

Aurora Green

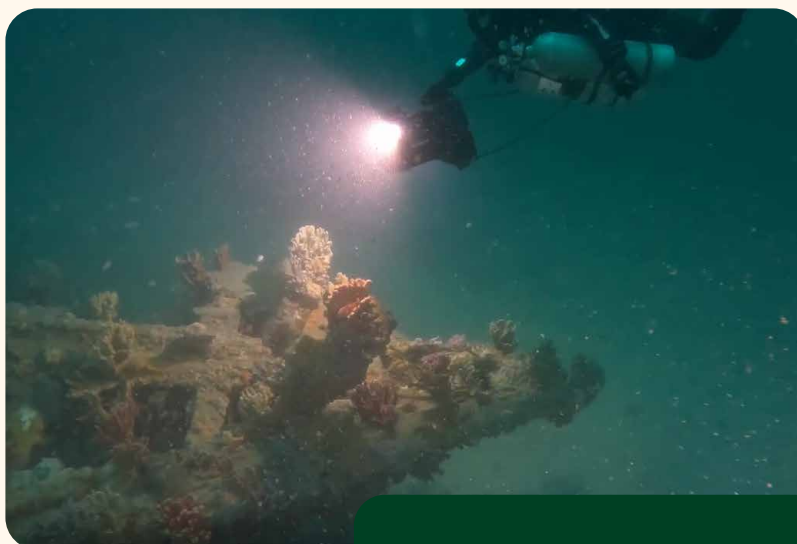
Community Update

April 2026



Project update

There's been plenty of activity on the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project happening deep under the water off the coast of Gippsland, with the exciting identification of a 149 year-old shipwreck, and the start of fish and seabed studies.



We've received important draft environmental guidelines from the Commonwealth Government and are continuing to engage with Traditional Owners, local communities and stakeholders, including commercial fishers, as we progress through our feasibility stage. We've supported a couple of fun and colourful festivals in Yarram and been out and about at local markets and events to speak with people about Aurora Green and Gippsland's emerging offshore wind industry.

All this activity comes as the Victorian Government announced it will commence Australia's first offshore wind auction in August 2026. This confirmation of the government's support for the offshore wind industry is encouraging and Iberdrola Australia is continuing to work closely with the government to understand further details about the auction.

Find out more about what we've been up to in our latest Community Update.

Aurora Green is a proposed offshore wind farm up to 3GW being developed by Iberdrola Australia in Gippsland, located 25km+ from the coast between Seaspray/ The Honeysuckles and Woodside Beach to minimise visual impact.

It has the potential to provide clean energy to up to 2.25 million households.

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and sea on which the proposed Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project is located, and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.



Environmental studies

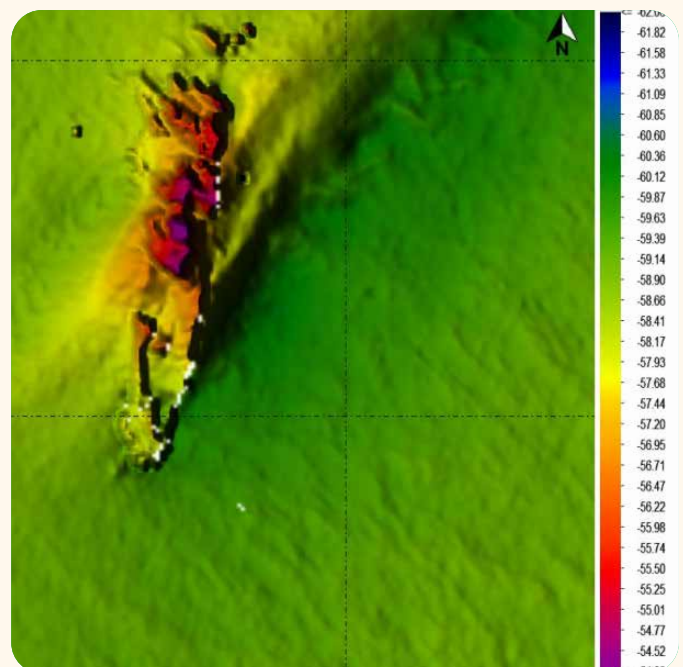
Our maritime mystery captures world's imagination

Aurora Green was thrust into the national and international spotlight in March with the exciting news that early studies for our project helped uncover a Victorian maritime mystery dating back almost 150 years.

The iron steamer *City of Hobart* has remained in its eerie final resting place deep in the waters of Bass Strait after sinking off the Gippsland coast on 24 July 1877. Technical divers from Southern Ocean Exploration (SOE) confirmed the shipwreck's identity during a dive in February this year.

It was one of two shipwrecks detected during geophysical surveys in and around Aurora Green in early 2025. Once the shipwrecks were detected, we worked with Commonwealth and Victorian heritage teams to determine their identity.

Enter the technical divers from SOE, who had been searching for *City of Hobart* for around 20 years. Based on the information we provided to heritage authorities, the divers were able to locate and explore one of the shipwrecks, which they confirmed as the *City of Hobart*. The other shipwreck in the meantime was confirmed as the previously known and identified SS *Vicky*.



Pictured are scans taken during geophysical surveys of the Aurora Green site and images taken by divers from Southern Ocean Exploration.

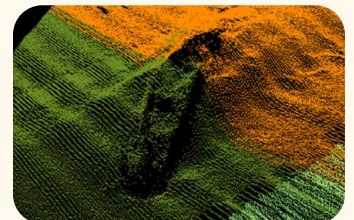
In a somewhat ironic twist, the *City of Hobart* sank while carrying over 600 tonnes of coal from Newcastle to Melbourne, several decades before the establishment of Gippsland's own coal industry. The region is now shifting away from coal generation towards clean energy, and Aurora Green will play a part in this transition.



The news of the fascinating find captured the imagination of shipwreck enthusiasts from around the world, with the Aurora Green project team receiving requests for interviews and more information from Australian and overseas media outlets.

Due to the relatively large area of our feasibility licence, we have the flexibility to adjust the design and layout of the wind farm to avoid the shipwrecks, and we will continue to work with heritage authorities to make sure significant sites are respected and protected.

The shipwreck sites are protected by the *Commonwealth Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018*, which prohibits interference or damage to shipwrecks without approval.



More journeys into the deep

The turbines, substations and cables that will make up Aurora Green will be placed in the ocean off Gippsland, so it's important for us to know what type of environment and sealife is down there. Our environmental team undertook the first summer fish and seabed surveys earlier this year, utilising locally-based vessels and crews to head out to our site from Port Welshpool, Port Albert and Lakes Entrance.

The seabed (or 'benthic') surveys look at the types of habitats on the ocean floor. Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) travel along the seabed taking observations of the water column and collecting water and sediment samples. The samples are then analysed to help us better understand the seabed environment.

Our fish surveys involve Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS) placed close to the surface and the seabed, so that we can observe the types and numbers of the many fish species that inhabit this part of the Gippsland coast.

In the meantime, our marine mammal survey flights, looking for whales, dolphins and seals, have now been going for almost a year and will continue approximately twice a month through to next year.



Eyes to the skies

One of the things we're looking at right now isn't actually in the water – it's in the air.

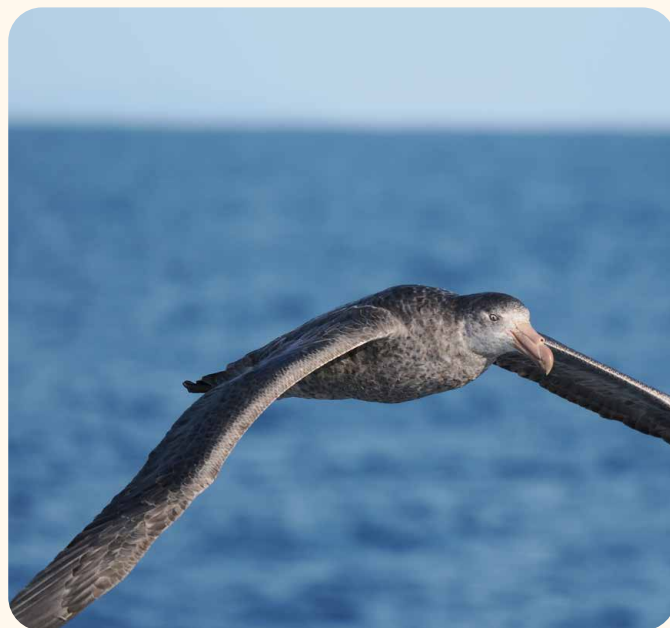
Our teams of ecologists have been heading out on boats and in planes along the Gippsland coastline for the last few months to conduct bird surveys in and around the Aurora Green project area.

These surveys are already giving us data on which bird species are present in the area and how many there might be at different times of the year. By collecting this baseline information, our team can build a clearer picture of how birds move through the area and their estimated flight heights.

While the offshore wind industry is new to Australia, Iberdrola is experienced in developing these projects internationally, and bird monitoring is standard practice at our wind farms around the world. New technologies such as high-performance radar and tracking cameras have been trialled and used at our offshore

wind farms overseas to monitor behaviour and develop ways of reducing the risk of bird collisions with turbines.

Here in Australia, our baseline bird surveys will continue through to 2027 and inform our environmental approvals process.



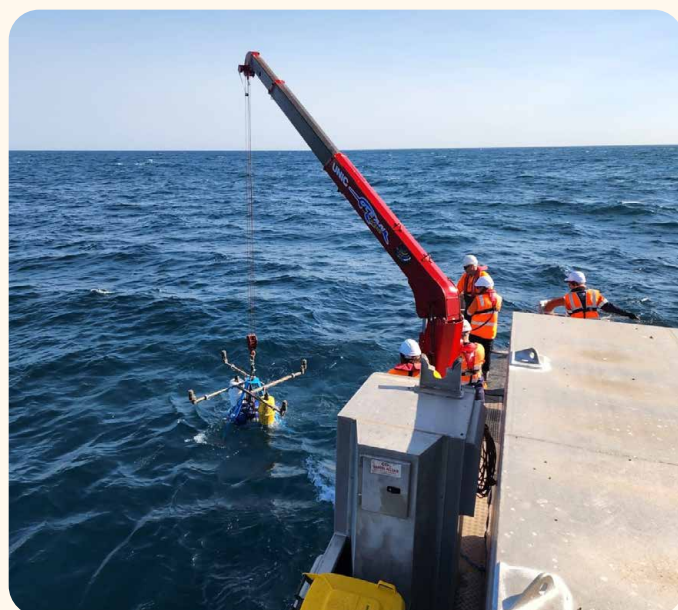
Checking in on our ocean equipment

Like most pieces of technology, we need to regularly service and check the equipment we've placed in the ocean to monitor conditions. We headed out into Bass Strait for the first six-month service of our passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) equipment in January, an exciting milestone for Aurora Green. The equipment is collecting data on the sounds occurring in the ocean so that we can understand its current state and plan to avoid potential noise impacts on marine life during our construction or operational activities.

We also completed the six-month service visit for our floating light, detection and ranging (LiDAR) and metocean equipment. This unit is monitoring ocean conditions such as wind, waves, currents and atmosphere.

Pictured right is our PAM equipment during its six-month service in January.

Both pieces of equipment will collect data in the ocean over 12-24 months to inform our environmental approvals process.



Iberdrola Australia in the community

Deadly in Gippsland – a strong future for First Nations businesses

We were proud to support this year's Deadly in Gippsland, a First Nations business expo bringing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses from across the region.



Delivered by Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), the expo showcases the creativity and innovation of First Nations businesses, connecting business owners, community and industry partners to collaborate and support the growth of Gippsland's business sector. Aurora Green is located on Gunaikurnai Country, so we were pleased to contribute \$10,000 through our community grants to support this year's event.

It was great to attend on the day and connect with many inspiring people working to build a strong future for First Nations businesses in Gippsland. We caught up with Charles Solomon from CS Consulting & Design, a 100% Aboriginal-owned business who we're already working with as part of Aurora Green (pictured above with our Community Engagement Lead Gary Stevens).

Congratulations to the team at GLaWAC for bringing together such a great event!



Learning about local businesses

While larger scale construction of Aurora Green is still some years away, we've already been working with local boat crews operating out of Gippsland's ports for our environmental studies – think Port Albert, Port Anthony, Port Welshpool and Lakes Entrance.

We're keen to continue to work as much as possible with Gippslanders, so we took part as an exhibitor at a recent manufacturers and suppliers event in Churchill, thanks to ICN Victoria, Regional Development Victoria and Regional Development Australia. The event allowed us to connect with plenty of local businesses, along with national and international experts.



Any businesses which would like to be involved at any stage of our project should visit gateway.icn.org.au/projects/9310 or scan the QR code.

Aurora Green comes into view

One of the most common questions we hear from the community, particularly those living along the Gippsland coast, is ‘Will we be able to see your turbines?’. We’ve released a set of visualisations on our website to help bring our proposed Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project to life. The images are based on real photos taken at Golden Beach, Seaspray and Woodside Beach, with the proposed turbines and offshore substations added to them to help communities better understand how Aurora Green might look on a clear day once fully constructed.

While they cannot show exactly how Aurora Green will look (this will depend on project design, image resolution, weather and lighting conditions), they give an idea of the scale of the turbines and substations, as well as their distance from land.

While we are still designing our wind farm (the number of turbines, their height and layout) our visualisations show the highest turbine size currently available – 350 metres from the ocean surface to the tip of the blade at its highest point. This is higher than our predicted turbine height range of 260-340 metres. The images also show a fully constructed project, with around 150 turbines and three offshore substations.

If you’re interested in viewing the images, we suggest printing them and holding them at arm’s length in the viewpoint location shown.

Visit www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/aurora-green/visualisations to download them. The images provide an indicative view based on preliminary layout and are subject to change pending approvals and final design.

Promoting gender diversity in STEM

Iberdrola Australia was a major sponsor and participant in SuperHack 2025, hosted by Melbourne University Electrical Engineering Club (MUEEC).

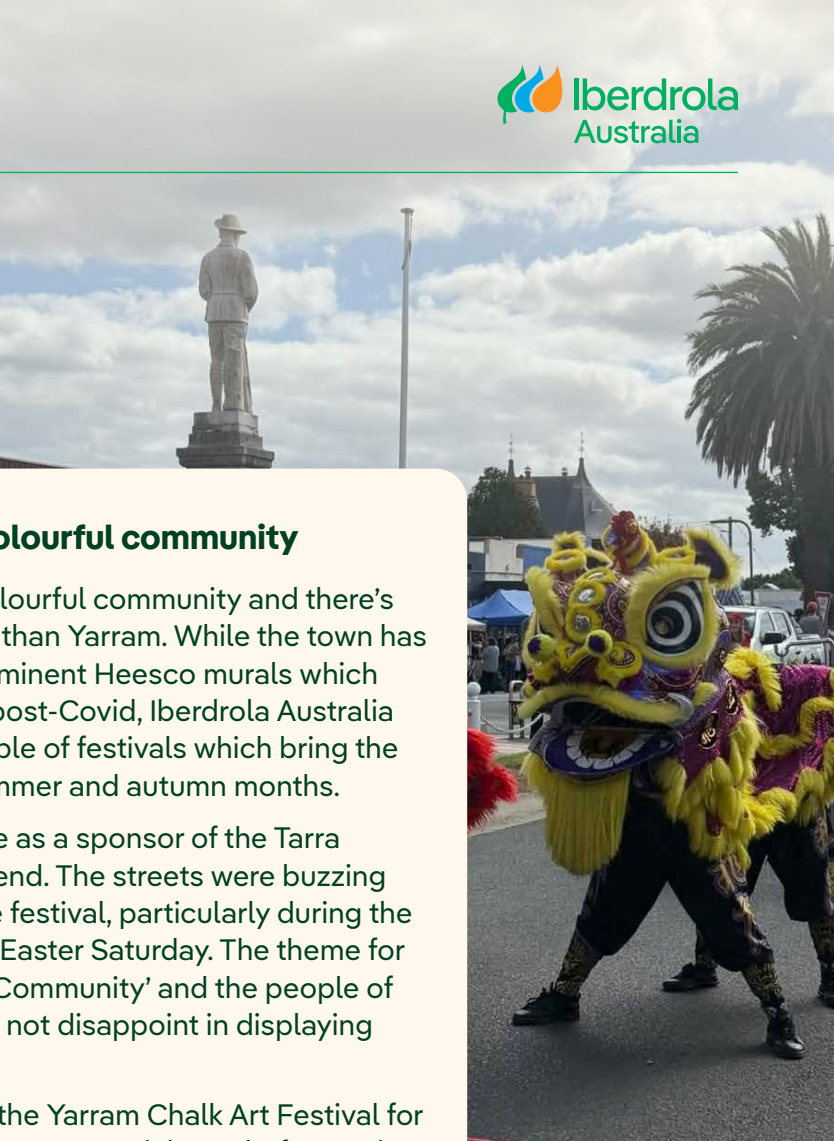
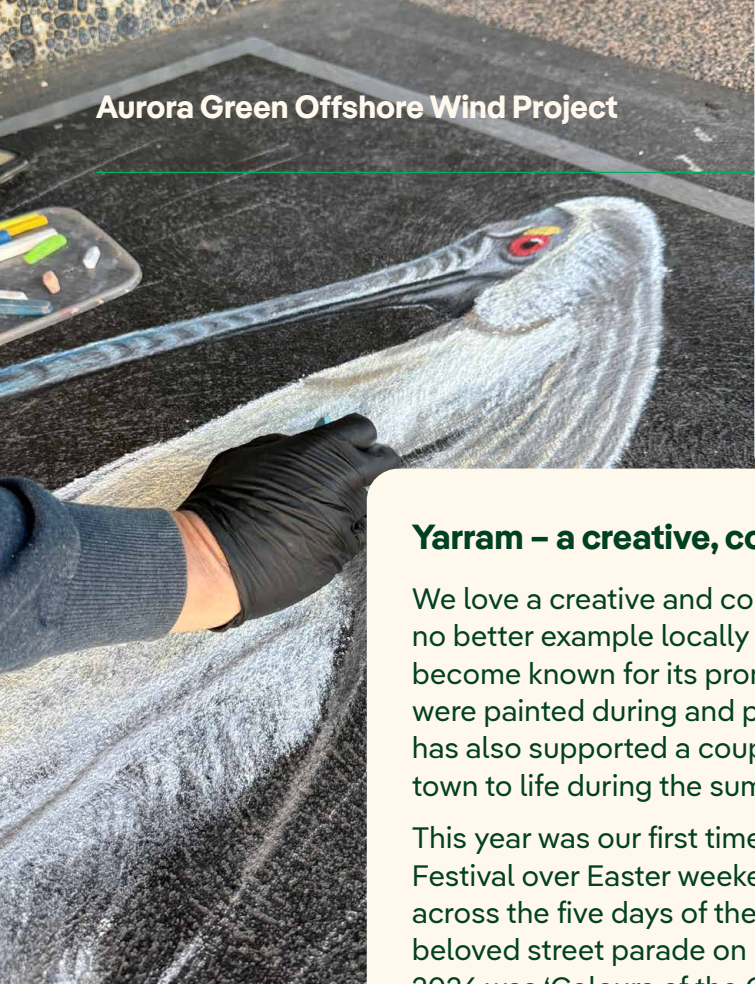
The engineering competition for female, non-binary and gender-diverse high school students in years 10-12, is aimed at promoting gender diversity in STEM fields. It also connects high school students and industry professionals, as well as providing exposure to software, electronics and robotics.

Aurora Green’s Engineering and Environment team members helped out during the competition (below).



Pictured below is a visualisation from our website of Aurora Green’s turbines and offshore substations from Seaspray





Yarram – a creative, colourful community

We love a creative and colourful community and there's no better example locally than Yarram. While the town has become known for its prominent Heesco murals which were painted during and post-Covid, Iberdrola Australia has also supported a couple of festivals which bring the town to life during the summer and autumn months.

This year was our first time as a sponsor of the Tarra Festival over Easter weekend. The streets were buzzing across the five days of the festival, particularly during the beloved street parade on Easter Saturday. The theme for 2026 was 'Colours of the Community' and the people of Yarram and surrounds did not disappoint in displaying those colours!

In January, we supported the Yarram Chalk Art Festival for the third consecutive year. Commercial Road's footpaths came to life with bright and vibrant colours again, as local chalk artists got to rub shoulders with international artists and let their creativity flow. By working with artists from across the globe and other parts of Australia, Gippsland's creatives get the opportunity to exchange ideas, build confidence and showcase their work.

Both events were sponsored through Iberdrola Australia's Community Funds and Sponsorships, which help support local initiatives such as these. If you would like to apply for funding for your community event or project, visit our website www.iberdrola.com.au to learn more about application guidelines.



Off to the markets

It was a busy summer for the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project team as we were out and about right across Gippsland.

You might have seen us or dropped in for a chat with offshore wind developers at the Lakes Entrance or Longford markets, at the popular Gippsland Lakes Boat Show in Paynesville or at the Wellington Sustainability Festival in Sale.

We've had some great conversations with locals and visitors at these events about topics ranging from birds, fishing and boating, to project timelines and jobs, giving us genuine insight into what matters most to our communities.



Community feedback we receive helps to inform the design of our project, so we encourage anyone to connect with us by emailing offshorewind@iberdrola.com.au or completing our community feedback survey on our website by scanning the QR code on the back page.

Our engagement team is made up of two Gippslanders - Renee and Gary - who have lived most of their lives in this region. Both come from families who have long worked in the local power industry and want to make sure Gippsland remains Victoria's energy producing powerhouse into the future.

Check out our 'What We Heard' section to find out more about community feedback at the engagement sessions and what we're doing to address it.

What We Heard

Interest in the project timeline including current status and next steps

Aurora Green is in the feasibility stage of development, with stakeholder engagement, technical and environmental surveys underway. Milestones so far this year include:

- Ongoing engagement and consultation with stakeholders, communities and Traditional Owners through Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- Work with GLaWAC to understand cultural values
- Ongoing baseline environmental surveys including noise monitoring, mammals and bird surveys (two-year data collection) - May 2025 to now
- Floating LiDAR and metocean equipment continuing to measure wind and ocean conditions - September 2025 to now
- Started baseline environmental fish ecology and benthic (seabed) ecology surveys - February and March 2026
- Received draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines, which are the Commonwealth Government's instructions on what potential environmental impacts we must investigate and report on as part of our feasibility studies - March 2026
- Victorian Government accepted our Environmental Effects Statement (EES) Referral documentation, which is the initial report describing the project and its possible environmental effects. This has been published and can be viewed by searching for Aurora Green at www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments - March 2026

Next steps for the project are:

- Continuing engagement and consultation
- Continuing environmental surveys for baseline data collection (offshore and onshore)
- Progressing the engineering and design process (including, but not limited to, production profile, foundation design, and cable routing)
- Continue working with the Victorian Government to understand further details about the auction.

All these activities form part of the process we will need to undertake for project approvals over the next approximately three to four years.

Interest in whether or not recreational fishing and boating can continue in our feasibility licence area

While there are likely to be some exclusions in place during construction, the wind farms we operate overseas often allow recreational fishing to continue once constructed and operating. In fact, we've found foundations such as those proposed for the Aurora Green project can promote fish habitat to develop around our turbines.

We are keen to hear from recreational fishers or other marine users and groups who have any concerns or questions about Aurora Green.

We'd also love to hear from commercial fishers who may not be represented by larger fishing organisations, to better understand their practices and any concerns they might have, or to discuss opportunities to be involved in the project. While we're working with the commercial fishing community through local fishermen's co-ops, associations and Victorian and Commonwealth fishing bodies, we want to make sure we gather as much local knowledge as possible to help shape how we design and develop Aurora Green.

Email our engagement team at offshorewind@iberdrola.com.au to get in touch.

Concerns about the impacts of offshore wind turbines on birds

Our environmental teams are currently conducting surveys in and around the Aurora Green feasibility licence to understand bird numbers and behaviours, such as how they move through the area and their flight height. This will in turn help inform our environmental impact strategies when it comes to designing and building our project.

At our offshore wind projects overseas, bird monitoring is standard practice and we have trialled and used new technologies such as high-performance radar and tracking cameras to monitor behaviour and develop ways of reducing the risk of bird collisions with turbines.

To learn more about what Iberdrola is doing internationally to protect marine biodiversity at our wind farms visit <https://www.iberdrola.com/about-us/what-we-do/offshore-wind-energy/marine-life-biodiversity-protection>



Have your say:

If you would like to have your say about Aurora Green please complete our community feedback survey at:

[form.jotform.com/
251061454275857](https://form.jotform.com/251061454275857)

(or scan the QR code)

or email

offshorewind@iberdrola.com.au



Contact us:

If you have any questions or feedback about the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project please reach out to us.

www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/aurora-green

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