

Aurora Green

Community Update

August 2026



Project update

Iberdrola Australia has reached an important milestone in the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project, with several of our two-year baseline environmental surveys reaching the halfway point in recent months.



We received our EPBC referral decision for geotechnical and geophysical site investigations, continued survey preparations for our onshore cable route and now look forward to seeing the details of the Victorian Government's first offshore wind auction, set to open in August.

In Gippsland, the Aurora Green team has been working with local education organisations to chat with primary, secondary and tertiary students about upcoming opportunities in the offshore wind industry, through several fun events.

This included the National Science and Engineering Challenge Gippsland events in Korumburra and Sale (pictured above), where schools competed for a place in the state finals.

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.



A brighter future

As Gippsland prepares to play a key role in Australia's clean energy future, Iberdrola Australia is helping to inspire the next generation of local workers through our work with schools, training providers and education organisations.

Our Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project team has partnered with several education and training providers and organisations across Gippsland over the last few years, allowing us to connect with students considering a career in renewable energy.

STEM program challenges Gippsland students

Hundreds of primary and secondary school students put their STEM skills to the test as they competed in the National Science and Engineering Challenge Gippsland events in August.

Iberdrola Australia was a sponsor of the events at Korumburra and Sale, and our team helped officiate and judge some of the challenges which included designing wind turbines, building fish traps and constructing a bridge.

Gippsland schools competed against each other for a place in the Victorian state finals. Huge congratulations to the winners of the Gippsland events, Foster Secondary College and Gippsland Grammar!





This was Iberdrola Australia's second year sponsoring the Gippsland leg of the National Science and Engineering Challenge, which is a STEM outreach program run by University of Newcastle giving students hands-on engineering challenges to complete.

This included building wind turbines using basic materials and getting them to spin the fastest, with some fun creative designs giving our team a great idea of the talent in the Gippsland area.



The Gippsland competition brought together 16 schools from around the region across the two days, with the help of Regional Development Australia Gippsland, Regional Development Victoria, Skills and Jobs Centres, Wellington Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, Bass Coast Shire Council, Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network, program partner Lockheed Martin Australia and all the other great sponsors who were on board this year.

Talking career pathways with local youth

The Aurora Green team joined other offshore wind developers at Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network's (LLEN) Job Skills Expo at Lardner Park in July. More than 2000 students from Years 10-12 from around 30 Gippsland schools and education providers came along to get information about future local careers.

We spoke with students about the various vocational and university pathways available to those interested in careers in the offshore wind industry and in renewables more generally.

Students were surprised by the diversity of opportunities available to them and excited by the ongoing shift to clean energy that the offshore wind industry provides.

We're also proud to be on board as a sponsor of Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN's New Energy Technology (NET) Program again this year, which will take place later in 2026. The NET Program allows young Gippslanders to learn more about future careers in renewable energy, emerging technology and related industries. The students work with mentoring professionals in those industries on designing and developing an innovation which can be applied in the real world.



Getting up to speed on offshore wind

We recently put students to work designing wind turbines as part of a Speed Careers Day (pictured above) organised by South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN).

Year 9 and 10 students rotated through different activities with industry professionals, including from Iberdrola Australia and another Gippsland offshore wind feasibility licence holder, Blue Mackerel.

We gave students the materials they needed to build wind turbines – albeit on a much smaller scale than those we propose to develop! In small groups, students raced to be the fastest to put together the turbines and then later had to decommission them. We were able to have some great conversations with students from schools across the South Gippsland region about career paths related to the offshore wind industry.



Scholarships boost to Gippsland's future

Iberdrola Australia is supporting more Gippsland students and encouraging them to stay local as they build their careers in the industries shaping the region's future. We funded eight more scholarships for students at Federation University's Gippsland campus in 2026, which were awarded at a showcase event in Morwell in May.

This is the second year of Iberdrola Australia's 10-year commitment to provide \$500,000 for scholarships at the uni's Gippsland campus.

The scholarships provide financial support for students studying fields linked to the clean energy industry, including engineering, environmental science, IT and business. They are aimed at inspiring women to study STEM careers, encouraging Gippsland talent to remain local, supporting First Nations students through tertiary pathways and creating opportunities for students that otherwise might not be available to them.

This year's recipients (pictured right) are studying a range of disciplines and are from right across the Gippsland region.

Apart from our Federation University scholarships commitment, Iberdrola Australia provides a national First Nations Scholarship Program, and scholarships are awarded by our operating assets across regional Australia. To learn more about careers at Iberdrola Australia, follow us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/iberdrola-au/ or visit www.iberdrola.com.au/careers



CareersFest

Our Aurora Green team joined other local organisations to chat with uni students at Federation University's Careers Fest 2026 event at its Gippsland campus in July.

We had plenty of conversations with locally based students about their career plans and the opportunities we offer at Iberdrola Australia, including Environmental Science student Marie Larsen (pictured with Gary and graduate Alvaro from the Aurora Green team), who is looking forward to an offshore wind industry here in Gippsland.





Helping to shape education pathways

Iberdrola Australia is a key partner in Federation University's Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre (APRETC), where the future renewable energy workforce is being trained. With centres in Ballarat and Churchill, APRETC offers renewable energy training, education and research.

Through a series of industry roundtables, Iberdrola Australia and other organisations have helped

shape education pathways spanning vocational training, undergraduate programs, postgraduate qualifications and higher research degrees.

The latest roundtable (pictured above) was held at Fed Uni's Mt Helen campus in Ballarat, where we were able to tour the impressive wind turbine training tower, a 23-metre high replica which gives students an authentic training experience at-height.

Clean Energy Centre tour

Iberdrola Australia is excited about TAFE Gippsland's new Clean Energy Centre in Morwell, which started delivering training earlier this year in renewable energy technologies.

We attended the official opening of the centre in April and had a tour of it in June thanks to Committee for Gippsland.

The Clean Energy Centre is training workers in renewable technologies including solar and battery technologies, as well as hybrid and electrical vehicle servicing and repairs.



Aurora Green surveys hit one-year mark

The Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project reached an exciting milestone in May, completing our first year of environmental baseline surveys.

Since Autumn 2025, specialist teams have been busy collecting important data on the marine life and ocean conditions in and around our feasibility licence. We're now more than halfway through these surveys, which are helping us to understand more about our unique marine environment off the Gippsland coast.

In May last year we kicked off our visual aerial surveys from planes looking for marine mammals, and we also deployed passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) equipment to monitor

the current noise conditions of the ocean. Our PAM equipment recently had its 12-month service visit to collect this data.

We've also been undertaking bird surveys from boats and planes, metocean studies to measure wind and ocean conditions, as well as fish and seabed studies.

During our surveys so far, we've observed dolphins, seals, whales, sharks and fish, as well as various species of migratory and resident birds. The total two-year data collection will help us establish baseline environmental conditions and seasonal patterns to inform planning and environmental assessments.

What offshore wind might mean for local fishing

For local anglers, a common question about our Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project is 'will I be able to continue fishing?'

Aurora Green's turbines and substations will be located 25km+ offshore between Seaspray/The Honeysuckles and Woodside Beach, beyond the range of many fishing trips (especially those in smaller tinnies launching straight off the beach).

Getting that far offshore would need the right boat, good water conditions and a bit of planning, meaning a smaller number of experienced offshore recreational fishers are likely to venture out that way. For the majority of local anglers, day-to-day fishing spots closer to and along the Ninety Mile Beach shore will remain largely unchanged once Aurora Green is operational.

But for those who have the right boat and the experience to get that little bit further offshore, turbines and their foundations can have an interesting effect underwater, often

creating localised fish aggregations around the structures.

We've found at offshore wind farms in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe, the turbine foundations act like artificial reefs. Turbine bases in North Sea wind farms have supported marine growth such as mussels, barnacles and other invertebrates. Where this marine life attaches to the surface of structures like turbines, they can attract smaller fish and in turn larger species.

While this doesn't mean wind farms become busy fishing spots, recreational fishing often continues alongside operational wind farms – this includes at Iberdrola's own overseas wind farms. Once Aurora Green is built, recreational fishing is expected to be able to continue while maintaining a safe distance from the turbines.

If you or your angling club want to chat with our Gippsland based engagement team about recreational fishing please email us at offshorewind@iberdrola.com.au



Iberdrola Australia in the community



Gippsland New Energy Conference

We're excited to be supporting the Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC) again this year as it continues to bring together renewable energy pioneers and leaders from across Gippsland, Australia and internationally to discuss the opportunities for the region's future.

This year's theme is "Gippsland – It's On!" which reflects the mood of excitement for a raft of new energy projects underway in our part of the world.

GNEC 2026 will be held in Traralgon on 18 and 19 August. Iberdrola Australia representatives will talk about Aurora Green, including giving further insight into the *City of Hobart* shipwreck, which we helped to uncover earlier this year.

We're a gold sponsor of GNEC again and will have an exhibition stall at the event. Visit www.gnec.com.au for more information.



Australia Wind Energy Conference

Our team had some practice for GNEC, with our involvement at the recent Australian Wind Energy (AuWE) Conference in Melbourne.

Iberdrola Australia was a major sponsor of the event, which gave us a chance to connect with key industry suppliers, leaders and stakeholders. We also had a number of speakers taking part in the conference.

Throughout the two-day conference, our team met with suppliers to better understand local capabilities and workforce capacity, and attended the AuWE 2026 Sustainability and Diversity Night Gala Dinner.





Traralgon Farmers Market

Aurora Green's local engagement team braved a chilly morning to join other developers and government agencies at the Traralgon Farmers Market in June. Between browsing the stalls and buying some of the delicious local fruit and veggies, meat, breads and other produce, we were there to talk offshore wind with fellow Gippslanders.

We spoke with dozens of shoppers about their diverse views on offshore wind. While some are excited about the employment and training opportunities the offshore wind industry will

bring, there were also people with concerns about environmental impacts, including decommissioning and recycling once turbines reach end-of-life. Listening to what's important to locals helps us in the planning and design of Aurora Green.

We're planning on more market visits before the year is finished to make sure we continue to listen to and understand from the community across the entire Gippsland region.

East Gippsland Cross Border Forum

We got an understanding of some of the challenges and opportunities faced by the communities of far east Gippsland at a Cross Border Forum in Mallacoota.

The forum brought together stakeholders from Victoria and New South Wales to talk through ways border communities can collaborate.

It also gave us a great chance to learn more about the proposed expansion of Port of Edrom near Eden, Australia's third deepest natural deepwater port on the eastern seaboard.

Thanks to East Gippsland Shire Council for hosting the event, as well as both the Victorian

Cross Border Commissioner Brett Davis and NSW Acting Cross Border Commissioner Kellie Urquhart, for having us along.



Fishing convos moving in the right direction

We caught up with fellow Gippslanders from the local commercial fishing industry at the Seafood Directions conference in Sydney in July, including Wolfgang Platzer from San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op and Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishing Association (GHaTFA).

We were especially pleased to hear from GHaTFA that they are willing to continue discussions and work with offshore wind developers on co-existence in Bass Strait.

It was also great to catch up with Simon Boag from South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association at the conference.

We joined several other offshore wind developers to hear from and chat with leaders from Australia's seafood industry at Seafood Directions, the premier ideas, innovation and networking event for the Australian seafood industry.

The commercial fishing industry in Bass Strait off the Gippsland coast is a key stakeholder of the Aurora Green project and while we have been

in conversations with local fishing industry reps for some time, the conference also gave us an opportunity to network with the wider industry.

Wolfgang Platzer is pictured with Iberdrola Australia's GM Offshore Wind Development Renee Kurowski and Linda French from the Blue Mackerel project.



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 Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
- Work with GLaWAC to understand cultural values
- Completed first 12 months of 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
- Geophysical and geotechnical referral submitted to Commonwealth Government under the EPBC Act, with the decision being a 'not controlled action' provided activities are undertaken in a particular manner (outlined at <https://epbcpublicportal.environment.gov.au>).

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.

There is a need for us to ensure early planning around end-of-life decommissioning and recycling of components

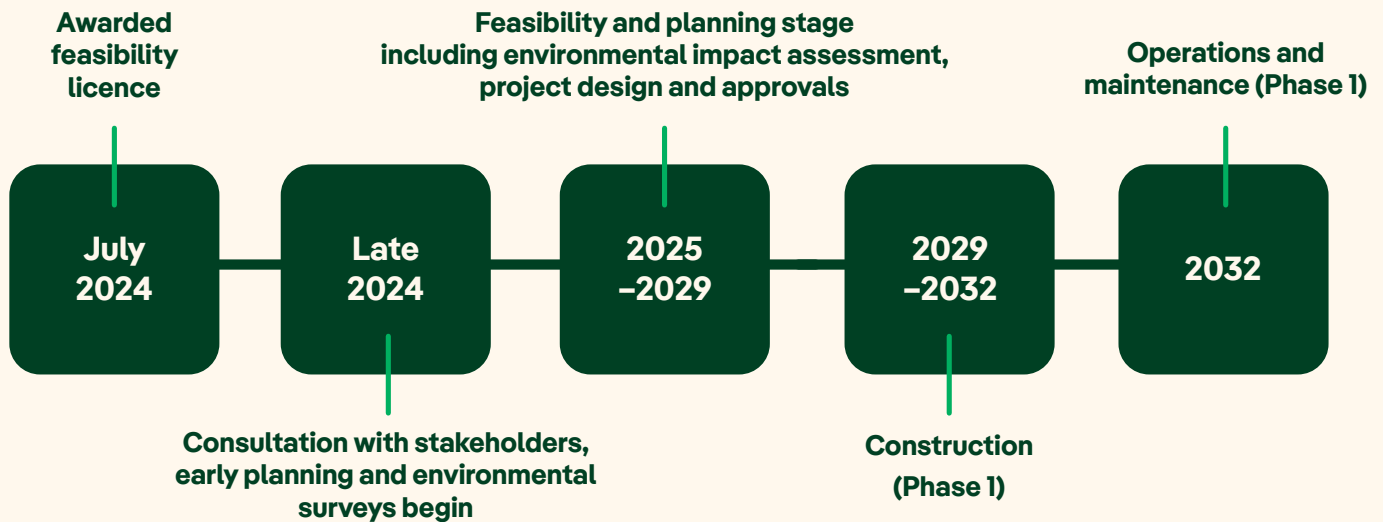
Energy generation from Aurora Green is expected from 2032 and will have an operational life of around 30 years, after which the project will be decommissioned (and the site rehabilitated) or repowered.

During the feasibility phase we are exploring options associated with decommissioning and rehabilitation, as well as repowering of the site (where new offshore wind turbines could be erected).

The lifespan of a wind turbine is around 25 years, but this can be extended to 30. Most components are recyclable, although the challenge lies in recycling the wind blades efficiently.

Iberdrola Group is committed to recycling all wind turbine blades from 2030 and plans to buy blades from recycled material. For more information visit <https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/wind-blade-recycling>

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Project Timeline



Have your say:

We are undertaking a community survey as part of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to help understand how Iberdrola Australia and Aurora Green are perceived by the community, identify how communities may interact with or be impacted by the project, and understand how we can best engage with communities as the project progresses.

To have your say, please scan the QR code. Survey responses remain confidential.



Contact us:

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

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