

# The Golden Beach Gas Project

## Visual Impacts

The Golden Beach Gas Project (Project) involves the development of the Golden Beach Gas Field in the Gippsland Basin to provide critical gas supply and storage infrastructure that will materially benefit the Victorian energy market.

Once in operation, the Project will initially increase the domestic gas supply before transitioning to storage operations which will enhance the energy market security and efficiency while supporting Victoria's transition to renewables.

### Environment Effects Statement Process

The Minister for Planning determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES process is underway and is assessing any potential environmental, social, economic and planning impacts of the Project. An EES will be prepared setting out these assessments and our approach to mitigating any impacts.

As part of the EES process, an assessment of the impact of the Project on visual amenity has been undertaken. GB Energy has prepared this fact sheet to explain the visual assessment and welcomes any feedback.

### Visual impacts

Specialists have completed a visual impact study for the EES to assess the impact the Project may have on the landscape, views and visual amenity. This study has assessed the level of potential visual impacts on the broader surrounding area of the Project and the study will provide guidance on how to minimise negative impacts. Site surveys and desktop assessments have been used to identify visual and landscape values near the Project, including public spaces and private vantage points from which elements of the Project may be visible.

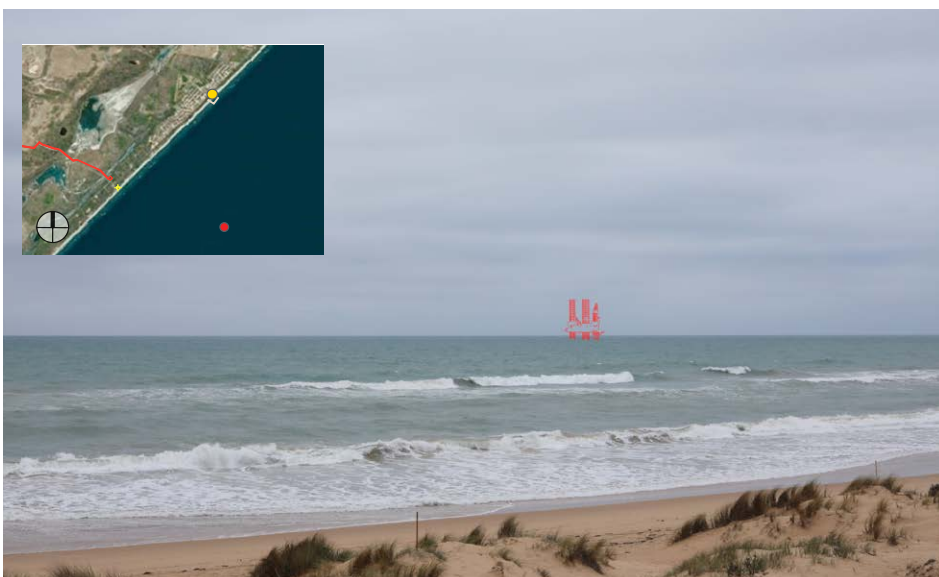
Photomontages were undertaken for the jack-up rig and gas compressor station as these components of the Project were assessed as having potential visual impacts through construction and operation of the Project.

### Key findings

Key findings of the visual impact assessment include:

- The jack-up rig would have a 'medium' impact to sensitive receptors<sup>1</sup> during a temporary period of approximately 90 days during the construction phase of the project. Based on this assessment, mitigation measures are not considered necessary.
- A photomontage from the Golden Beach Picnic Ground with a sketched outline of a jack-up rig at the proposed location of drilling is provided on this fact sheet.
- Photomontages for the gas compressor station were also undertaken from five nearby receptors (dwellings), all of which had negligible or no views of the proposed gas compressor station. Based on this assessment, mitigation measures are not considered necessary.
- Highlighting the importance of vegetation rehabilitation following construction, particularly in relation to the shore crossing and onshore pipeline.
- During offshore construction, some vessels will be visible from shore including the jack-up rig which will be offshore for a temporary period of approximately 90 days.

<sup>1</sup> A receptor that is sensitive either by virtue of significance or exposure to a proposed change in the landscape.



A sketched outline of a jack-up drilling rig at the Project's proposed drilling location, viewed from the Golden Beach Picnic Ground.