

# Spinifex Offshore Wind Farm

Community update – April 2024

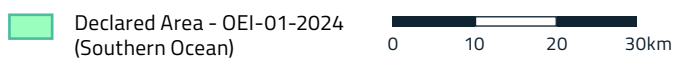


## Southern Ocean Region declared

On Wednesday 6 March 2024, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy declared a final area of the Southern Ocean Region as suitable for offshore wind energy.

The declared area in the Southern Ocean has been refined from the original proposed Southern Ocean Region and covers 1,030km<sup>2</sup> (pictured below). You can read the details of the Minister’s decision [here](#).

Spinifex welcomes the Minister’s decision and the opportunities an offshore wind industry can offer communities in South West Victoria. This is a key milestone for offshore wind in the region and is an early step in an ongoing process of planning and engagement for the Spinifex Offshore Wind project.



Map created by:  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Basemap source:  
Earthstar Geographics GDA94

## Next steps for Spinifex

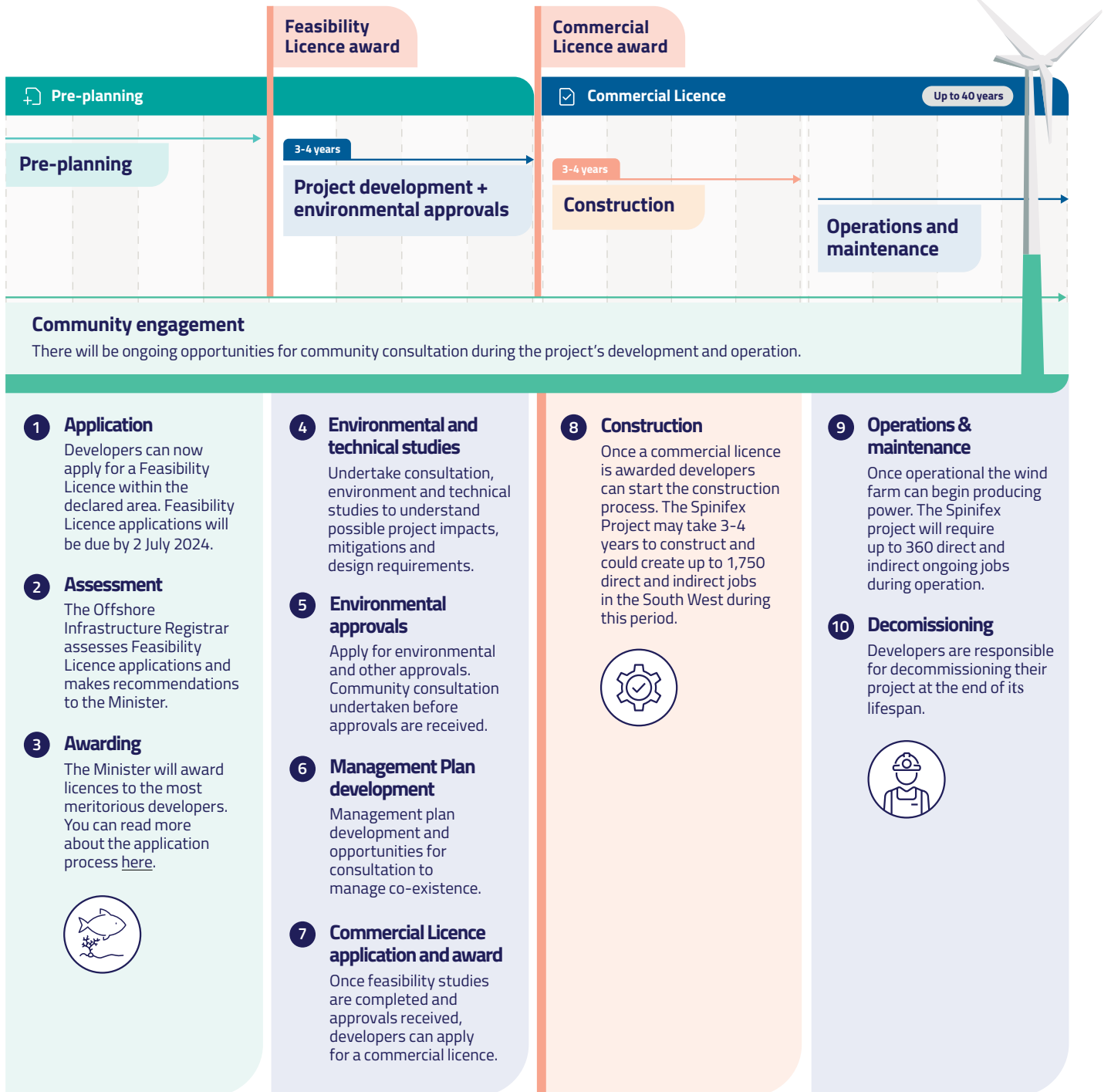
With a potential customer and onshore connection point in the Portland Aluminium Smelter within reach, we’re confident that we can make timely progress on the Spinifex Offshore Wind project.

Community benefits have always been a focus for the Spinifex project which has the potential to support significant employment, contracting opportunities and benefits for the South West region including Port Fairy, Warrnambool and Portland.

We will now review the Southern Ocean Region Declared Area to identify a suitable site for the Spinifex Project. Our assessment on site suitability will consider factors like water depths, wind conditions, and the marine environment.

We’ll provide an update once we’ve identified a suitable site, and then submit a feasibility licence application for that location. This is a key milestone, but only one step in the process (outlined on the next page) which will include further engagement with the South West communities.

# Next steps



## Collaboration for decarbonisation

We recently announced a collaboration with Countrywide Hydrogen to explore the potential for renewable electricity to be supplied to their Portland Hydrogen project.

Alinta Energy's Chief Development Officer Ken Woolley said:

**"A partnership to supply energy for the production of green hydrogen could be great for the region and we look forward to exploring it further."**

# Community engagement

The team spent time in South West Victoria over summer, and engaged with the community and undertook studies to help us better understand the marine environment.



## Rotary Club of Portland Bay

We were invited by the Rotary Club of Portland Bay to speak at their weekly meeting in February.

We had a great time meeting the Rotary Club's representatives and learning about its history.

Project Development Manager, Linden Blair, provided the Rotary Club with an update on Spinifex and enjoyed the opportunity to talk with attendees about the Spinifex project in detail.



## Renewables for the Regions

In February, our Planning and Environment Manager spoke at the Renewables for the Regions event at Portland Golf Club. The evening, organised by South West Trades and Labour Council, was attended by a range of locals from the Portland community.

It was great to meet with locals interested in renewables and talk about the opportunities for offshore wind to support local jobs and industry development in the region. We're looking forward to attending more of these community discussions and progressing opportunities and benefits of offshore wind for local industries and the community in the South West.





Offshore Wind  
4 Kids

## Inspiring the next generation with a wind farm workshop



Alinta Energy sponsored an OffshoreWind4Kids event in January and hit the beaches of Port Melbourne to show some local youngsters how offshore wind turbines are made.

With the helping hands of volunteers from University of Melbourne's Victoria Offshore Wind Club, young families came together for a quick intro to wind energy before constructing mini wind turbines on the shores.




The kids got to work, heading down to place their creations in the water, where they got a crash course in the difference between fixed and floating turbines, before they were tasked with decommissioning their tot sized turbines.

Alinta are proud sponsors of OffshoreWind4Kids events, which deliver educational activities to help create a deeper understanding and appreciation for sustainable energy resources within younger generations.

The Spinifex Project plans to hold a similar event in the South West soon.

### FIND OUT MORE

If you'd like to find out more about the project, provide feedback or get involved in upcoming consultation activities, please visit our website or get in touch via:

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