



Seaspray Windfarm Strategy Group

Renewables with respect | beyond 25km from shore

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SEASPRAY COMMUNITY FORMS OFFSHORE WIND STRATEGY GROUP TO DEMAND RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT

MORE than 120 concerned Seaspray residents attended a public meeting hosted by the Seaspray Ratepayers Association on Saturday July 12, where community members overwhelmingly voted to establish a dedicated subcommittee in response to the growing concerns over offshore wind projects proposed for the region.

The newly formed Seaspray Windfarm Strategy Group (SWSG) will represent the community's interests regarding offshore wind development near Seaspray and The Honeysuckles along the iconic 90 Mile Beach. While the group supports renewable energy - including offshore wind - it is calling for responsible, transparent planning and projects that do not place undue burden on coastal communities.

"The community is not anti-renewables," said SWSG's Fiona Lawrence. "We simply believe wind farms should be located no closer than 25km from shore. Projects like the proposed Blue Mackerel wind farm, planned just 10km offshore and directly in front of the Seaspray Surf Club, impose all the visual, environmental and social risk without delivering any clear benefit to our region."

The proposed Blue Mackerel wind farm includes 70 turbines, each reaching 300m high, which are 10 times the height of the 30m oil rigs currently visible 20km offshore. By contrast, the community supports other projects such as Aurora Green, a separate offshore wind proposal located more than 25km from Seaspray's shoreline.

The SWSG is also advocating for:

- Authentic consultation with directly affected communities.
- Fair and transparent planning processes.
- Underground transmission lines between Seaspray and Yallourn to minimise land use impact.
- Access to visual simulations of proposed wind farms, calling on Blue Mackerel to provide public renders, as none have yet been released.

In the absence of official visuals, the SWSG has created and displayed its own image simulations showing the visual impact of turbines 10km offshore. These, along with minutes of all meetings and official correspondence, are available for public viewing at the Seaspray General Store and on the group's website. Guest speakers at the meeting included community representatives Dave Madden, Marty Jackson and Fiona Lawrence from the SWSG, as well as Noeline Andrew (Seaspray Ratepayers representative on the Gippsland Offshore Wind Community Assembly) and Maree Howard from Better Transmissions Gippsland.

More:

For background: Seaspray Windfarm Strategy Group Chair Marty Jackson on 0427 497 633

For comment: Seaspray Windfarm Strategy Group spokesperson Dave Madden on 0408 471 062