



**Offshore
Infrastructure
Regulator**

Regulating offshore renewables

University of Western Australia

21 August 2025

oir.gov.au

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Whadjuk people of Noongar Boodjar, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respect to Elders past, and present.



Outline

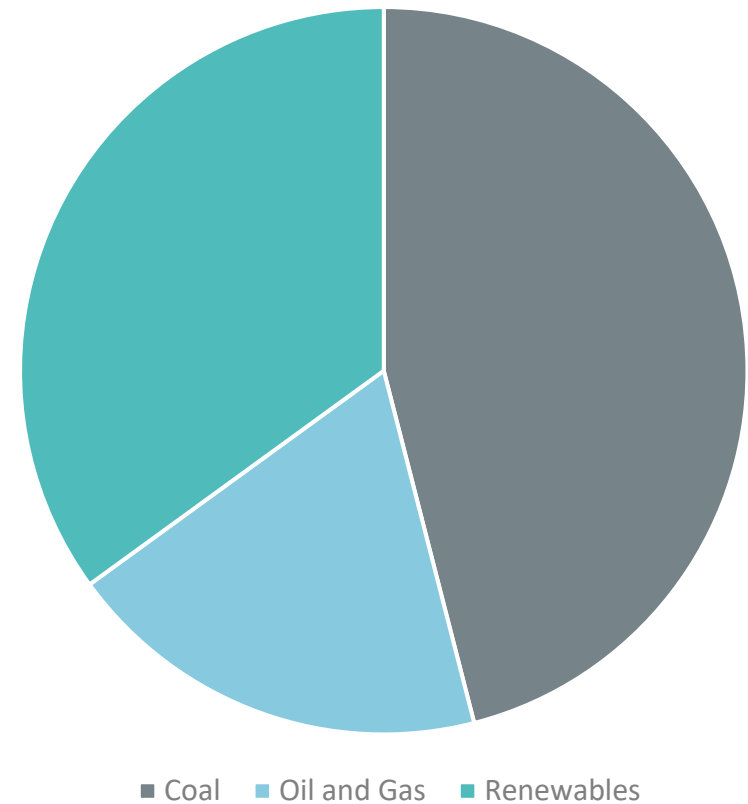
- Setting the scene
- The regulatory framework
- The current state of play
- Looking forward



Setting the scene - Australian Government energy policy

- Net zero economy by 2050
- 43% emissions reduction on 2005 levels by 2030
- 82% of electricity supplied by renewable energy sources by 2030
- Secure, reliable and affordable electricity
- Victoria has legislated 9GW of offshore wind by 2040

Electricity generation in Australia 2023



Australian Energy Statistics 2022-23

Energy consumption up

▲ **2.0%**

First time in 4 years

28% Energy
productivity
improvement
Over the
decade

(Economic output/energy consumption)



Highest on record

35%
Electricity
generation
from
renewables
in 2023

Transport sector
energy use up

▲ **12%**



Transport accounts for 28% of
energy consumption in 2022-23



▲ **20%**
Highest on record

Growth in solar generation
in 2023



3%
Residential
use down

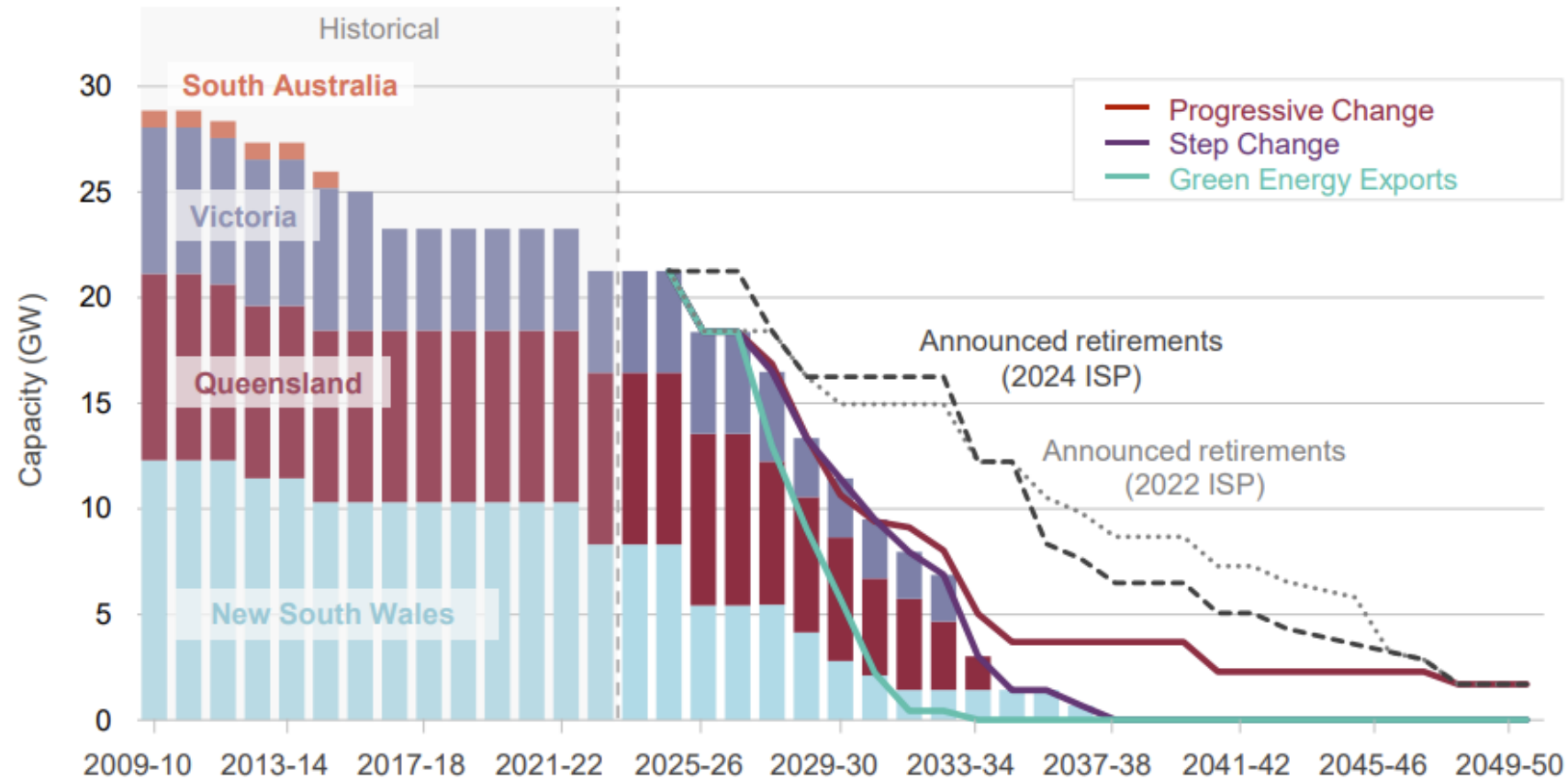


4%
Commercial
use up



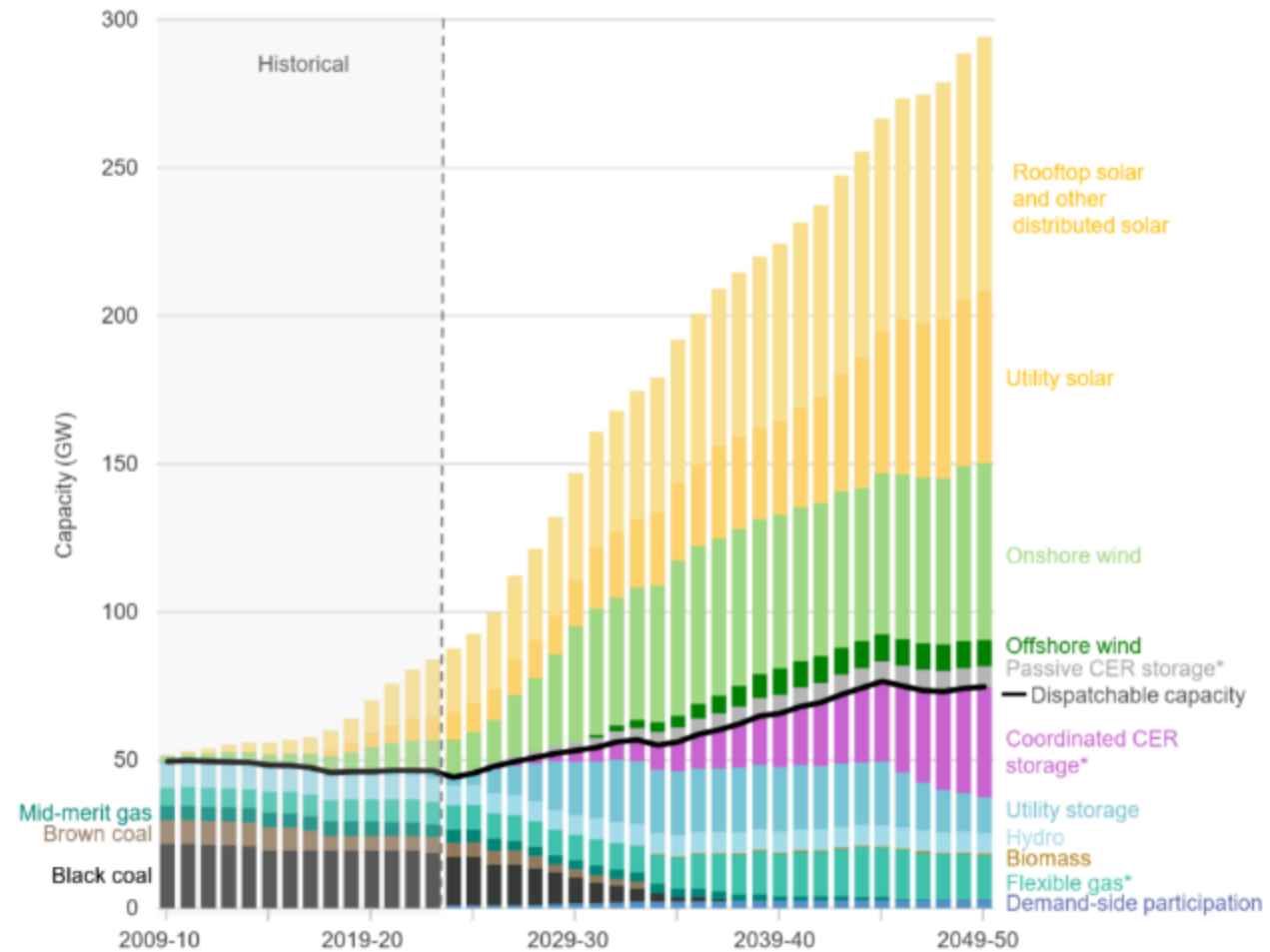
What are the drivers for renewable energy?

Figure 1 Coal capacity, NEM (GW, 2009-10 to 2049-50)

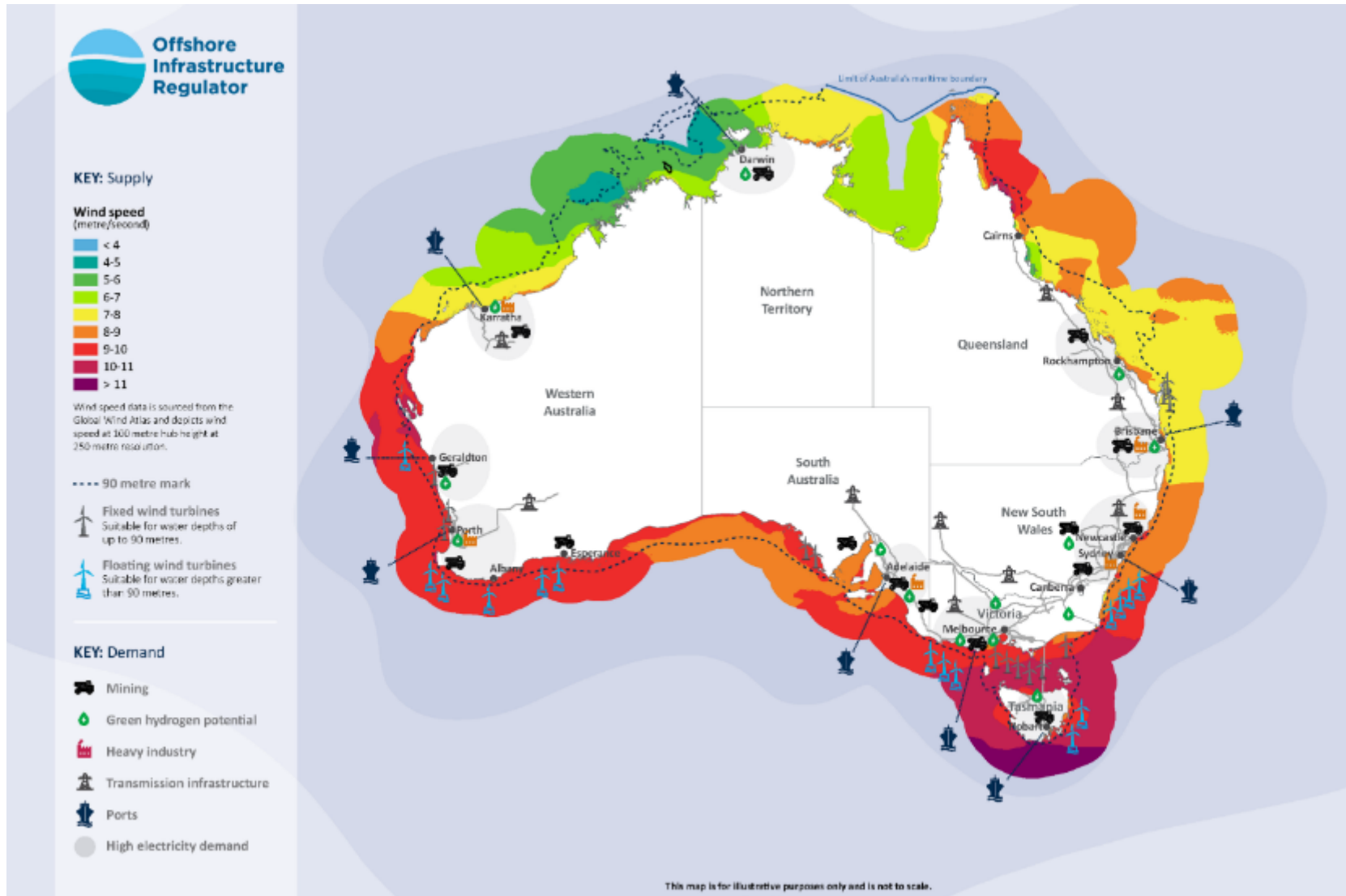


Where do we need to get?

Figure 2 Capacity, NEM (GW, 2009-10 to 2049-50, Step Change)



Supply and demand potential for offshore wind energy





Why go offshore?

Larger turbines with higher capacity factors

Strong, consistent wind speed and direction

Ability to complement solar generation profile

Proximity to demand centres and established grid

- Visual amenity, noise pollution and other social impacts reduced
- Potential for reduced impacts to birds, bats and habitats
- Reduced land use competition
- Abundance of space and potential to go further offshore with floating technology
- Reduced transport and logistical constraints

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator



- Established under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*
- The OIR has responsibility for overseeing WHS, infrastructure integrity and environmental management for offshore infrastructure activities in the Commonwealth offshore area (>3NM - 200NM)
- OEI Act is administered by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.



Regulatory roadmap

For commercial scale offshore renewables projects in Australia under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act Framework*

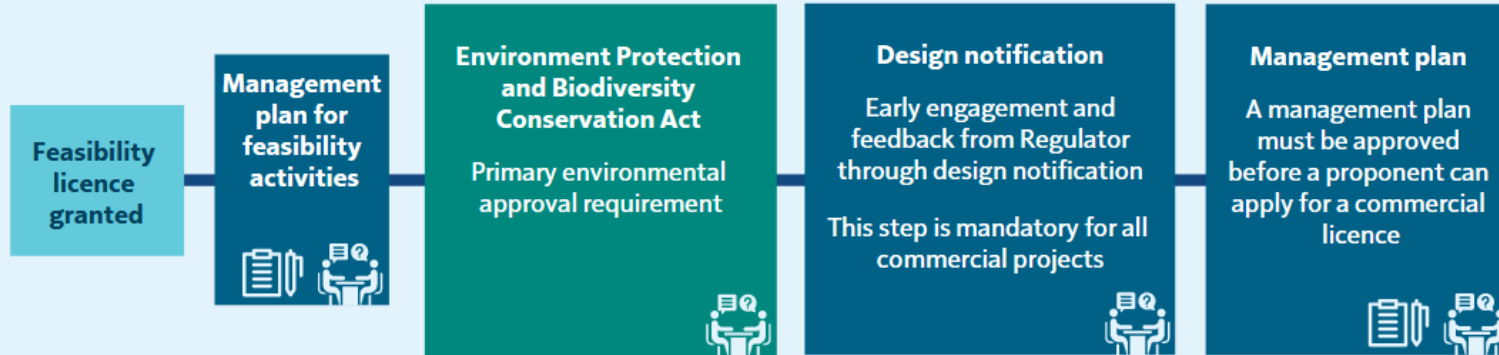


Pre-licencing, 12 months



Feasibility licence, up to 7 years

Relevant state and territory approvals may also be required



Commercial licence, up to 40 years

A management plan for commercial licence activities must be revised periodically, throughout the life of a project



LEGEND



Opportunities for consultation



Compliance and enforcement

Minister for Energy

Offshore Infrastructure Registrar



The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

*A transmission and infrastructure licence may also be required, this process is not addressed here

Key decision makers

Minister for Climate Change and Energy

- Declaration of areas
- Granting of licences

Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water

- Policy and regulatory development
- Identification of areas and support to Minister on declarations

Offshore Infrastructure Registrar

- Assessment of licence applications
- Provision of advice to Minister
- Ongoing licence administration

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

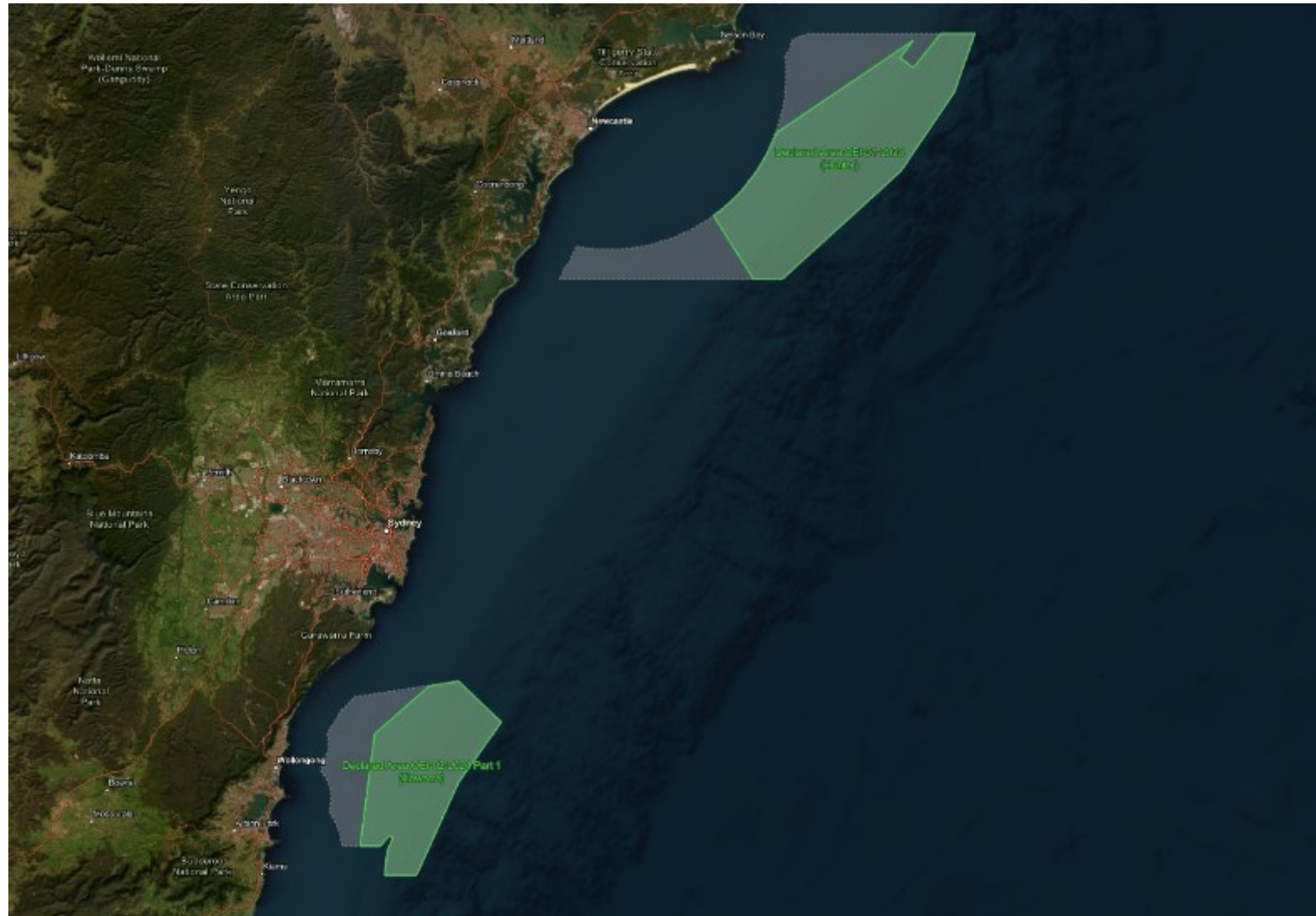
- Design notification
- Management plan
- Financial security
- Safety & protection zones



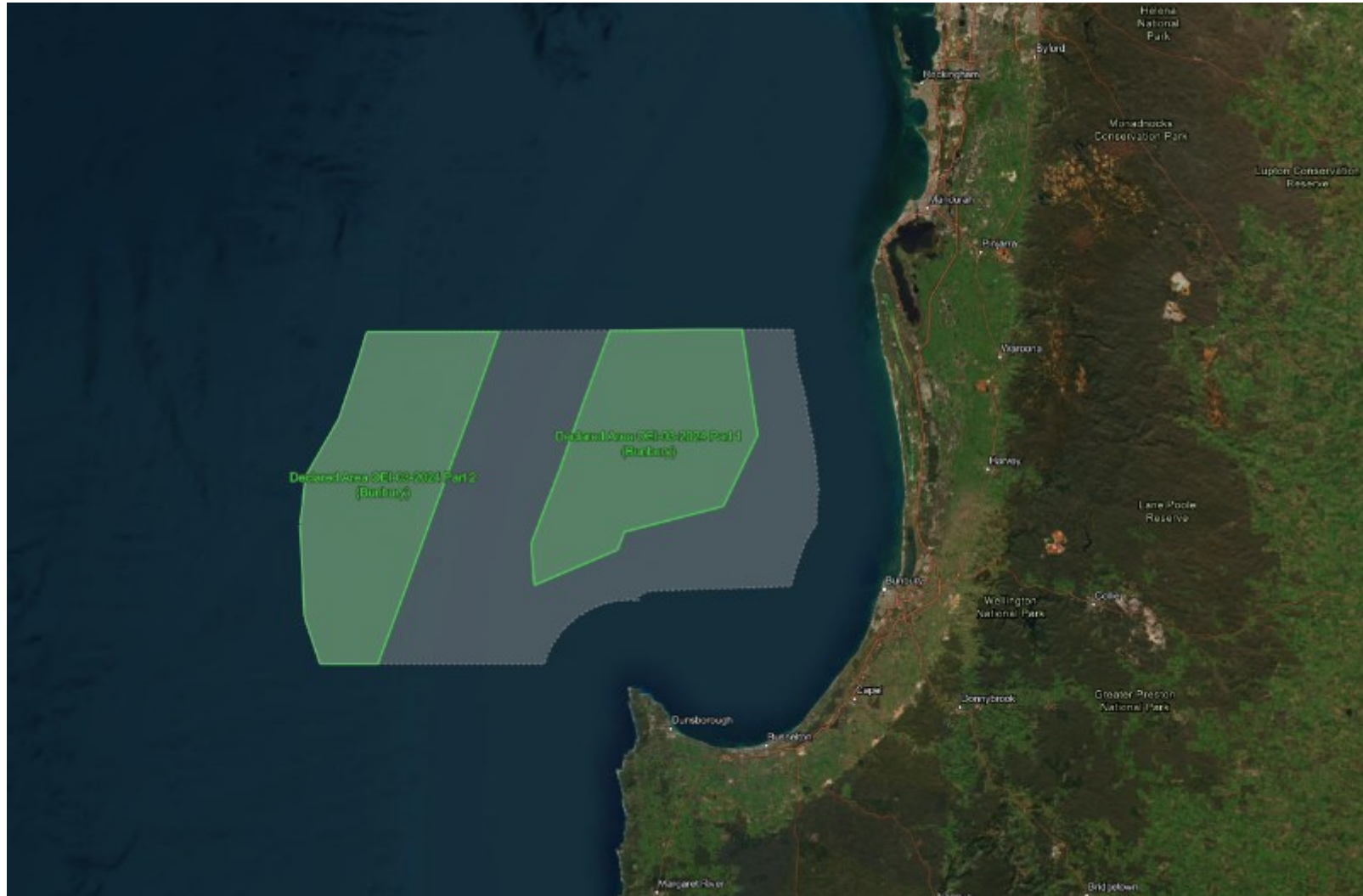
Declared areas – Victoria, Tasmania



Declared areas - NSW



Declared area - WA



Key approvals - project proponent responsibility



*Offshore Electricity
Infrastructure Act 2021* licence
and management plan



*Environment Protection and
Biodiversity Conservation Act
1999* – Primary environmental
approval



Grid connection agreements
and route to market
arrangements
(States/Territories)



State/Territory
planning/environmental
approvals required for
infrastructure and activity in
coastal waters and onshore



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
- The OIR developed guidance to assist stakeholders in understanding interactions between licencing and environmental approvals process



Our role



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



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

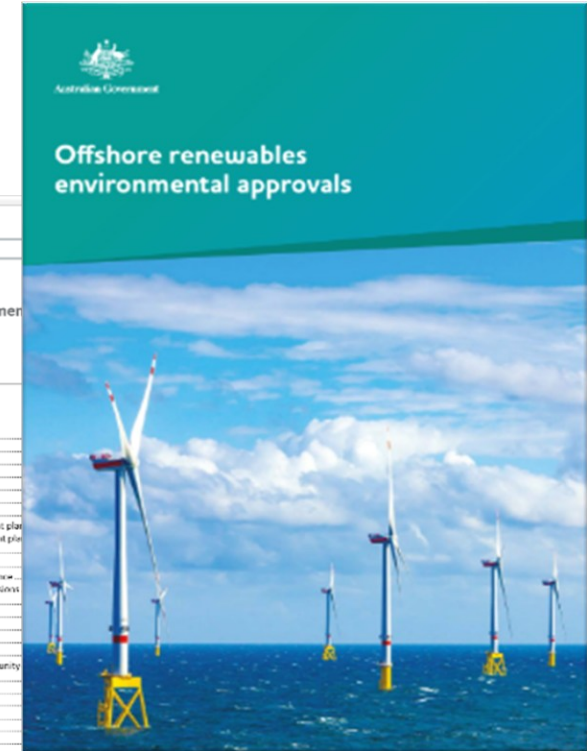


Regulatory status

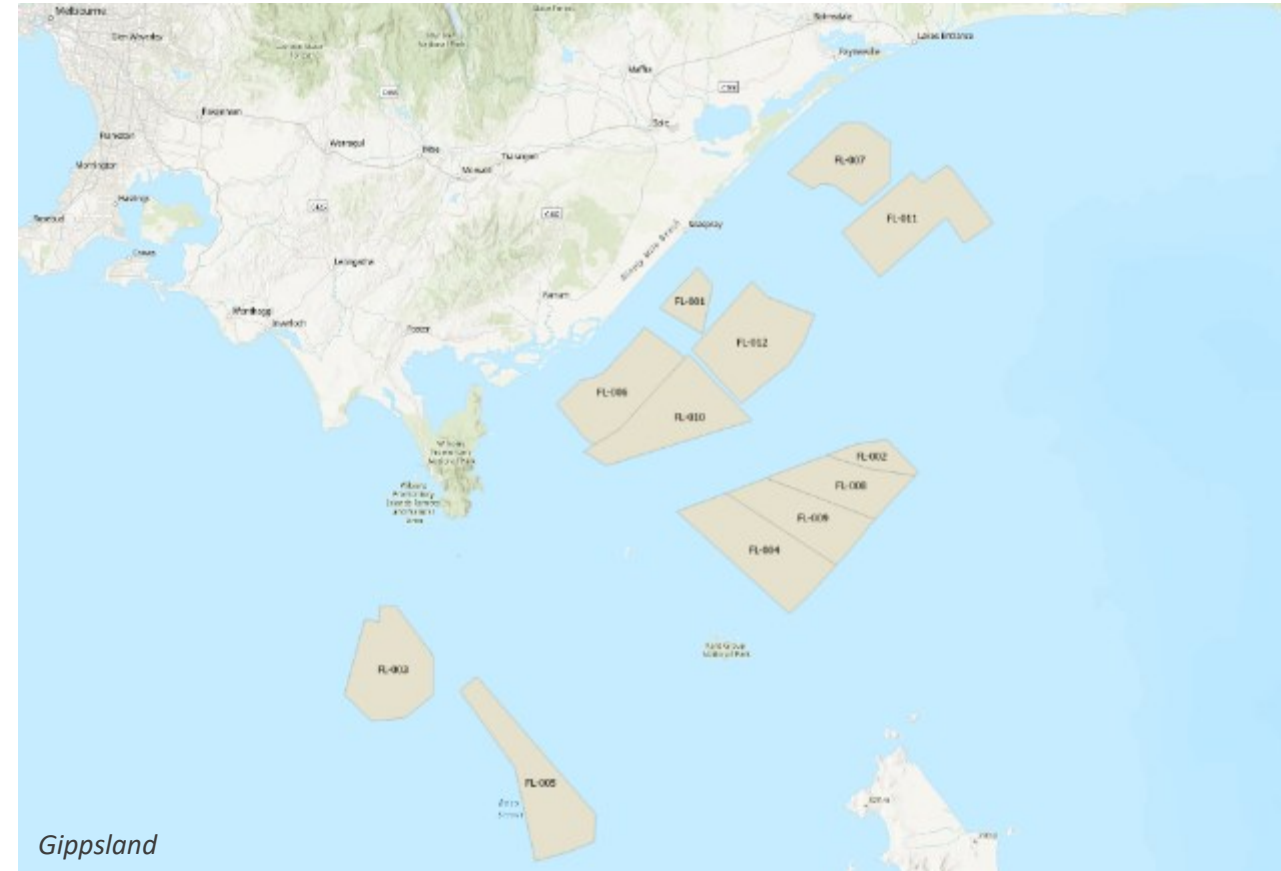
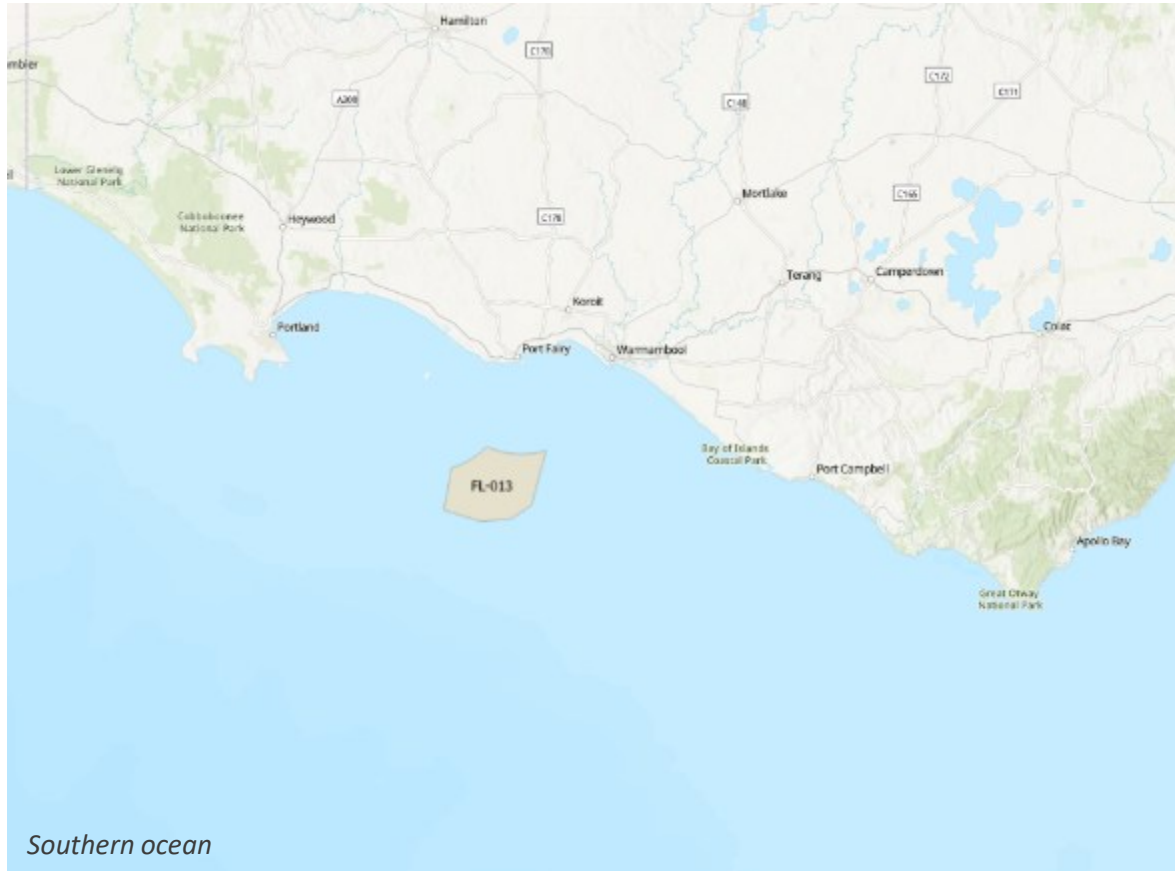
- The Offshore Electricity Amendment Regulations 2024 (amendment regulations) entered into force in December 2024.
- These regulations operationalise the OEI framework and include provisions for management plans, consultation, design notifications, work health and safety, financial security and safety and protection zones.
- OIR has released a suite of explanatory information based on the draft regulations.

	GUIDELINE
Management plan content	
Document No: N-04403-GL2084 A1153587	
Date: 11/12/2024	
Contents	
1. Background.....	
2. Purpose.....	
3. Scope.....	
4. Disclaimer.....	
5. Relevant legislation.....	
6. Management plans under the OEI framework.....	
7. Establishing the context and scope of a management plan.....	
7.1. Defining the licence activities.....	
7.2. Considerations for vessel-based activities.....	
7.3. Timing.....	
7.4. Nature, scale and complexity.....	
7.5. Matters that cannot be fully addressed.....	
7.6. Considerations prior to submitting.....	
8. Management plan content.....	
8.1. Plan must describe activities and o.....	
8.2. Plan must address consultation ca.....	
8.3. Plan must describe stakeholder en.....	
8.4. Conditions of the licence.....	
8.5. Plan must refer to any obligations.....	
8.6. Plan must include information abo.....	
8.7. Plan must address work health and.....	
8.8. Plan must include list of relevant s.....	
8.9. Plan must describe maintenance o.....	
8.10. Plan must describe decommission.....	
8.11. Compliance with financial securit.....	
8.12. The management system.....	
8.13. Plan must address emergency m.....	
8.14. Plan must address compliance w.....	
8.15. Plan may apply, adopt or incorpo.....	
9. Notifications to the OIR.....	
9.1. Notification of incidents, unplanne.....	
9.2. Activity commencement and comp.....	
10. Management plan summaries.....	
11. Monitoring.....	
12. Related documents.....	
Appendix 1 – Outline of management plan con.....	

	GUIDELINE
Consultation and engagement for OEI management	
Document No: N-04403-GL 227-V1 A11517425	
Date: 20 March 2025	
Contents	
1. Background.....	
2. Purpose.....	
3. Scope.....	
4. Disclaimer.....	
5. Relevant legislation.....	
6. Intent of consultation and engagement under the OEI framework.....	
7. Requirement to consult.....	
7.1. Consultation before applying for approval of an initial management plan.....	
7.2. Consultation before applying for approval of a revised management plan.....	
7.3. Consultation required by licence conditions.....	
7.4. Consultation required to comply with EPBC Act obligations.....	
7.5. Consultation required by the Minister – proposed commercial licence.....	
7.6. Consultation required by this applied work health and safety provisions.....	
8. Scope of activities subject to consultation.....	
9. Identification of consultations.....	
9.1. Reasonable effort to identify consultations.....	
9.2. Proximity to licence area.....	
9.3. Directly affected.....	
9.4. Representing the interests of the first person, organisation, community.....	
10. Who is to be consulted.....	
10.1. Commonwealth and State government agencies.....	
10.2. First Nations organisations or groups.....	
10.3. OEI licence holders.....	
10.4. Other commercial activities.....	
10.5. Communities.....	
10.6. Recreational fishers.....	
11. Manner of consultation.....	
11.1. General principles of effective consultation and engagement.....	
11.2. Reasonable effort to consult.....	
11.3. Sufficient information.....	
11.4. Reasonable period.....	
12. Addressing consultation in the management plan.....	
13. Stakeholder engagement strategy.....	
13.1. Publication of the SPS.....	
14. Monitoring.....	
15. Related documents.....	
Appendix A: Australian government agency roles in the Commonwealth offshore area.....	



Current licences



[Home](#) > [What's happening offshore?](#)

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

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

Page last updated: March 31, 2025 12:02pm

Challenges & opportunities

- Coexistence with other marine users and industries
- Social licence essential (visual amenity, cumulative impacts, benefits to local communities)
- Impacts to First Nations cultural heritage
- Environmental impacts to threatened and migratory species
- Interface with grid planning and build out of transmission infrastructure
- Timing for construction and commissioning with retirement of traditional generation assets
- Competition on cost with onshore generation and storage
- Supply chain development and constraints
- Workforce transition, skills and training





**Offshore
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