

National Environmental Science Program Marine and Coastal Hub

Sarah Miller, Regulatory Specialist

8 April 2025

oir.gov.au



Outline

Role of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR)

Vision for the offshore renewables sector

Interaction between the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Frameworks

Current and future work of the OIR

Research strategy



The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator



- Established under the *Offshore* Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act).
- 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.



Role of the OIR





Our vision for the offshore renewables industry



- A safe, environmentally responsible and sustainable Australian offshore wind industry.
- Establishing a safe and proactive industry culture.
- Community acceptance of offshore wind contingent on genuine engagement and collaboration.
- Developing trust to do our job effectively and maintaining social licence.



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 any EPBC obligations.
- The OIR monitors compliance with obligations under the OEI Act, OEI Regulations and approved management plans.
- The OIR has developed guidance to assist stakeholders in understanding interfaces between the OEI Act and EPBC Act frameworks in collaboration with DCCEEW.



Proponent self assessment EPBC Act process, administered by DCCEEW OEI Act process, administered by OIR **EPBC Act decisions EPBC Act obligations Decisions on referrals OEI Act management plan OIR** compliance monitoring **EPBC** Act approval conditions Not controlled action 'Particular manner' prescriptions Not controlled action - particular **Describes EPBC obligations** OIR conducts inspections and other Permit conditions manner Describes measures applied to compliance monitoring activities Any conditions on other EPBC Act Controlled action - assessment & comply with obligations OIR secures compliance with the OEI authorisations or instruments (e.g. approval Assessed against requirements of Act & Regulations including the conditions from Director of National **OEI Act & Regulations** approved management plan Parks) **EPBC Act permits** Management Plan provides a basis OIR maintains engagement with May be required for not-controlled General obligation to notify for compliance monitoring and is DCCEEW on matters including contractors etc of approval actions or actions not referred legally enforceable management plan compliance. conditions Other EPBC Act instruments E.g.: Marine Park Management Plans **DCCEEW** enforcement Ongoing referral or authorisation **OIR** enforcement obligations DCCEEW may undertake compliance OIR enforces compliance under the OEI Act and and enforcement under the EPBC Act Licence holders may need to refer or Regulations, as required seek permits for new or varied OIR shares information with DCCEEW if it based on information from OIR or identifies potential breach of the EPBC Act. activities other sources. **Revisions of OEI management plans** Revisions may be required by the Regulations or as directed by the OIR Revisions are required if a new EPBC obligation begins to apply or if there is a material change in an existing obligation and the management plan does not yet provide for compliance with that obligation. Revisions provide opportunities to continuously improve environmental outcomes and

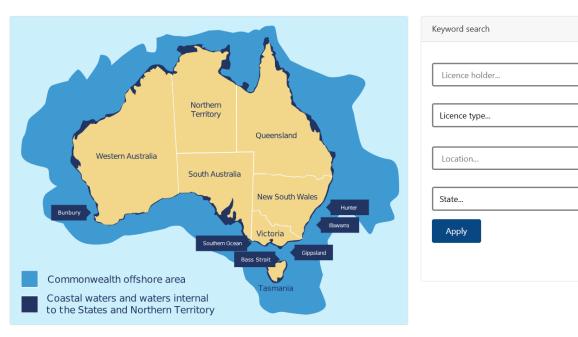
may provide a feedback loop to EPBC decision-makers to vary or improve conditions.

Figure 1. OEI Act & EPBC Act interface

Current activities

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.



Project name	Licence holder	Licence type	Location	Management plan status	Details
Aurora Green	Iberdrola Australia OW 2 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Under assessment	
Blue Mackerel	Blue Mackerel North Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	<u>View</u>
Gippsland 01	Orsted Australia 1 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	
Gippsland 02	Orsted Australia 1 Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Approved	
Gippsland Dawn	Gippsland Dawn OWP Pty Ltd	Feasibility licence	Gippsland, VIC	Under assessment	

- Newly launched 'What's happening offshore' webpage.
- Three management plans have been approved and two remain under assessment.
- Approval of a management plan enables licence holders to begin feasibility activities, such as metocean and geotechnical investigations to assess the potential for harnessing renewable energy.
- Ongoing compliance monitoring.
- Progressive release of guidance and information.



Research strategy

- While OIR/NOPSEMA does not do, or commission, research it is in a unique position to identify key research gaps that lead to uncertainty in risk and impact assessments and activity management.
- The strategy aims to provide industry with a clear vision for enhanced research outcomes and includes our goals and role in supporting that vision.
- We maintain awareness of current science and emerging challenges to help inform advice we provide to industry and the research community, which may in turn influence funding and design decisions.







Offshore Infrastructure Regulator

Level 10, Alluvion, 58 Mounts Bay Rd, Perth WA 6000 GPO Box 2568, Perth WA 6001 Australia

oir.gov.au