

# Gippsland offshore wind transmission 2 GW project Environment Effects Statement

## Understanding groundwater and surface water impacts

June 2026

VicGrid is developing a shared transmission line to connect 2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy off the Gippsland coast to the electricity grid.

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is being prepared to assess the project's potential environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts, including how those impacts can be avoided, reduced or managed.

Groundwater and surface water play an important role in Gippsland's environment, agriculture, recreation and tourism. As part of the EES, specialists are assessing how the project could affect groundwater and surface water across the region.

### What we're assessing

The groundwater and surface water impact assessments will help us understand:

- Existing surface water conditions for catchments, flooding and waterways
- Potential impacts on downstream waterways, floodplains and wetland systems, including the Gippsland Lakes and Corner Inlet Ramsar sites
- Potential effects on water quality including river health
- Potential impacts on groundwater and surface water uses including agriculture
- Possible flooding impacts near existing infrastructure
- Measures that may be needed during construction to avoid or minimise these impacts

### How we'll prepare the assessment

Specialists will use a range of methods, including:

- Investigating existing data, reports and mapping
- Carrying out risk screenings to identify and evaluate potential impacts
- Completing detailed hydrogeological desktop studies – looking at elevation, topography, surface water, geology and hydrology data – to understand existing groundwater conditions
- Reviewing relevant legislation, policies and guidelines
- Mapping areas that need more detailed investigation, including areas more susceptible to flooding where site specific mitigation measures may be needed
- Incorporating insights from consultation with agencies such as the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Environment Protection Authority

### Next steps

Findings from the groundwater and surface water assessments will be documented in a technical report for the EES. The report will describe existing conditions, assess potential impacts and recommend management measures.

Once the EES is complete, we'll undertake more surveys to inform detailed design. This includes more detailed site-specific investigation once the transmission infrastructure's exact location is confirmed.

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**Feedback**

We're continuing to engage directly with landholders and the community in and near the draft preferred route to understand and map property features such as streams, dams and irrigation areas.

This work will help identify potential mitigations for surface water and groundwater on individual properties.

When the EES is publicly exhibited, expected in 2027, community members will be able to review the groundwater and surface water technical reports, provide feedback and make a submission.

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