



Spinifex Offshore Wind Farm

Project Update - September 2022

Thank-you Portland!

A big thank-you to everyone who came to our drop-in sessions at Civic Hall in August. We enjoyed talking to the community, answering your questions and learning about what's important to you.

From the avid paragliding community, to the strong local manufacturing sector, to the fur seals at Deen Maar, we learned a lot about Portland and what the community values about living in the area.

We've included some of the most common questions we were asked during the sessions below.

Why Portland?

Besides being very windy, Portland Bay has other advantages for an offshore wind farm -

1. The Alcoa switchyard provides a connection to the broader national electricity grid, so we don't have to build long overhead or underground transmission lines through private property
2. The bay contains existing industrial features and modified landscapes, which means we avoid impacting other untouched coastal areas and views
3. The area is very close to a deep-water port, which is needed for construction and/or operations
4. The water is the right depth to support fixed bottom turbine installation and operations



Australian Renewable Energy Agency

This Project received funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government, and the Australian Government does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.

Will the turbines have any impact on coastal erosion?

Over the next two years, we will study the wave conditions and sediment flows to develop a model of the existing conditions in the area. The data from the model will be used to determine whether the turbines will affect coastal erosion.

How will the whales and other marine life be impacted?

We will do several years of marine mammal and bird studies to gather information about possible impacts from construction and operations, and any required measures to reduce impacts. For example, we may need to plan our construction activities so they take place outside of whale migration periods.

We'll continue to engage with the community throughout the project and as we learn more about how Spinifex will impact and benefit Portland.

To stay informed about future engagement opportunities, please visit our website and sign-up to our email list.

Upcoming investigations

We'll be submitting referrals to the Commonwealth Government to allow us to start some geotechnical and geophysical studies early next year. These studies will help us gather more information about the seabed to inform the turbine design and location.

We'll keep the community, fishers and other marine users updated on any activities and impacts to the bay before we start these activities.

Engagement

We're planning some future engagement sessions for the Portland fishing community and businesses so we can better understand how you use the bay, the areas that are important to you and anything else you think we need to know.

If you're interested in participating in these future sessions, or if you have questions or views about the project you want to share, give us a call or send us an email. We'd love to hear from you!

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