



Community Newsletter | May 2026

# Gippsland Offshore Wind Farms

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# Welcome to the May issue of the Ørsted community newsletter

In this edition, we share updates on our environmental surveys and approvals, highlight innovative technologies, spotlight our supply chain and ports expertise, share recent PhD research in Denmark, and look forward to upcoming events.

📍 The Ørsted project team at the Australian Wind Industry Forum in May



# Environmental studies and approvals progress

We recently welcomed a decision that our Gippsland 1 project is a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and will progress to assessment through a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Meanwhile, our environmental studies continue across Gippsland. With twelve months of marine surveys now complete, we're starting to build a detailed understanding of birds, marine mammals, and marine life in our Bass Strait licence area.

Since late 2024, scientists and wildlife spotters in planes and boats have undertaken monthly vessel and aerial observation surveys.

Amongst the range of local seabird species and migratory species recorded, clear seasonal patterns are emerging. Humpback whales have been commonly observed during their annual migration, while dolphins and fur seals are observed more consistently throughout the year.

Beneath the surface, underwater imagery and sampling have identified diverse marine life, including several shark species, rays, and a variety of fish typical to the area.

We've also completed our offshore metocean campaign. Our FLiDAR and Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) have returned to shore after successfully collecting high-quality wind, wave, and tidal data across our feasibility licence areas.



⬆ Clockwise from top left: Fixed wing propeller plane prepared to conduct monthly aerial surveys; Specialist crews conducting water quality sampling; Underwater imagery of marine life and seabed biodiversity; Growth of marine life on a buoy retrieved from the water.

# Shaping offshore wind through innovation

Ørsted Australia's Lead Supply Chain Development Manager, Marc Adams, recently spoke at the Australian Wind Industry Forum in Melbourne about how innovation is shaping the future of offshore wind.

Marc highlighted technologies including offshore cargo drones, which are being used at offshore wind farms in the UK to transport equipment directly from vessels to turbines while they continue operating.



↑ Cargo drones delivering equipment to offshore turbines in the North Sea

The drones, which are capable of carrying up to 100 kilograms, can directly transfer equipment from the vessel to the nacelle of a turbine while it remains operational. Traditionally, this transfer process requires turbines to shut down so that technicians and cranes can complete the task.

Use of the drones improves safety by reducing lifting operations and personnel transfers at sea, while also helping lower operational costs and turbine downtime. To date, the drones have completed more than 550 flights across more than 400 turbines.

Another example is Ørsted's Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV), which was deployed in Gippsland in March 2025 to collect metocean data in the Bass Strait.

Operating remotely, the USV gathers critical information including wind conditions, wave heights, sea currents, and environmental data to support surveys. Unlike traditional floating buoys or met masts, the USV can travel



independently and remain offshore for extended periods without requiring large installation vessels or narrow weather windows.



Marc presenting at the 'Offshore wind: Grid, technology, and supply chain solutions' session.

## Strengthening the Australian-Danish connection through renewable energy

The Ørsted Australian project team were honoured to be part of the Danish State Visit in March, contributing to important conversations about renewable energy.

The visit aimed to strengthen relations between our respective countries and the shared path to renewable energy and a green future.



Left: Albert Quan (Ørsted's Gippsland Project Development Director), Troy McDonald (GLaWAC Chairperson), Darren McCubbin (Gippsland Climate Change Network CEO), Rasmus Errboe (Ørsted CEO), Nick Ashburner (GLaWAC CEO), Per Mejnert Kristensen (Ørsted's APAC CEO) and Anh Mai (Offshore Wind Energy Victoria Executive Director) at the Evening in the Garden Dinner.



🕒 Their Majesties King Frederik and Queen Mary during the State Visit.

## From Melbourne to Denmark

Leveraging Ørsted's global leadership in offshore wind, the Gippsland project has recently supported two PhD placements at our Denmark headquarters to further local understanding of how the industry will come to life in Australia.

University of Melbourne PhD student, Bastian Moya Ureta, is currently at Ørsted's head office at Gentofte for a three-month placement examining how offshore wind can integrate into Australia's evolving energy system.

The placement is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed between Ørsted and University of Melbourne in 2024, which has been re-signed to reflect the scope of Bastian's research.



⤴ PhD student Bastian Moya Ureta (right) at Ørsted's Denmark headquarters

Bastian, from the University's Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, is leading research focused on how offshore wind farms will connect to, and operate within, Australia's electricity grid.

Separately, in late 2025 Ørsted's Systems Design team were pleased to support self-funded PhD student, Salah Hajtaleb, who spent three months in Gentofte advancing his research into the future of offshore wind in Gippsland.



⤴ PhD student Salah Hajtaleb

Salah is a power system engineer from Monash University who is researching how renewable energy sources like offshore wind farms can be better managed to keep electricity systems stable and reliable.

As coal-fired power stations in Gippsland prepare to retire, Salah's research explores how smarter, software-based solutions could help offshore wind play a stronger role in keeping the local electricity grid resilient and secure.

## Celebrating a decade of green energy in the Asia Pacific

As Ørsted marks a decade in the Asia Pacific region, we're also celebrating two years of operation at the Greater Changhua 1 and 2a offshore wind farms in Taiwan.

Since entering operation, the project has generated more than 7 billion kilowatt hours of renewable energy, highlighting the role offshore wind can play at scale.

Experiences from projects like Greater Changhua continue to help inform Ørsted's global offshore wind work, including here in Gippsland.



📍 Students exploring the VR headset experience at Federation University in Berwick

## Ørsted in the community

A big part of our work is helping people explore what offshore wind means up close, including through conversations with students across the region.

From orientation week at Federation University in Berwick to local careers expos in Korumburra, we have been giving students a closer look into the world of offshore wind. Students stepped into our VR headset experience, exploring the scale, roles, and opportunities the industry offers.



### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Ørsted acknowledges the Gunaikurnai people's spiritual connection to their lands, waters and sky. Since the first sunrise, the Gunaikurnai people have cared for and nurtured this sacred land on which our projects will be developed.

We will embrace the legacy of their ancestors by valuing the resilient culture they have maintained for thousands of years. Together, we will build an authentic relationship that enables their direct benefit.

### **Contact**

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