

Our commitment to support Gippsland jobs and economic opportunities



Latrobe Valley coal worker and offshore wind advocate Tony Wolfe

Star of the South is committed to working with Latrobe Valley and Gippsland communities to maximise local employment and economic opportunities. We have already established an office in Gippsland, employing local workers and investing development expenditure into the region's economy through our 'buy local' approach.

We are engaging with the Latrobe Valley Authority, Regional Development Victoria, the Committee for Gippsland, GROW Gippsland, TAFE Gippsland, Federation University and the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council to map out opportunities and to share knowledge about the skills and training requirements required for a new offshore wind sector.

There is a strong commitment from all parties to drive these initiatives, but several of these bodies are reliant on ongoing funding and/or grant opportunities to resource such activities.

Training and skills

Offshore wind offers a unique transition pathway for workers in declining sectors such as offshore oil and gas and coal. There are several international precedents and success stories, with Australia's opportunity highlighted in the Blue Economy CRC's report into *Offshore Wind Energy in Australia*.¹

The report brought together expertise from CSIRO, Saitec Offshore, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Maritime Union Australia along with contributions from the Electrical Trades Union, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and Australian Council of Trade Unions, representing a broad cross section of industry, government and academic perspectives.

It found "*offshore wind energy could play a significant role in a 'just transition' for oil, gas and coal workers*" and recommended that "*skills training and labour market programs should be developed to support oil, gas and coal workers to gain employment and skills in offshore wind energy.*"

We are working directly with EnergyAustralia on skills mapping and transition opportunities for the Yallourn workforce. We are committed to working together to share knowledge and map opportunities for coal workers and supply contractors. However, this opportunity will also require timely support from government and local training institutions to ensure there are pathways into the sector to enable a smooth transition.

¹ Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (Blue Economy CRC), *Offshore Wind Energy in Australia, Final Project Report*, July 2021 www.blueeconomycrc.com.au/projects/offshore-wind-potentialaustralia/

