



7 November 2025

## *South Gippsland Shire Council*

Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Parliamentary Inquiry into Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and provide a submission to the Inquiry into the Decommissioning of Oil and Gas Infrastructure.

## South Gippsland Context

South Gippsland Shire is located about one and half hours Southeast of Melbourne and best known as the location of Wilsons Promontory National Park. The Shire has a population of about 31,000 people and its major towns are Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster. While a relatively small population it has an economy of national significance from food production and has a significant role in Victoria's energy sector.

The Barry Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT) is located in South Gippsland Shire. This is where the Bass Strait oil and gas rigs were constructed, are currently serviced from and where the proposed onshore decommissioning works for the oil and gas infrastructure is planned to occur. BBMT has been in operation for almost 60 years.

BBMT and the neighbouring Port Anthony are also the likely locations of the operations and maintenance bases for the planned Bass Strait Offshore Wind Farms. It is anticipated that this operations and maintenance role will be required for at least 30 years.

## Terms of Reference Response

As South Gippsland contains the port where the final part of decommissioning will occur, this will see a likely significant increase in direct and flow-on employment in the area. This will bring welcome jobs to the area and will assist with the transition process in the change of the port to renewable energy operations and strengthen its long-term sustainability.



This will raise broader issues regarding accommodating additional workers, and the services and infrastructure required to support them. There are also other major projects occurring in a similar several time frame, such as the Marinus Link electricity interconnector, which is planned to run through South Gippsland from Tasmania to the Latrobe Valley.

Support from Government for the infrastructure and services required to support these initiatives will be critical to maximising the benefits of these projects and minimising the impacts to local communities.

South Gippsland Shire Council adopted a Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study in 2024. This was prepared in conjunction with Latrobe City. The study is very useful in identifying relevant issues and opportunities regarding from these large energy projects. A link to the study is provide here [Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study](#)

Council has strongly encouraged community engagement on the decommissioning process. We are pleased that the proponents have engaged regularly with Council, conducted numerous community information sessions and provided opportunities for direct feedback. It is crucial for our community to be informed and for concerns to heard.

We encourage Traditional Owner acknowledgement, consultation and employment as outlined in item (f) of the Terms of Reference. In South Gippsland the two Registered Aboriginal Parties are the Gippsland Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation's (GLaWAC) and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The oil and gas decommissioning project is a major project for South Gippsland and Council has a strong interest in how it is implemented. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. [REDACTED]

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Yours sincerely

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**Tony Peterson**  
Executive Director Strategy and Integrity