



Offshore Infrastructure Regulator: Our regulatory approach

With increasing project activity, Australia's offshore wind industry is moving from concept to reality.

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) role is to ensure regulatory requirements are well understood, the law is upheld, and offshore renewable energy projects are delivered safely and responsibly.

The OIR regulates high-hazard activities in remote and challenging environments where the consequences of failure can be severe for people, the environment and public confidence.

Our regulatory approach is built around three key pillars: influence, oversee and enforce. We seek to balance firm oversight with constructive engagement, underpinned by independence, technical competence and transparency.

Key pillars

Influence

Through early, proactive engagement, provision of advice through guidance materials and regular interaction with developers and stakeholders, we work to build shared understanding of the regulatory regime and our expectations.

Oversee

This pillar reflects our responsibility to monitor compliance. We monitor compliance with an approved management plan to provide assurance that a licence holder continues to meet their duties and obligations, ensuring activities are being carried out in a safe and responsible manner while promoting continuous improvement in safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental outcomes.

Enforce

While our preference is always to achieve voluntary compliance through guidance and advice, we will take enforcement action where risks are not being adequately managed, or obligations and requirements of the law are not being upheld. We will ensure our regulatory response to any non-compliance is proportionate, targeted and fair.

Building long-term capability

Australia's offshore wind industry is still in its early stages, and both industry capability and regulatory processes will continue to evolve.

Our regulatory framework will mature alongside the offshore renewables sector, informed by early project experience, international collaboration and ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

As we continue to implement our regulatory functions throughout 2026 and beyond, we will maintain our focus on the provision of clear and comprehensive advice to the industry.

By setting expectations early and maintaining strong regulatory oversight, we will support the safe, sustainable and responsible development of offshore renewable energy in Australia.