

Great Eastern Offshore Wind

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2023



About the project

What is the Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project?

Great Eastern Offshore Wind is a proposed offshore wind project of up to 2.5GW off the central Gippsland coast.

The project is currently in the early feasibility phase.

If fully realised, Great Eastern Offshore Wind will provide enough clean energy to power more than 1.6 million homes and will avoid CO2 emissions equivalent to taking 2.1 million petrol cars off the road.

Where will Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project be located?

Great Eastern Offshore Wind is proposed to be located 22km off the Wellington Shire coast to the east of Wilsons Promontory.

What is the timing of the project?

Great Eastern Offshore Wind is currently in the early feasibility stage.

Subject to approvals, we expect to begin construction in 2028 and start operating from 2032. The project will then be operational for 30+ years.



Why Gippsland?

Why are you investigating this area for an offshore wind project?

The Gippsland coastline has some of the world's best resources for offshore wind developments – consistent wind speeds, relatively shallow waters and proximity to existing infrastructure to support industry.

What are the wind speeds in the proposed area?

The Gippsland coastline has average windspeeds of 9 meters per second which make it a favourable location for offshore wind.

Where is the declared area in Gippsland?

Federal Minister The Honourable Chris Bowen MP declared an area in the Bass Strait off Gippsland, Victoria, as suitable for offshore renewable energy on 19 December 2022.

The declared area off Gippsland covers approximately 15,000 square kilometres, and runs from offshore of Lakes Entrance in the east, to south of Wilsons Promontory in the west.

The declaration followed consultation with existing industries including fishing, offshore oil and gas, other marine users, state and local government representatives, First Nations people and local communities.



Benefits to the local community

How will the project engage suppliers and unlock local supply-chain opportunities?

Corio is committed to using local suppliers, manufacturers, contractors, consultants and other supply chain resources to develop and participate in our projects.

During the development, construction and ongoing operation of the GEOW project, Corio expect to award a range of small and large contracts both onshore and offshore. Corio will work with local suppliers and sub-contractors to support the skills transfer to enable local capacity building and lasting local economic and social benefits to the region.

To keep updated on supply opportunities and promote your business capability, please register an EOI on the ICN Gateway platform www.gateway.icn.org.au/project/5119/great-eastern-offshore-wind

How will this project benefit the local community?

Corio are working with regional development agencies, Universities, TAFEs and local, state and national businesses to support the development of the local supply chain in Gippsland.

Towards the end of the decade, the GEOW project will support up to 1700 direct jobs during peak construction, and up to 340 ongoing jobs in the Gippsland region for the next 30 years.

We are working with local industry and education partners such as Federation University, ICN Gateway, Latrobe Valley Authority and Committee for Gippsland to build local jobs and capacity, and to support the skills transfer from other sectors.



Turbines

Will I be able to see the wind turbines from the coastline?

Our wind turbines and other offshore infrastructure will be visible from some locations onshore on a clear day.

As part of our preliminary assessments, we are carrying out landscape and visual studies that will determine what the visual footprint of the project will be.

We will provide more information about what will be seen from the coastline once these studies are complete.

How many turbines are proposed and how big will they be?

The number of turbines will depend on the final proposed area for the project and the exact size of the turbines we use. We are proposing to use turbines up to 375 metres tall.

We will have more information about the exact size and number of turbines after we complete our initial site investigations.

What type of wind turbines will be built?

Corio is proposing to use fixed-foundation turbines for the Great Eastern Offshore Wind Project, meaning each individual turbine will be attached directly to the seabed.

Why can't you put the turbines further out to sea?

If you move projects further offshore, the waters become too deep for fixed-bottom foundations and projects would require floating foundations.

Floating foundations are more expensive than fixed-bottom foundations which makes the electricity more expensive for the consumer.





Potential impacts

What are the likely impacts on the marine environment and how will these be managed?

This project will be subject to stringent Commonwealth and State Government approval processes.

The approvals process for an offshore wind farm will take approximately 4-6 years and will include assessment of any potential impacts to the marine environment. These will form part of the State Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Commonwealth Environment Impact Statement (EIS) approval processes that are likely to be required.

The project will undertake a comprehensive two-year survey campaign to understand the baseline environment for marine mammals, seabirds, fish and fisheries, benthic ecology, and coastal processes. The survey design and execution will involve key universities and research organisations who are independent and specialists in their field.

These studies will help us understand the unique conditions in the Bass Strait and identify ways we can avoid or minimise impacts.

What are the likely impacts to the onshore environment?

Corio is undertaking onshore studies and surveys of the proposed project area to understand the likely impacts of the project.

These form part of the State Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval processes likely to be required.

These studies include, but are not limited to, ecology, cultural and aboriginal heritage, landscape and visual, noise, land use, surface water and ground water, electro-magnetic frequency (EMF), traffic and transport, tourism and socio-economics.

The findings of the studies will be used to assess the effects of the proposed offshore wind development and identify ways we can avoid or minimise impacts.

There are several other developers who have said they are looking to build off the Gippsland coast – how are you all going to fit?

At this stage, developers have nominated areas they see as suitable for offshore wind and are conducting feasibility studies and site investigations which will form part of their feasibility licence application to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). DCCEEW will then assess submissions and grant feasibility licences to the successful developers.

We anticipate feasibility licences for the Gippsland area to the east of Wilsons Promontory will be awarded late 2023 and that DCCEEW will limit the number of licenses awarded based on their internal assessments.

Once feasibility licences are awarded, we believe strongly in working collaboratively with other developers to develop the projects in a sustainable way. Corio has a lot of experience in industry collaboration and is already working with other developers to ensure development and stakeholder engagement is streamlined and managed effectively across projects in the Gippsland region.



Transmission

Where will Great Eastern Offshore Wind connect into the electricity grid?

VicGrid – a new body within the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) - will be responsible for leading a coordinated approach to transmission infrastructure for offshore wind to enable offshore wind projects to connect into grid infrastructure closer to the shore.

VicGrid will focus on developing transmission infrastructure that provides a coordinated connection point for offshore wind projects near the Gippsland coast, for project to the east of Wilsons Promontory. Offshore wind projects in this region will be required to connect underground to these connection points, as a condition of the Victorian Government's procurement process.



Importance of community engagement

How can I provide my feedback?

Your views are important to us and we welcome your feedback.

We are providing multiple opportunities and channels for you to provide your feedback so we can understand what is important to you.

We are engaging early with the local community, working with key stakeholders and groups and conducting meaningful ongoing engagement with Gippsland communities.

We will keep you updated about opportunities to provide feedback on the project as planning progresses.

You can also keep up to date via our website at www.corioenergy.com/great-eastern-offshore-wind-australia and by following our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GreatEasternOffshoreWind



Corio Generation

Who is Corio Generation?

In April 2022, Macquarie Green Investment Group launched its new offshore wind business – Corio Generation – dedicated to developing offshore wind in Australia and around the world.

With global experience in developing offshore wind in the United Kingdom, Europe, Taiwan, and Korea, we will use our expertise to deliver tailor-made projects suitable for Australia.

We are currently developing two offshore wind projects in Australia – Great Southern Offshore Wind and Great Eastern Offshore Wind – both will be located in the Bass Strait off the coast of Gippsland in Victoria

What other projects have you worked on?

We have one of the world's largest offshore wind development pipelines, standing at over 30+ GW today. This includes projects in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Brazil, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.

Corio Generation has also agreed partnerships to participate in forthcoming auctions for an additional 3+ GW in France, Norway and the UK.

Our global team of leading specialists take projects from origination, through development and construction, and into 30+ year operations.

By applying this long-term approach to our Australian activities, Corio is confident in ensuring the social, environmental and economic benefits of its projects are realised and delivered.

Can your experience in other countries be translated to Australia?

We understand that Australia, and the Bass Strait off the Gippsland coast, is a unique environment which requires tailored environmental considerations, engineering and construction.

However, our track record of developing projects in different countries and environments all over the world means we have the expertise and experience to deliver world class projects on the Australian coastline.

Will you be developing more projects in Australia?

We are currently just focused on two proposed projects – Great Southern Offshore Wind and Great Eastern Offshore Wind – located in the Bass Strait off the coast of Victoria.

Corio Generation is a Macquarie Green Investment Group portfolio company, operating on a standalone basis.