

Blue Marlin Q&A

	Questions	Answer
1	How does offshore wind work?	Electricity is generated from offshore wind turbines installed on foundations out at sea. The electricity is transmitted to an onshore substation through a series of cables and then distributed to power homes, businesses, and industry.
2	What are the benefits of offshore wind?	Offshore wind generates clean renewable energy with no greenhouse gas emissions. Offshore wind is generally more consistent wind than onshore, and larger turbines can be used.
3	Why have you selected the Gippsland coast for the project location?	In 2017 Vena Energy identified this site as one of the best in Australia after evaluating a variety of factors including water depth, wind speeds, potential energy yields, availability of existing local skills and onshore infrastructure, logistical access, environmentally sensitive areas etc. The state and federal governments as well as other developers have similarly identified the Gippsland coast as a highly viable region for offshore wind.
4	Why have you selected an area that overlaps with other project proposals?	Our proposed project footprint has been selected following an evaluation of a variety of factors including water depth, wind speeds, potential energy yields, availability of existing local skills and onshore infrastructure, logistical access, environmentally sensitive areas, and other relevant factors. Other developers have conducted similar assessments and concluded that the same area is a most desirable proposition. Developers do not yet hold any legal rights over the area which we have selected – such rights will be allocated to selected project proponents following a competitive licence application process.
5	Will you set up a project office in Gippsland?	Our intention is to establish a project office in Gippsland upon successfully securing a feasibility licence.
6	How do you expect to involve local businesses?	We expect that local businesses will support development, construction, and operations activities – either directly contracting with the project or subcontracted by the construction contractors. We also expect significant spin off business for providers of goods and services to the construction workforce.
7	How can local people obtain work on the project?	All project developers and government agencies appreciate the importance of upskilling the offshore workforce in the Gippsland region. Over the coming months and years, several training and employment initiatives will be delivered through a collaboration of project developers, government agencies and educational institutions.
8	How soon will you require staff for project construction?	Project construction activities will not commence until at least 2027. This will enable sufficient time for the construction of the necessary supporting infrastructure –

		notably port facilities – design and procurement of equipment, and training of the local workforce to be involved in construction activities. Project construction activities will be broken into several stages, with each stage of construction expected to take about two years.
9	What job opportunities will be available for locals?	A variety of job opportunities will be available for locals, including traineeships, trades-based roles, and tertiary qualified occupations.
10	How do people get involved in the Project?	There are several platforms that people can access to connect with the project team, including the Vena Energy Australia website, and future community forums.
11	How many jobs will the project create?	The number of jobs created will depend on the availability of skilled labour locally and further afield, as well as the number of offshore wind projects being developed in the region at the same time. At the peak of construction, the project is expected to create a significant number of local jobs. This will be replicated during each stage of construction. For project operations, further ongoing local jobs will be created.
12	How do you plan to interact with Traditional Owners?	Vena Energy will positively engage with the First Nations stakeholders and strive to create a partnership approach to custodianship over the relevant land and sea, as well as providing support to implement positive custodianship into the future. Feedback from the Traditional Owners will be used in the design of cultural heritage activities and the negotiation of long-term cultural heritage management arrangements. Vena Energy will work with Traditional Owners to identify social procurement, training, and employment opportunities on the project.
13	Who will build the project?	The project construction is likely to be broken into several construction ‘packages’ with each package to be constructed by a top tier construction contractor and/or equipment supplier. Vena Energy will seek to engage local subcontractors to carry out works wherever practical to do so.
14	Who will build the wind turbines?	The wind turbines will be constructed by one of the major wind turbine generator manufacturers. The wind turbine manufacturers have extensive global experience in the fabrication, testing and installation of offshore wind turbines.
15	Are there any environmental impacts?	As the project will deliver zero-emissions renewable energy, it is expected to have a net positive impact on the environment. We will be required to conduct comprehensive environmental impact studies under both state and federal legislation. This is expected to take two to three years.
16	How do you plan to prevent bird strikes?	Bird strike risk is a key consideration for onshore and offshore wind projects. Risk depends on the species present, and their activities. Potential impacts to birds

		are one of the key areas of study that will inform our impact assessment process.
17	How will fishing activities be impacted in the project area?	We are currently undertaking an assessment of fishing impacts for the project area. We are committed to working with fishers and believe that the offshore wind and fishing industries can co-exist within the Gippsland basin.
18	How far off the coast is the project?	The nearest part of the proposed project footprint is located 23 kilometres from the Gippsland coast.
19	Will we be able to see it from shore?	As the nearest part of the proposed project footprint is located 23 kilometres from the Gippsland coast, the visual impact will be minimised. Potential visual impact is one of the key areas of study that will inform our impact assessment process.
20	Where will the project connect into the grid?	The project is expected to connect into the National Electricity Market at Loy Yang power station or at an onshore substation located close to the Gippsland coast.
21	Where will the onshore transmission cable go?	We are currently undertaking a preliminary assessment of transmission corridor options. Shortlisted transmission corridor options are closely aligned to Ausnet's proposed transmission corridor and the existing Basslink transmission corridor. In due course we will be engaging with landowners that may be affected to understand any concerns.
22	Will the onshore transmission cable be buried underground?	We are currently undertaking an assessment of transmission corridor options. When complete we will undertake a detailed assessment of transmission infrastructure requirements, including options for burying the cable underground. Our preference wherever possible is to achieve economies of scale by utilising common transmission infrastructure with several other generators.
23	Who will buy the electricity produced?	Given the scale of the project, we expect that produced electricity from each stage will be purchased by large energy users such as large corporate, energy retailers or governments.
24	How will the project benefit local communities?	The project will provide opportunities for local employment, training, and business development for suppliers of goods and services.
25	Will the wind farm equipment degrade over time as it is exposed to the elements?	Offshore wind farms are subject to harsher weather conditions and effects of climate change, yet technological advancements are improving the resiliency of turbines to extreme weather. Offshore wind farm equipment has higher maintenance requirements than onshore, due to more difficult maintenance access and increased risk of corrosion from seawater.
26	What will happen to the wind farm when it reaches the end of its useful life?	At the end of its useful life the wind farm is likely to be repowered or the wind farm components will be removed and recycled where possible. Decommissioning of offshore wind farms at the end of their operational

		life is a key requirement of the Australian regulatory regime for offshore wind.
27	How can I register my interest in obtaining employment?	Any interest in participating in the project can be communicated through the email address on the project webpage.
28	How does your project differ to other projects in the region?	The Blue Marlin offshore wind project has been sited to minimise visual impact, environmental impact, and interaction with existing oil and gas infrastructure.
29	What is the water depth?	The water depth is between 40 metres and 65 metres.
30	How can I register my interest in providing goods or services to the project?	Any interest in participating in the project can be communicated through the email address on the project webpage.
31	How much electricity is the project expected to generate?	The project will help Victoria meet its renewable energy targets by generating up to 10,000 GWh of renewable energy annually when all stages are fully operational.
32	Does the project directly impact any environmentally sensitive areas such as Ramsar wetland sites?	The project footprint does not cross Ramsar wetland sites or other dedicated marine reserves. A full environmental impact assessment will evaluate any potential impacts on environmentally sensitive areas.