerel team.

Upcoming engagement sessions

A reminder that we will be out in the community this Saturday 25th July:

Seaspray Community Hall

- 10:00am to 12:00pm

Woodside Community Hall

- 2:00pm to 4:00pm

The Blue Mackerel team will also be at the Gippsland New Energy Conference in Traralgon on 18 and 19 August, 2026.



Connect with us

+613 9021 0602, email info@bluemackerel.com.au
or visit www.bluemackerel.com.au

Herald & Weekly Times (HWT) Tower
Level 7, 40 City Road, Southbank Melbourne VIC 3006

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