Blue MACKEREL

Powering careers for generations

Jobs, skills and training opportunities in offshore wind

Our project

Blue Mackerel is a proposed offshore wind project located approximately 10km offshore, on Bratualung and Tatungalung Country between Seaspray and Woodside Beach in Gippsland, Victoria.

The project could generate up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy, enough to power up to 750,000 Victorian homes each year.

Blue Mackerel is currently in the early planning phase and subject to approvals, construction would commence approximately 2033 with first power generation targeted for 2035.

Our commitment

Blue Mackerel recognises that Gippsland has been at the heart of Victoria's energy industry for generations.

The region's workers have developed world-class skills in power generation, oil and gas, maritime operations, engineering, construction and maintenance. These skills will play a vital role in building and operating Victoria's offshore wind industry.

Blue Mackerel is committed to helping build opportunities for local workers and businesses to participate in the project's different phases.

Offshore wind offers a generational opportunity to **create new careers while building on Gippsland's proud energy heritage.**

Read on for...

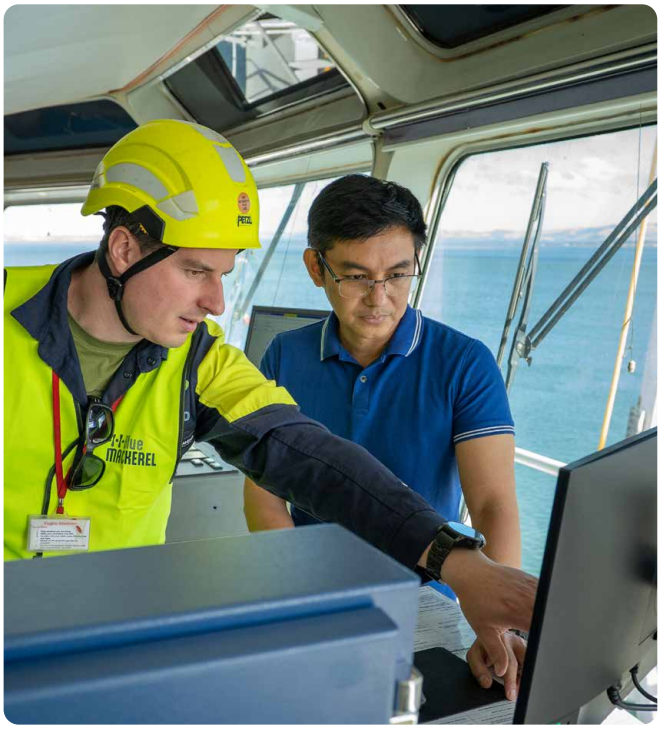
We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people, custodians of the Land and Sea Country on which Blue Mackerel is planned.

Locations and activities

Offshore licence area

Blue Mackerel's 163km2 licence area is located in the Gippsland, Victoria declared offshore wind area, and is 10km off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country between Seaspray and Woodside Beach.

Construction equipment and materials will be shipped to the licence area for foundation installation, wind turbine assembly, connection of inter-array cables from turbines to two offshore substations.



Construction Port

The Victorian Government has commenced funding for development of the Port of Hastings as a suitable deep-water port to service the construction needs of the offshore wind industry.

Primary heavy infrastructure and secondary materials will be shipped and trucked to and from the Port of Hastings (and potentially other Australian deep-water ports if required).

Purpose built construction vessels will transport the equipment and materials to the licence area, install then return to the construction port for reloading and crew changes.

Onshore transmission and substation

Onshore investigations for the transmission corridor location will include assessments of cultural heritage and values, environmental studies, and geotechnical and engineering studies. Landholders and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) will be consulted on these activities.

Two electricity export cables from the offshore substation will cross the shoreline in the declared Renewable Energy Zone, using horizontal directional drilling. Cables will be trenched and buried across private land, through to the onshore substation at Giffard, which will connect to the grid.

Onshore Operations and Maintenance Base (O&M)

An O&M Base will be established at Corner Inlet, South Gippsland, to support all monitoring and maintenance activities throughout the life of the project.

Offshore crews will work in shifts from a Service Operation Vessel (that includes accommodation quarters) and /or Crew Transfer Vessels to conduct all inspection and maintenance activities.

The project will also have a Melbourne office for various technical supporting roles.

Jobs across the project phases

The new offshore wind industry in Victoria will require thousands of workers across different projects. Over time, the number of projects will grow to meet demands for clean and secure energy.

Offshore wind projects have distinct employment needs across the project lifecycle.

Many workers are hired directly in the early phase and during operations and maintenance, with most workers in the other phases being hired by contractors to the offshore wind companies.

The heaviest concentration of workers is in the construction period. Although the operations and maintenance period requires less workers, it provides long-term employment opportunities over 30 to 40 years, including the final decommissioning phase.

Blue Mackerel is committed to helping **develop a skilled, diverse and future-ready workforce** that can support the industry for decades to come.

Starts 2024

Early development and approvals 7 years

- Environmental and cultural heritage specialists
- Regulatory and permitting
- Health and safety
- Surveying and geotechnical services
- Project and asset managers
- Engineers and technical specialists
- Community and stakeholder engagement professionals
- Regulatory, permitting and approvals specialists
- Procurement and commercial professionals
- Quality control specialists

Many of these roles extend into further phases.

Starts 2028

Procurement and supply 4–5 years

Turbines, blades and related heavy equipment will be procured from a well-established international supply chain of advanced manufacturers and delivered by principal contractors.

Local secondary contractors who will be engaged to support the primary contractors will require a range of fabrication and manufacturing workers. As the project progresses, and contracts are awarded, further information will be provided on these roles.

Starts 2033

Construction 2–3 years

- Electricians and electrical technicians
- Mechanical fitters
- Welders and boilermakers
- Construction and site managers
- Crane and heavy equipment operators
- Marine crew and vessel operators
- Logistics and warehouse personnel
- Port workers and stevedores
- Health, safety, environment and quality specialists
- Cable installation and commissioning teams
- SCADA engineers
- Testing and commissioning engineers

Starts 2035

Operations and maintenance 35 years

- Wind turbine technicians (electrical, mechanical)
- Electrical technicians (HV, LV)
- Blade repair technician
- Lift technicians
- Rope access technicians
- Riggers
- Crane and heavy equipment operators
- Marine crew and vessel operators
- Logistics and warehouse personnel
- Port workers and stevedores
- Asset management engineers
- Operations and Maintenance planners, schedulers, managers
- Marine and operational controllers
- Health, safety, environment and quality specialists
- Cable repair technicians
- IT and communications
- Human resources

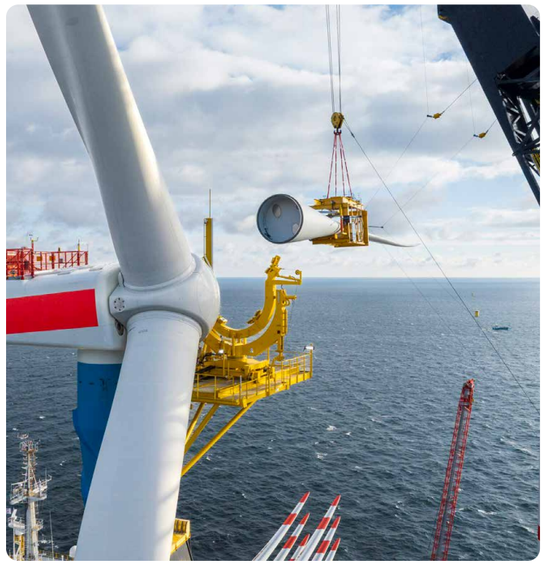
Starts 2070

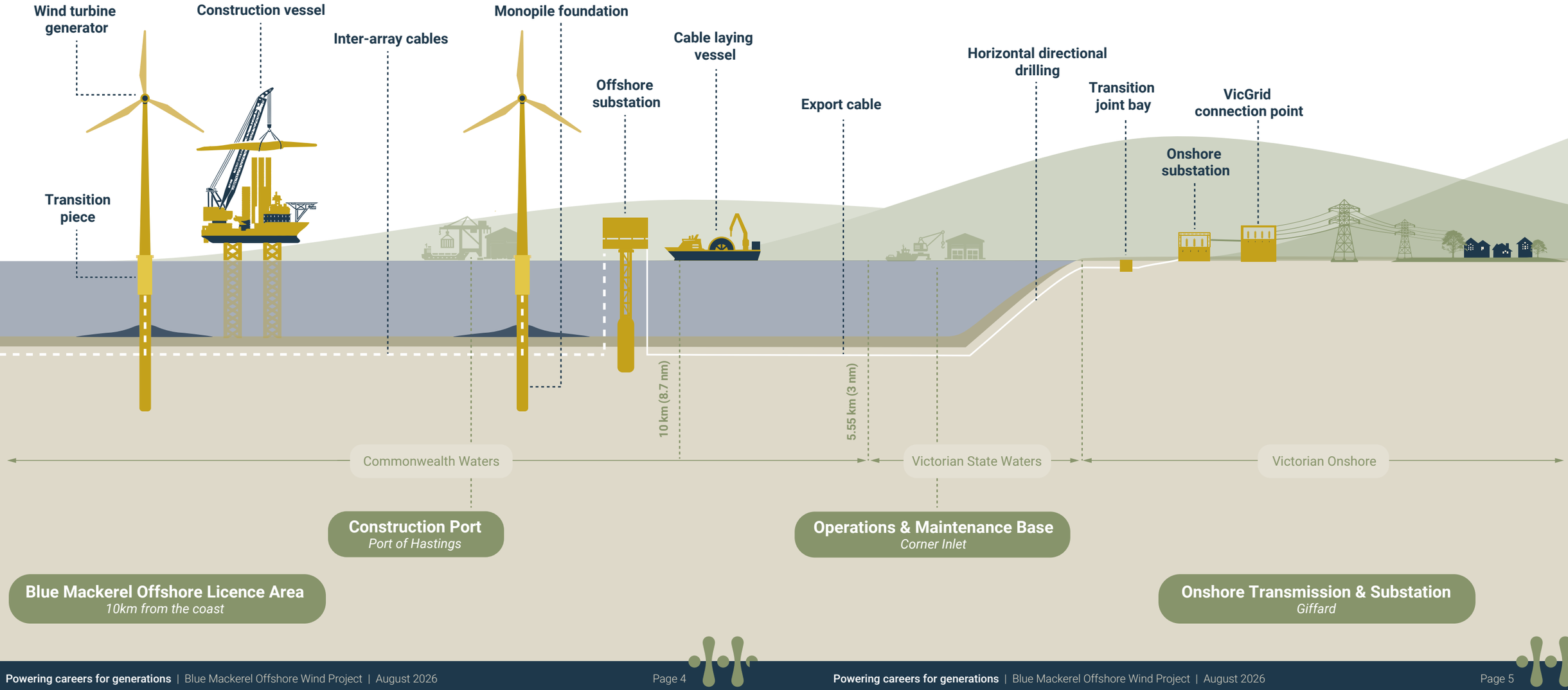
Decommissioning 2–3 years

This phase would see similar roles to the early development and construction phases.

Windfarm infrastructure

The diagram shows key infrastructure of an offshore windfarm including: wind turbine generators (WTGs), a monopile foundation which may be used for Blue Mackerel, inter-array cables that connect the WTGs to offshore substations, export cables that transit electricity to the onshore substation, which connects to the grid. Also shown are two key vessel types for construction, a construction port, and an operations and maintenance base.





Project map

Workers transitioning from existing industries

Gippsland has powered Victoria with electricity and gas production for generations. These industries are in decline locally with the two remaining coal-fired power plants planned to close in coming years and decommissioning of oil and gas infrastructure off the Gippsland coast.

Many local workers already possess skills that are highly transferable to offshore wind. The local education and training sector, in consultation with offshore wind developers, has been mapping the types of trades and technical occupations that can transition into offshore wind with targeted upskilling and supplementary training.

Examples include electrical and mechanical trades moving into wind turbine technician roles, power station operators transitioning into control room and operations roles, and boilermakers moving into fabrication and offshore construction positions.

Workers from industries such as:

- Coal-fired power stations
- Electricity generation and transmission
- Oil and gas operations
- Offshore marine industries
- Manufacturing and fabrication
- Heavy construction
- Mining and resources
- Port and logistics operations

Often have experience in:

- Working in safety-critical environments
- Electrical and mechanical systems
- High-voltage operations
- Rotating equipment maintenance
- Asset inspection and servicing
- Control room operations
- Marine and offshore operations
- Project delivery and logistics

Partnering with Gippsland's education and training sector

TAFE Gippsland is already playing an important role in preparing the region's workforce for the clean energy transition. Through workforce transition programs and partnerships with industry, it is helping identify pathways for workers from traditional energy industries into offshore wind and other renewable energy sectors.

Clean Energy Centre (CEC)

Located at TAFE Gippsland's Morwell campus, the CEC is a major investment in Gippsland's renewable energy future. The state-of-the-art facility has been designed to equip students and workers with the skills needed to support the transition to clean energy industries. The centre will provide specialised training in areas such as onshore and offshore wind energy systems, helping to build a skilled local workforce. It will play a significant role in positioning Gippsland as a leader in Victoria's clean energy transition.

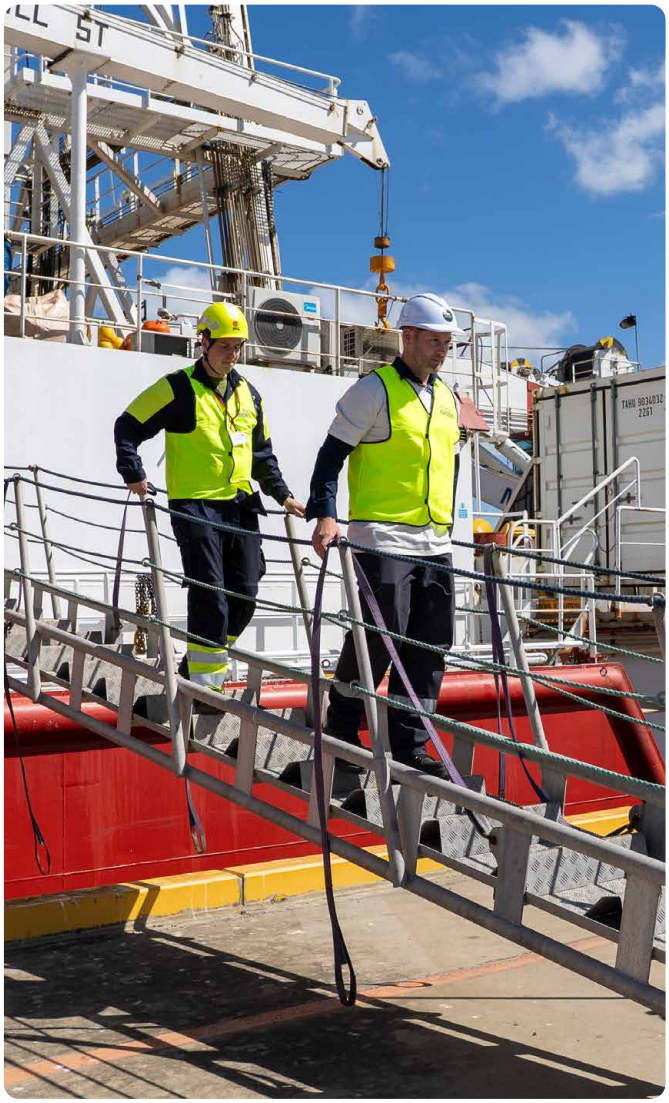
Federation University has expanded its renewable energy capability in Gippsland through education, research and industry partnerships. The university is supporting workforce development across engineering, environmental science, data science, business and other disciplines needed to support future offshore wind projects.

APRETC is a nationally recognised renewable energy training centre operated by Federation University. It delivers specialised renewable energy education including Global Wind Organisation (GWO) certified training from select campuses in regional Victoria. APRETC Gippsland is strategically located adjacent to Australia's first offshore wind zone and is helping develop the next generation of renewable energy workers through training, research and industry collaboration.

Working Together

Blue Mackerel will continue exploring opportunities to collaborate with:

- TAFE Gippsland
- Federation University
- APRETC
- Secondary schools
- Industry training organisations
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)
- Industry associations
- Aboriginal organisations and Traditional Owner groups
- Workforce transition agencies
- Government workforce development programs



Supporting workforce transition and skills development

Blue Mackerel is committed to helping build a local, skilled and future-ready workforce for Gippsland and Victoria.

As the project progresses, Blue Mackerel will work with education providers, training organisations, industry partners and government to support career pathways into offshore wind.

Potential initiatives may include:

- Industry awareness and career information sessions
- School engagement and STEM programs
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Graduate employment pathways
- Work experience and internship opportunities
- Skills recognition and transition programs
- Offshore wind safety and technical training
- Training for local businesses and suppliers

We will support workers entering the offshore wind industry for the first time, as well as experienced workers seeking to transition from other sectors.

Creating opportunities for local communities

Blue Mackerel is committed to supporting local employment and inclusive participation. The project aims to create opportunities for:

- Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples
- Gippsland workers and businesses
- Women in energy and trades
- Apprentices and trainees
- University and TAFE graduates
- Priority job seekers
- Young people entering the workforce

Ensuring a fair go

Blue Mackerel will assess how the Principal Contractors plan to maximise use of local suppliers as well as their actions in realising opportunities for First Nations businesses.

Our principal contractors must also report to us on how they (and their secondary contractors) will create local jobs and build skills, provide opportunities for apprentices, women and First Nations workers.

Blue Mackerel will work with its contractors and suppliers to ensure they create opportunities for local employment and skills development.

About us

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.

JERA NEX BP

Connect:

To subscribe to updates and supplier information, register on our website.
To find out more about our project, or contact our team:

+613 9021 0602
info@bluemackerel.com.au
bluemackerel.com.au

Blue MACKEREL

August 2026