Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

Regulating offshore renewables

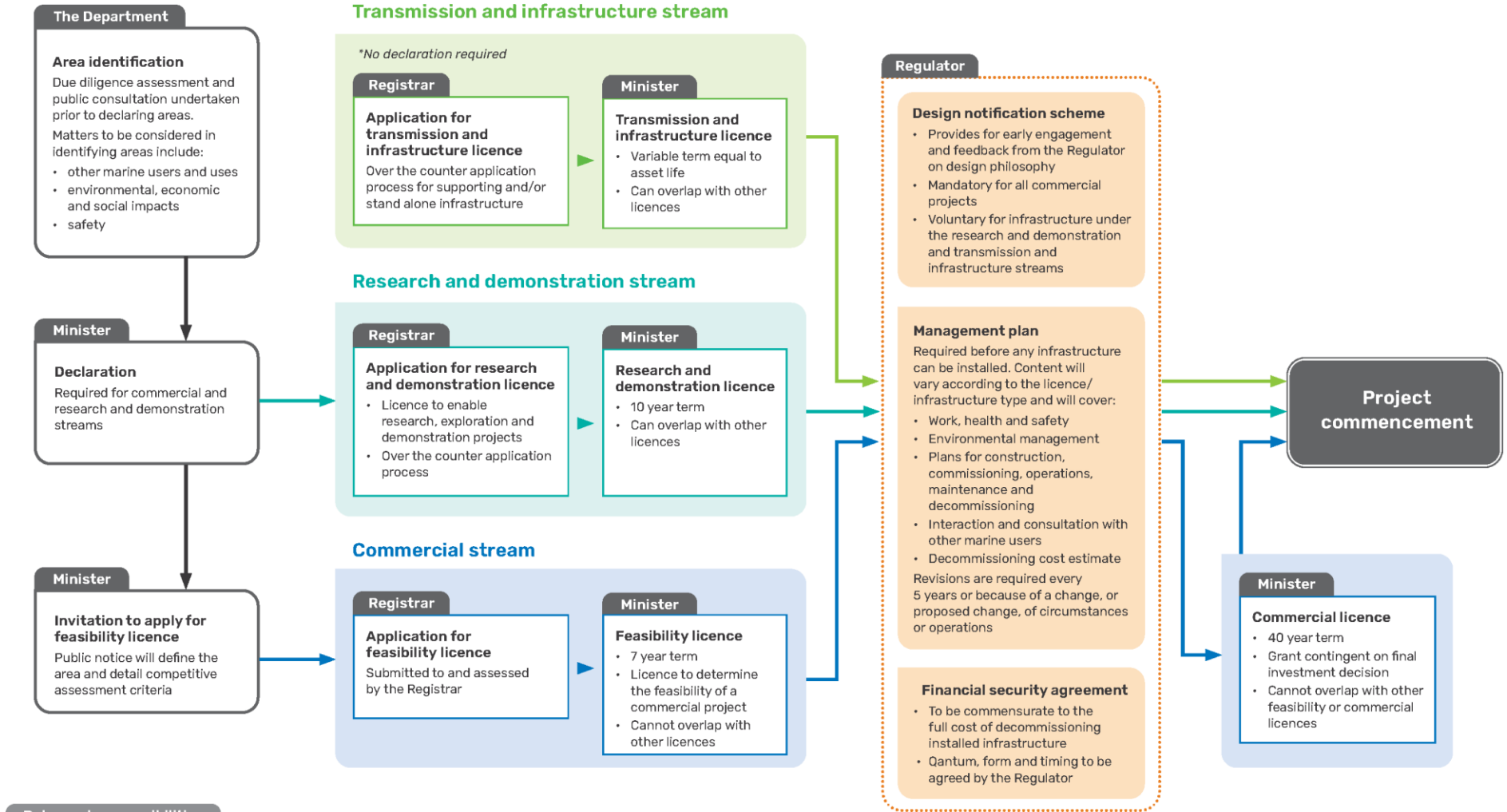
University of Melbourne

28 Sept 2026

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Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Framework
Regulatory Process Map



Roles and responsibilities

Minister (for Energy) Responsible for making all licensing decisions under the framework	**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (The Department)** Responsible for leading area identification process and advising and supporting the Minister for Energy	**Offshore Infrastructure Registrar** Responsible for assessment of applications and ongoing licence administration	**Offshore Infrastructure Regulator** Responsible for oversight of work, health and safety, environmental management, infrastructure integrity and financial security for offshore infrastructure activities

Key decision makers

Minister for Climate Change and Energy	Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water	National Environmental Protection Authority	Offshore Infrastructure Registrar	Offshore Infrastructure Regulator
• Declaration of areas • Granting of licences	• Policy and regulatory development • Identification of areas and support to Minister on declarations	• EPBC Act approvals	• Assessment of licence applications • Provision of advice to Minister • Ongoing licence administration	• Design notification • Management plan • Financial security • Safety & protection zones

Key principles of the OEI Act framework

- Designed to operate in conjunction with other applicable Commonwealth legislative regimes
- Strong focus on the protection of workers
- Applies the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (collectively, the applied work health and safety provisions) through modified application to address the specific nature of the offshore renewables industry, including working in remote offshore locations.
- Shared use of the offshore marine environment, recognising all users and balancing competing interests.
- Technology agnostic
- Scalable to nature of activities being conducted under licences.



Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021

No. 120, 2021

Compilation No. 2

Compilation date: 1 December 2022

Includes amendments up to: Act No. 71, 2022

Registered: 13 December 2022



Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022

made under the

Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021

Compilation No. 6

Compilation date: 30 June 2026

Includes amendments: F2026L00822

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator



So why do we regulate?

- To keep the workforce safe
- To protect the environment
- To assure infrastructure integrity
- To ensure accountability and funding for decommissioning and remediation
- To provide transparency and accountability
- To provide natural justice and procedural fairness
- To provide long term investment certainty
- To provide legal certainty



Interaction with the EPBC Act

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) referral and decision likely to be required for large scale projects
- Management plans must address how licence holder is to comply with EPBC assessment outcomes
- The OIR monitors compliance with obligations under the OEI Act, OEI Regulations and approved management plans
- OIR has administrative arrangements in place with National EPA to enable efficient and effective information sharing with respect to compliance matters.





Management plans - Key principles

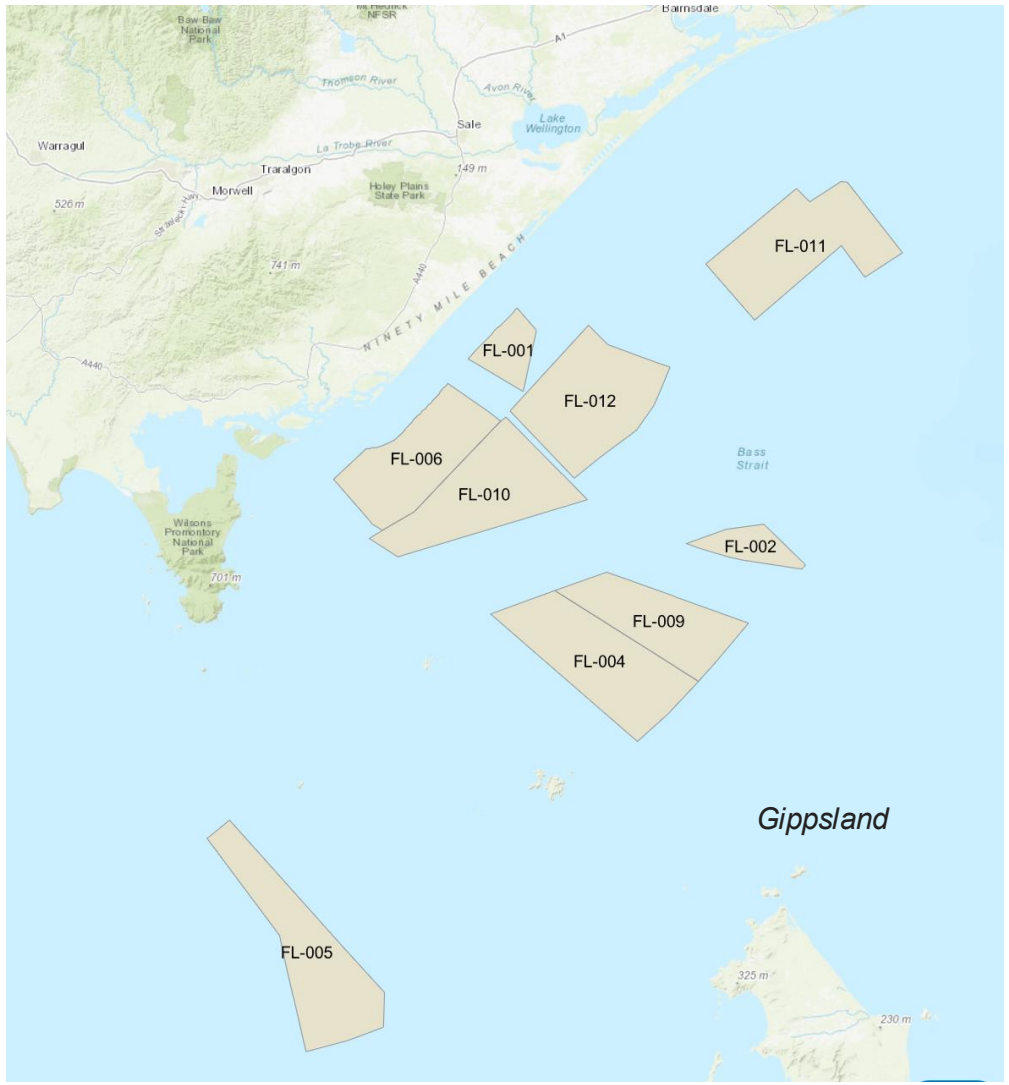
- Integrated risk management document that describes operational aspects of offshore renewables projects.
- Licence holders must have a management plan approved by the OIR before offshore infrastructure activities can proceed.
- Plan must appropriately address all requirements of the OEI Act and its regulations to be approved.
- Legally enforceable document that provides a basis for the OIR to monitor ongoing compliance.
- Once a management plan has been approved, licence holders must submit a management plan summary for publication on the OIR's website.



Management plans cover



Current licences- offshore Victoria





What's happening offshore?

To search for an activity, click on an area on the map or use the search tool below. Enter keywords for a free text search, or narrow the results by using the filters.



Keyword search

Licence holder...

Licence type...

Location...

State...

Apply

Project name	Licence holder	Licence type	Location	Management plan status	Details
Aurora Green	Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	View
Blue Mackerel	Blue Mackerel North Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	View
Gippsland 01	Orsted Offshore Australia 1 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	View
Gippsland 02	Orsted Offshore Australia 1 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	View
High Sea Wind	High Sea Wind Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	View

Current industry activity

- Licence holders have commenced feasibility activities offshore Gippsland.
- Early-stage activities include metocean studies and geotechnical investigations to assess the potential for harnessing wind energy.
- These activities are relatively small-scale and low risk.



Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

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