

Media Release

Thursday 15 May, 2025



GLaWAC and Blue Mackerel Build a New Model for Offshore Wind

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) has signed an Engagement Agreement with the developers of offshore wind project Blue Mackerel, reinforcing GLaWAC's leadership in shaping how large-scale renewable energy projects engage with Traditional Owners during early planning.

The agreement marks a key milestone, ensuring that Gunaikurnai people are actively involved at the feasibility stage of the proposed Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project, which aims to deliver up to 1GW of renewable energy, enough to power over half a million Victorian homes by 2032.

The agreement provides initial resourcing for GLaWAC to advocate for the rights, interests and aspirations of the Gunaikurnai community throughout the feasibility stage. This includes cultural protections, employment pathways, sustainable economic development, and genuine community engagement.

If the project progresses beyond feasibility, GLaWAC will consult with members to determine the best path forward and ensure any future development respects Gunaikurnai Country and delivers meaningful benefits for members and the broader community.

As with all current feasibility proposals in the region, GLaWAC remains committed to transparency. Any future decision-making will involve consultation with Gunaikurnai members, and a careful assessment of how potential development aligns with community priorities.

GLaWAC Acting CEO Charee Smith:

"This agreement is about being involved early and on our terms. It's not an endorsement of the project, although it reflects a shared commitment to respectful engagement. The Gunaikurnai voice must be part of every conversation from here."

"We have a responsibility to protect what matters to our members and to make sure any future development, should it proceed, reflects our values and aspirations."

Parkwind Australia Country Head Anil Chanana:

"Signing an agreement with GLaWAC is an important step in Blue Mackerel's ongoing development process allowing Blue Mackerel to further mature its current relationship with the Gunaikurnai people."

"It formalises our commitment to working collaboratively with Gunaikurnai people, respecting their rights, culture, and aspirations."

"We look forward to building a lasting partnership that delivers meaningful, long-term benefits for the Gunaikurnai community and the broader Gippsland region."

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About Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation:

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party that represents the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of our Country, as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006.

We are the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) for the Gunaikurnai people and claim area, as outlined in the agreement, providing joint management of 14 parks and reserves within the State. We have a membership of more than 650 Traditional Owners, all of whom have proven their ancestral links to one of 25 Apical Ancestors registered in the Native Title Consent Determination.

Find out more at www.gunaikurnai.org

About the Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project:

Blue Mackerel is being developed by Parkwind, an integrated offshore wind business with 10 years' experience in developing, financing and operating offshore wind farms in Europe. Since April 2024, Parkwind has been wholly owned by JERA Nex that invests in, owns and operates a global portfolio of offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and battery storage projects totalling 3.4GW.

Find out more at <https://www.bluemackerel.com.au/>