



Technical studies

We're working on a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environment Effects Statement (EES). These are the most detailed assessments that a project can go through in Australia.

The assessments will consider potentially significant environmental, social, economic and planning aspects of the project.

Information in the assessments will help answer questions about how the project could affect the environment and how we propose to avoid, minimise or manage potential impacts.

Technical studies are now underway to inform the assessments.



What's involved?

Specialists will undertake 25 technical studies and prepare reports during 2021-2023. These technical studies will form part of our environmental assessments, expected to be released publicly in 2023.

Technical studies can involve field work, desktop research, data analysis and the use of models to make predictions.



1. The existing environment

Research and analysis of the current environment or situation.

2. Predicted changes

Determining what could change if the project is located in the existing environment.

3. Potential impacts

Identifying benefits and impacts that could result from the predicted changes.

4. Managing impacts

Recommending measures to avoid, minimise or manage potential impacts.

Key steps in the environmental assessment processes

1

Referring the project

COMPLETE

2

Scoping

COMPLETE

3

Preparing the EIS/EES (includes technical studies)

WE ARE HERE

4

Public exhibition and submissions

2023

5

Minister's assessment

2023-24

Technical study areas

We're studying 25 subjects for our environmental assessments. Specialists will consider potential impacts from construction, operation and decommissioning in their technical reports.

Here's a snapshot of the technical studies and what they'll include.

Study	What's involved
 Aboriginal cultural heritage	Assessing potential impacts to places of Aboriginal cultural heritage value, such as scattered artefacts, burial sites, scarred trees and shell middens.
 Agriculture	Assessing impacts from onshore infrastructure to agricultural and plantation uses.
 Air quality	Assessing potential air quality impacts, particularly dust from onshore construction works.
 Birds (seabirds and shorebirds)	Understanding bird behaviour, foraging areas and habitats and assessing potential changes. A collision risk model will be used to predict the risk of birds colliding with turbines.
 Business and tourism	Understanding the potential effect of the project to businesses and tourism in the region. This study also considers economic benefits such as increased spending, jobs and training opportunities.
 Coastal processes and sediment transport	Assessing potential changes to wave and current flow and understanding how local currents transport sediment.
 Ecology (benthic)	Assessing potential changes to habitat and marine species that live on or within the seabed from construction and operation of offshore infrastructure.
 Ecology (onshore)	Understanding potential impacts to plants, native vegetation and animals from construction and operation of infrastructure on land.
 Electromagnetic interference	Measuring electromagnetic interference created by operating transmission infrastructure and understanding potential effects on health.
 Fish and invertebrates	Assessing potential impacts and benefits to fish, invertebrates and white sharks, including potential effects from construction and operation activities such as noise and electromagnetic fields.
 Fishing	Considering changes, impacts and benefits to fishing activities during construction, operation and decommissioning of the offshore wind farm.
 Groundwater	Understanding potential changes to groundwater levels or flows from construction of onshore infrastructure.
 Historic heritage	Understanding potential impacts on historic heritage sites and landscapes from construction of onshore infrastructure.

Study	What's involved
	Infrastructure and co-existence with other users Assessing potential impacts to existing infrastructure such as Basslink, oil and gas sites, aviation and radars, from construction and operation of offshore infrastructure.
	Land use planning Assessing potential effects on land use planning from onshore infrastructure. Understanding any changes to how land can be used and associated economic impacts.
	Marine mammals and turtles Understanding potential impacts to whales, seals, dolphins and turtles from construction noise and vibration. Assessing potential effects during operation from vessels, electromagnetic fields and noise.
	Marine protected areas Assessing potential impacts to protected areas such as the Corner Inlet and Western Port Ramsar sites as well as other protected areas such as Beagle Marine Park.
	Maritime heritage Assessing potential impacts on heritage values in the water such as shipwrecks and archaeological sites.
	Noise Assessing potential changes to noise levels at homes and other sensitive locations during construction and operation of the offshore wind farm and onshore infrastructure.
	Seascape, landscape and visual Understanding potential visual impacts from the project, including turbines and substations. Assessing visual changes to the seascape and landscape from the coastline at important locations and tourist sites.
	Shipping and navigation Assessing potential impacts of project vessels on existing shipping and vessel routes. Understanding navigation in the wind farm and hazards around construction and operational activities.
	Social Assessing potential positive and negative social effects on local residents, communities, farmers and landholders in the area during construction, operation and decommissioning.
	Soil and waste Understanding if any acid sulfate soils or contaminated land is present in the area and how this would be managed.
	Surface water Assessing potential impacts to waterways and floodplains where transmission infrastructure would be constructed near waterways. Understanding potential effects of construction on sediment movement and erosion.
	Traffic and transport Reviewing traffic and transport impacts during construction such as potential traffic disruptions or changes for residents, businesses and tourists. Assessing temporary changes to local and regional roads, safety risks and travel routes for transporting materials.



School of perch

Managing impacts

Our environmental assessments will identify potential project impacts and propose measures to avoid, minimise or manage these. We're committed to reducing impacts and we'll work with our technical specialists to develop an Environmental Management Framework for monitoring and managing the effects from project construction, operation and decommissioning.

Steps to reducing impacts

- 1 Avoid** We'll always prioritise avoiding impacts. Avoiding impacts could involve changing construction methodologies or moving infrastructure away from important areas.
- 2 Minimise** We'll take actions to reduce the extent of an impact. Minimising impacts could include adjusting the project's design or phasing construction in a different way so it has less of an impact.
- 3 Manage or offset** We'll do this to mitigate unavoidable impacts. Managing or offsetting could include replacing, relocating or other measures to compensate for an impact.

Get involved

We're keen to hear from you as we prepare our environmental assessments. There'll be many opportunities to get involved in government and project consultations. Get in touch to share your concerns and ideas for managing impacts, so we can consider these in our assessments.

More information

To find out more about the Star of the South project and register for updates:

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[Star of the South](#)

[Star of the South Project](#)

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