REGIA
Marine Seismic Survey

**Gunditjmirring Consultation Day**
**17 February 2024**

**Paul Rheinberg and Matt Smith**

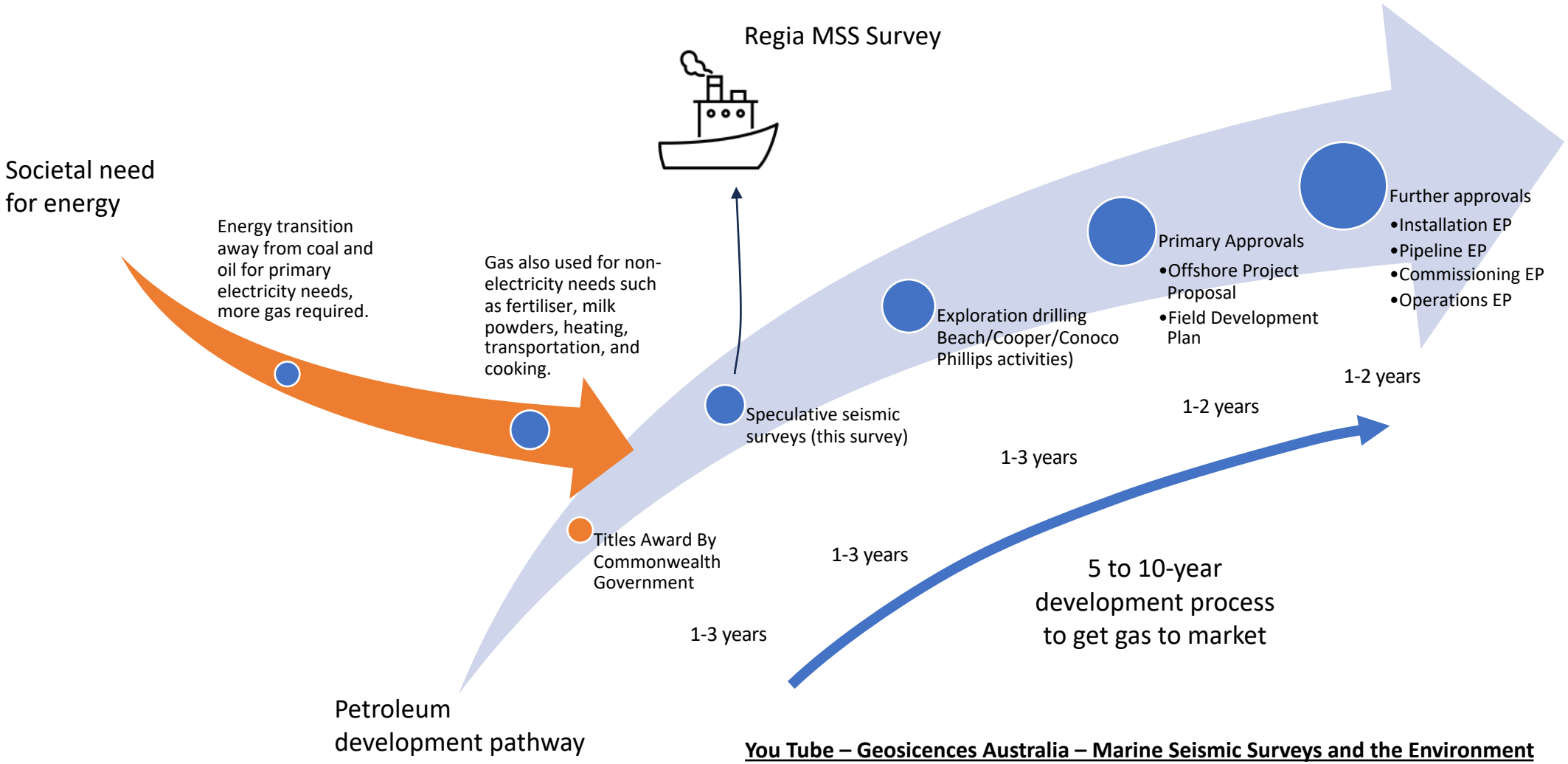
CGG



# Agenda

1. Acknowledgement
2. Project background
3. Project status
4. Sea Country impacts
5. Protection of cultural values
6. Good consultation?

# Project Background – Need to find gas




**You Tube – Geosicences Australia – Marine Seismic Surveys and the Environment**

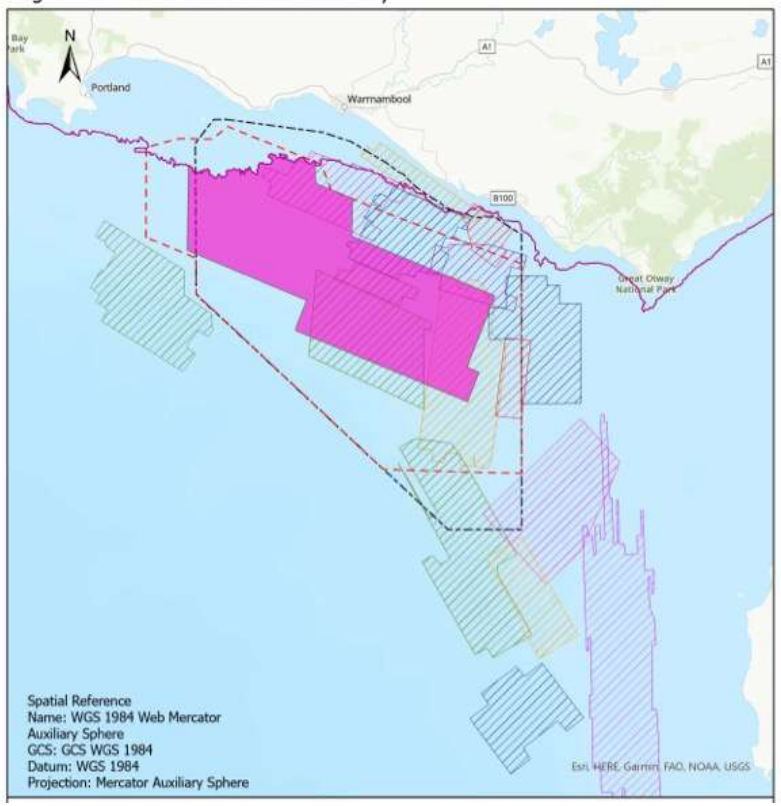
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# Project Background – Previous seismic surveys

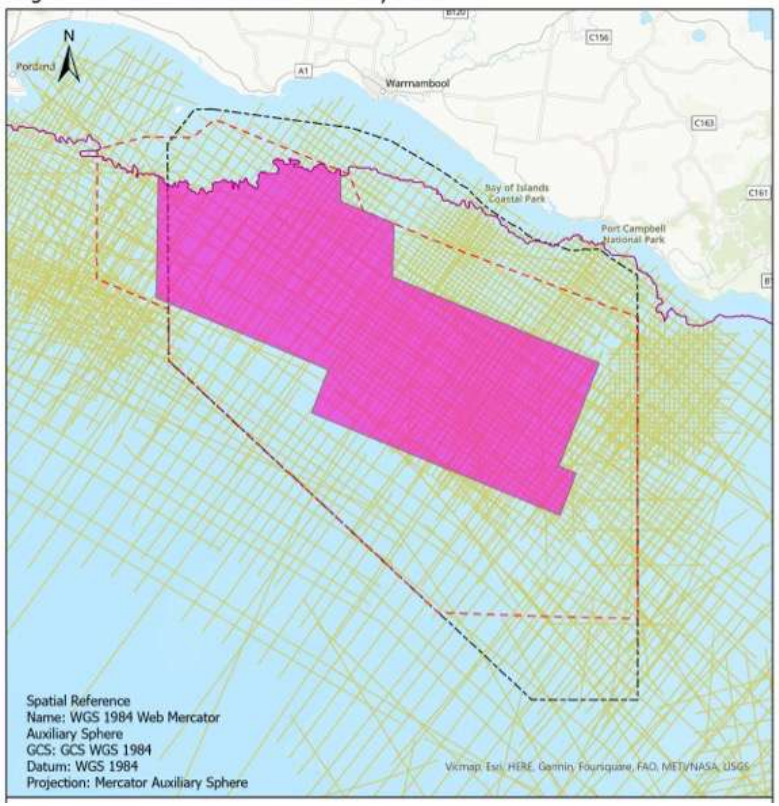
**Seismic Survey Facts**

- 82 Previous surveys in the region since 1960. Significant petroleum assets known to be in the region.
- Significant technology improvements reducing environmental impacts over time.
- Vastly improved environmental protections in modern practices.
- Otway marine bioregion is healthy, biodiverse, and resilient to many human impacts from fishing, shipping, tourism, defense activities, and seismic surveys.
- No evidence of significant long-term environmental impacts from seismic surveys identified at population levels.

Regia MSS - NOPIMS 3D Seismic Survey




Regia MSS - NOPIMS 2D Seismic Survey Lines



# Regia MSS

- 90-day vessel-based activity.
- 60 days of acquisition where sound is emitted.
- Anytime in 2024 to 2028.
- Not in the months of January, February, or March.
- No acquisition within 18km buffer of Deen Maar.



# Project Status

Pre-submission consultation

- Notice of preparation of an Environment Plan
- Establishing context
- Environmental assessment
- Environmental management & treatment
- Opportunity for objections and claims
- Submission to NOPSEMA

**Public comment**

NOPSEMA assessment

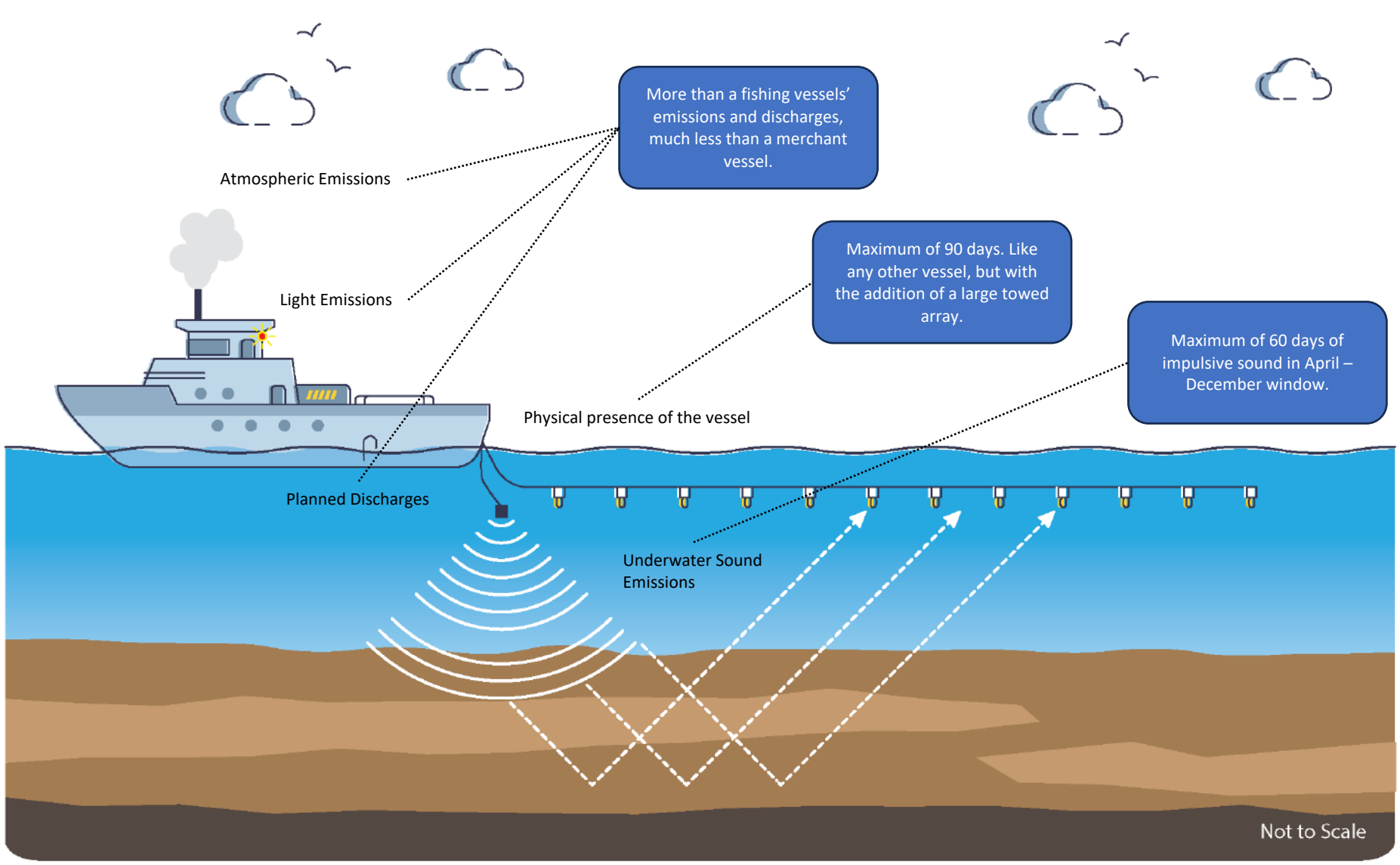
Ongoing management & consultation

# Project Status
# Consultation with GMTOAC

- Wrote to GMTOAC and other Aboriginal Corporations on 15 February 2023.
- Meet with GMTOAC on 30 May 2023 – heard about cultural values and were requested to await further instruction.
- Published full assessment of impacts, including assessment of impacts on cultural values.
- Sought meeting with GMTOAC on 22 Sept 2023.
- Follow-up with GMTOAC on 11 October 2023.
- Informed GMTOAC of intent to submit EP on 12 December 2023.
- Provide 8 project updates, run 6 webinars, advertised in Koori Mail and other print media, advertisement on social media, run multiple community sessions in Portland, Port Fairy, & Warrnambool.
- EP submitted and published for public comment, open until 26 February 2024.



# Impact Pathways on Sea Country



# Impacts to Sea Country Values

| Deen Maar | Kooyang (short-finned eel) | Karntubul (whales) | Bonney Upwelling/Spawning |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Acquisition exclusion zone of 18km around Island<br>• No vessel traffic between Island & Mainland | • Detailed assessment undertaken<br>• No effect to World Heritage values of Budj Bim<br>• No measurable effects to population levels predicted | • Detailed assessment and modelling undertaken<br>• Effects consistent with Commonwealth's Conservation Management Plans<br>• Implement a Fauna Management Plan | • Detailed assessment undertaken<br>• Avoiding summer months (peak upwelling/spawning) |

| Spiritual Connection | Dreaming stories, ceremony, song and dance traditions |
|---|---|

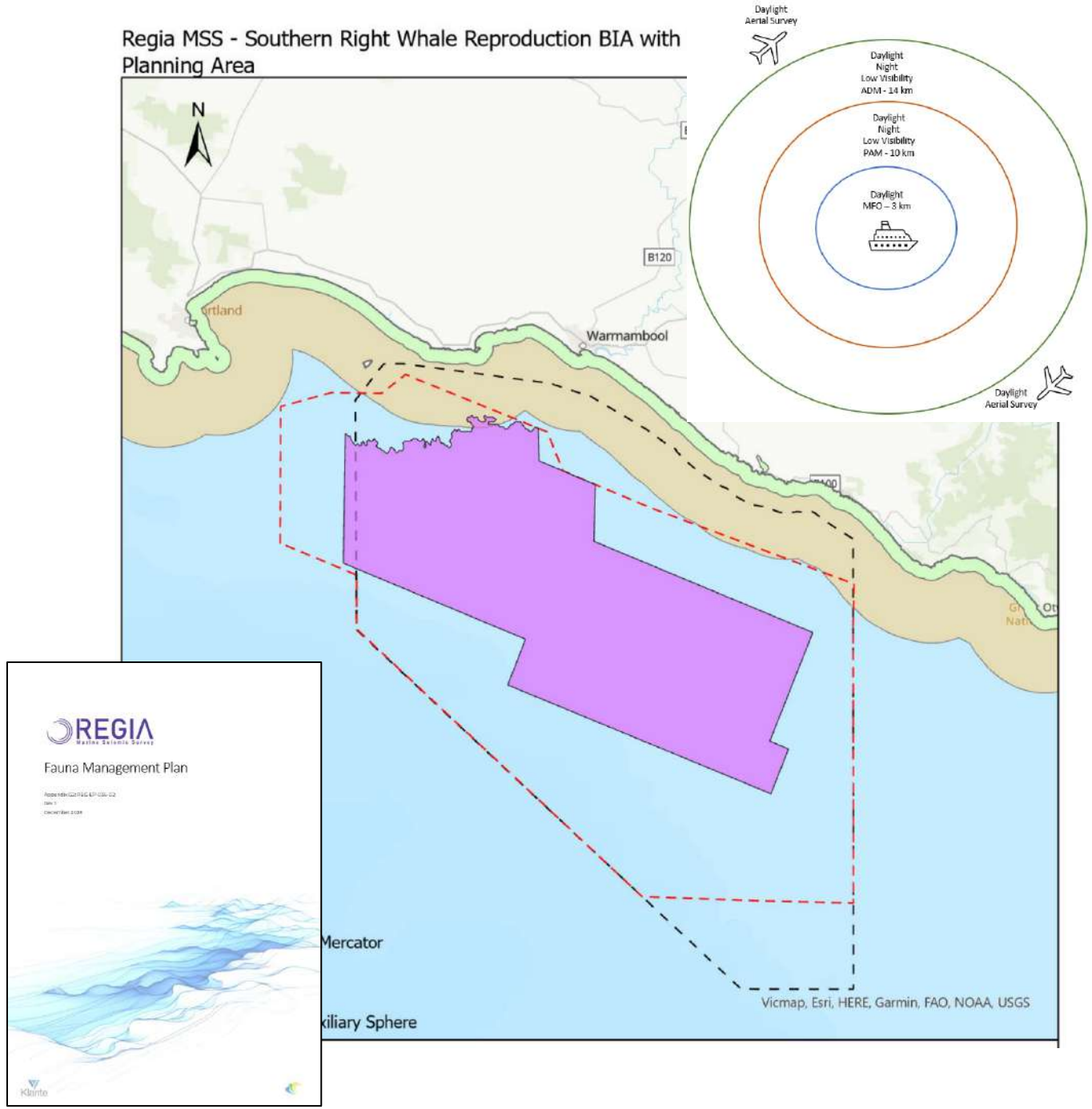
# Plans to Protect Sea Country Values



- CGG has committed to a partake in a joint venture with other companies proposing activities in the area.
- Program designed to identify, preserve, and protect cultural heritage sites and values within areas of operations off the Otway coast.
- Assistance with research proposals, training opportunities, networking, information sharing, developing and maintaining working groups.

# Fauna Management Plan

- Need to detect whales (particularly at night-time and in low visibility conditions)
  - SRW – Out to 12 km
  - BW – Out to 14 km
- Observations will come from:
  - MMO's
  - PAM Operators of Vessel
  - Tethered Buoys
  - Aerial Overflights (on advice)
- Expert Panel to be established for:
  - Receiving and verifying information
  - Evaluating escalation measures
  - Determining need for aerial surveys
- Committed to a trial of tethered buoys as part of the detection solution



# Good Consultation?



## Process

Fit-for-purpose

Holistic

Well-understood



## Relationships

Established early

Voluntary

Aligned values



## Substantive Issues

Revealed through trust and respect

Fully understood and manageable

Commonwealth Government is currently reviewing the consultation requirements.
Encourage input into this review.