

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator - Stakeholder Survey - 2025 - Executive Summary

In 2025, MCM Strategic Communications was commissioned to undertake an independent stakeholder survey. The survey evaluated the performance and effectiveness of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) and NOPSEMA on their statutory functions.

Survey Overview

Twenty-six stakeholder interviews took place as part of the 2025 NOPSEMA and OIR Stakeholder Survey, representing 24 stakeholder organisations.

In addition, an online survey was distributed to a broad cross-section of external stakeholders.

Organisations represented across the interviews and survey included industry associations representing the fishing/seafood industry, conservation groups and regulated entities, Indigenous representative organisations, regulated entities, government departments/agencies and unions.

Participation in the OIR-specific section of the online survey was limited, with a maximum of 10 responses received. This reflects the early stage of

Australia's offshore renewables sector and the OIR, which only commenced operations in 2022. As a result, available data on stakeholder perceptions of the OIR as a regulator remains relatively limited.

Despite this, feedback gathered through stakeholder interviews and the online survey indicates a generally positive level of confidence in the OIR. More than 55 per cent of the survey respondents reported having either high or very high confidence in the regulator.

Survey Themes

Survey results at a glance are provided in Figure 1, whilst the following sections provide an insight into survey question themes and responses.

Performance and effectiveness

Stakeholder perceptions of the OIR were strongly positive. Interview participants rated its overall effectiveness at an average of 8.21 out of 10, and online respondents rated at 6.63. Stakeholders cited the strong knowledge of OIR staff and their ability to draw on learnings from NOPSEMA as reasons for confidence, reflected in more than 55 per cent reporting high or very high confidence in the regulator.

Stakeholder comments on OIR staff were especially positive, with more than 60 per cent of online respondents describing engagement as effective or very effective, emphasising staff's willingness to meet, share information and provide support. Stakeholders viewed OIR personnel as proactive and responsive with regulatory advice and guidance provided by OIR staff rated favourably.

Overall, the OIR was seen as performing well, supported by capable staff, using clear communication and fostering positive early engagement.

Communication/education

The OIR website was generally well used and well regarded, and stakeholders rated the OIR's guidance and educational materials positively. Many described the guidelines as clear, practical and easy to understand, praising the plain-English explanations and inclusion of examples and diagrams. Workshops and fact sheets were also highlighted as particularly useful tools for supporting compliance.

Stakeholders noted that the offshore energy industry in Australia is still at an early stage compared to other countries, and that regulatory frameworks differ significantly internationally. They suggested the OIR should account for these differences when engaging with stakeholders, especially those familiar with more mature overseas regulatory systems.



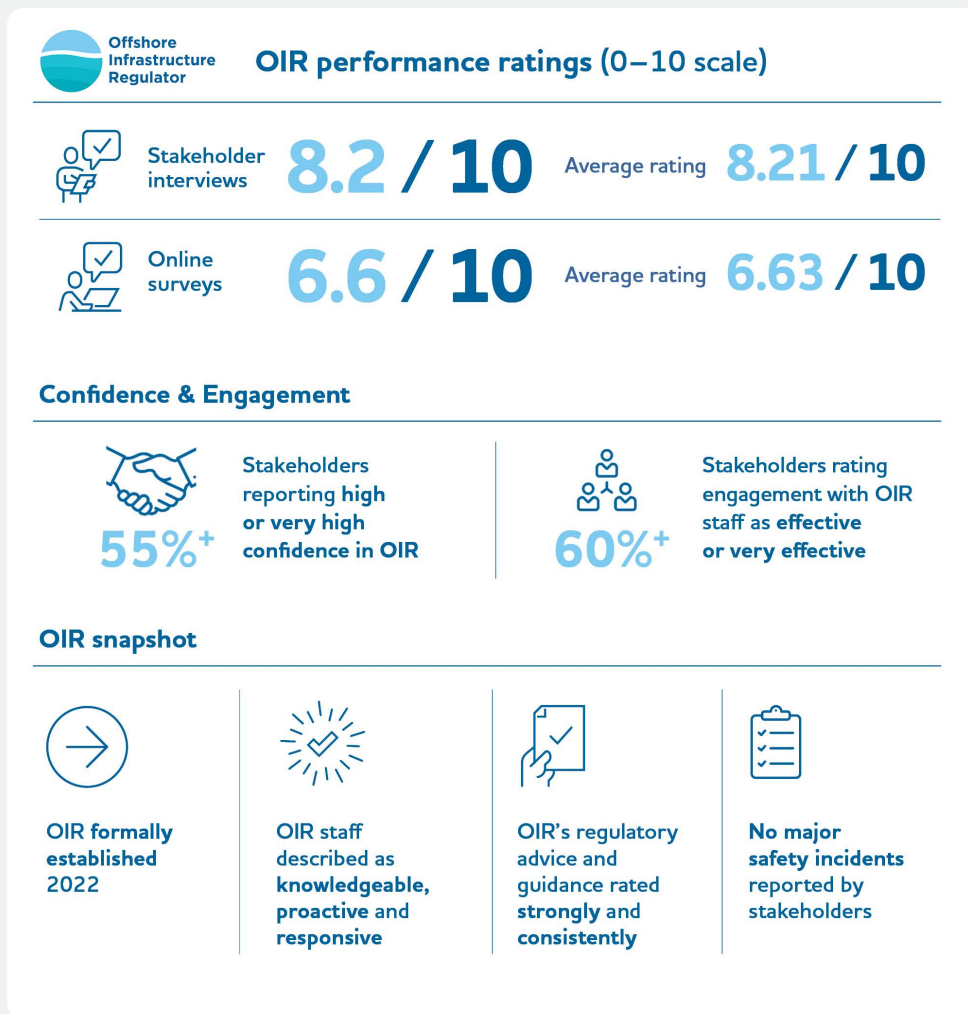


Figure 1: OIR survey results snapshot

Findings and Trends

The data presented in the report indicated trends amongst survey respondents, touching on concepts such as communication, accessibility, confidence and staff capability.

Communication Effectiveness & Access to Information

Overall communication volume is seen as appropriate, and stakeholders find the OIR website reliable and well-received. Communication materials and guidance are generally clear, and staff engagement supports effective information flow.

As the OIR’s regulatory operations accelerate, consideration should be given to the OIR increasing

its level of communication and engagement with stakeholders.

Strong Regulatory Performance

Recognising that the OIR and the offshore renewables industry is in its infancy in Australia, stakeholders found the OIR has made a solid start to its regulatory performance and delivery of its functions.

High Confidence in Safety, Independence & Fairness

The OIR maintains a strong reputation for safety oversight, independence and fairness. Confidence levels remain medium-to-high across stakeholders, with broad agreement that the organisation is impartial, transparent and procedural fairness is upheld.

Staff Capability, Culture & Engagement Quality

Stakeholders consistently regard the OIR staff as effective, proactive, responsive and aligned with organisational values. Engagement between staff and external stakeholders is viewed as constructive and reliable, and staff behaviour demonstrates professionalism and technical capability.

Committed to Continuous Improvement

Building on the strong results of the 2025 Stakeholder Survey, the OIR will continue to strengthen our engagement with stakeholders and target areas where trends and feedback indicate there is more to do.

We are committed to listening carefully, acting transparently on what we hear, and embedding continuous improvement across our regulatory functions. By maintaining a clear, consistent and risk-based approach, we will uphold leading regulation of Australia's offshore renewable energy industry while building trust amongst our stakeholders.

Information on how to provide feedback is available online at www.oir.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-and-complaints.

