

Community Reference Group (CRG) Minutes

Meeting:	Minutes of the 3rd Community Reference Group (CRG) Meeting
Date:	21 August 2025
Venue:	Sanctuary Inn on Westernport 126 Marine Parade Hastings, VIC 3915
Present:	<p>Project team:</p> <p>Chantel Steele (CS) (Environment Manager)</p> <p>David Christodoulou (DC) (Design & Construction Manager)</p> <p>Liam Morkham (LM) (Senior Engagement Lead)</p> <p>Lyndel McLennan (LMc) (Engagement Manager)</p> <p>Mitchell Wynd (MW) (Communications Officer)</p> <p>Natasha Reifschneider (NR) (Environment Director)</p> <p>CRG Members:</p> <p>Aled Roberts (Somerville Business Group)</p> <p>David Wright (Wellbeing & Health Organisation)</p> <p>Richard Cox (Rotary Club of Somerville Tyabb)</p> <p>Greg Johnson (Phillip Island Conservation Society)</p> <p>Ian Hales (Community – Non-affiliated)</p> <p>Ian Coffey (Mornington Peninsula Labor Environment Action Network)</p> <p>Ian Stevenson (Western Port Seagrass Partnership)</p> <p>Jane Carnegie (Save Westernport)</p> <p>Joshua Sinclair (Committee for Frankston and Mornington Peninsula)</p> <p>Julia Stockigt (Westernport Peninsula Protection Council)</p> <p>Kim Storey (Destination Phillip Island Regional Tourism)</p> <p>Mel Barker (UNESCO Western Port Biosphere Foundation)</p> <p>Rod Kerley (Community – Non-affiliated)</p> <p>Shannon Hurley (Victorian National Parks Association)</p> <p>External:</p> <p>Daniel Heley (DH) (Department of Transport and Planning)</p>
Absent:	<p>Axel Leonhardt (Community – non-affiliated)</p> <p>Jeff Weir (Dolphin Research Institute)</p> <p>Terry Nott (Preserve Western Port Action Group)</p>
Chair:	Louisa McPhee

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Commenced:	1:06pm

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chair ran through the agenda for the meeting.
- 1.4 The Chair confirmed minutes and that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting.

2. EPBC update

- 2.1 Natasha Reifschneider (NR) provided an update on the EPBC referral decision – confirming that the Commonwealth has determined the Project is a “Controlled Action”.
- 2.2 NR explained the meaning of the decision and noted that it is not an approval or acceptance of the Project to proceed to construction.
- 2.3 NR flagged the next steps for the Project, preparing the EES under the State Government process.
- 2.4 NR explained that the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are in the process of updating the EES draft scoping requirements following the EPBC decision, and that a second round of public exhibition is expected in the coming weeks.
 - 2.4.1 The updated draft EES scoping requirements will be available for comment for 10 business days.
 - 2.4.2 PoHC will circulate information to the CRG to help promote and share amongst members’ networks.
 - 2.4.3 CRG asked if a track changes version of the updated draft EES scoping requirements would be made available. **Action:** PoHC took on notice to pass on feedback and question to Impact Assessment Unit.

3. Presentation by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

- 3.1 Daniel Heley (DH) from DTP provided an explanation of the site selection process for the Project.
- 3.2 DH explained the timeline for the State Government’s legislated renewable energy targets, with offshore wind (OSW) capacity milestones and closure of coal-fired power stations marked.
- 3.3 DH noted that the full report could not be released as it was Cabinet in Confidence.
- 3.4 DH noted that Jacobs had been engaged to undertake analysis and determine the preferred OSW port and detailed the methodology of the assessment.

- 3.5 DH noted that the Jacobs assessment concluded the Port of Hastings rated significantly higher than alternative ports through the multi-criteria assessment process.
- 3.6 DH shared the summary of Port of Hastings' suitability across channels, location, land availability and industry attraction categories.
- 3.7 DH explained the site selection process.
- 3.8 CRG provided feedback that they like to see more public information on the assessment criteria. DH took feedback on notice. **Action:** DTP to provide update to CRG via PoHC on how feedback has been considered.

4. Project design work update

- 4.1 David Christodoulou (DC) provided an update on the project design work.
- 4.2 DC outlined the updates that have been made since the previous CRG meeting.
- 4.3 DC outlined changes to the project design, including the quay structure construction method, ground improvement methods and explaining each stage of construction.

5. EES update

- 5.1 Chantel Steele (CS) provided an update on the EES process – sharing a draft structure of the EES report.
- 5.2 CS provided an update on field surveys, both currently underway and recently completed.

6. Engagement update

- 6.1 Lyndel McLennan (LMc) provided an update on recent engagement activities.
- 6.2 LMc provided an overview of sessions across June and July, community mailouts, new webpages published, and attendance at the AuWE 2025 conference.
- 6.3 LMc detailed the key topics covered at the June and July community roundtable sessions and webinars, the total number of attendees for each session, and specific points of interest at each session.
- 6.4 LMc outlined the upcoming engagement activities planned for the rest of the year.

7. CRG feedback and input

- 7.1 Shared feedback from survey circulated to members following the May CRG meeting.
- 7.2 The Chair offered members the opportunity to share feedback to the team and ask questions.
- 7.3 The Chair noted the date and venue for the next CRG meeting: Thursday 20 November 2025 at Sanctuary Inn.
- 7.4 The Chair noted tabled agenda items for future meetings.

7.5 The Chair noted that several other technical questions that have been responded to directly via email, and noted CS and DC are available to discuss further technical questions.

8. Animation

8.1 Attendees viewed an animation of the site construction.

FINISH

This meeting concluded at **3.42PM**