

Spinifex Offshore Wind Farm

Community update – October 2024

Last month the Minister for Climate Change and Energy made a preliminary decision to grant a feasibility licence, subject to further consultation with First Nations groups. We were pleased to hear another step has been made in progressing the Spinifex feasibility licence application.

If granted, a feasibility licence will allow us to undertake detailed environmental and technical investigations in our project area for up to seven years to determine whether it is possible to construct an offshore wind farm.

A feasibility licence will also allow us to undertake more detailed consultation with key stakeholders. Including First Nations groups, industry and the local community.

Community engagement

Over the recent months, we've been meeting with local government, community and environment groups to share updates on survey activities, understand concerns and address questions.

From our earliest engagement sessions, we've heard how important whales are to the community. As a result, we decided to undertake visual aerial studies as early as possible so we can capture as much information on whales as possible.

The project has been working with independent researcher Dr. Pete Gill from Blue Whale Study, Australia's longest running blue whale research program, to conduct our surveys and gather data during the current whale season. Keep an eye out for a Visual Aerial Survey explainer video with Dr. Gill which we'll be releasing soon.

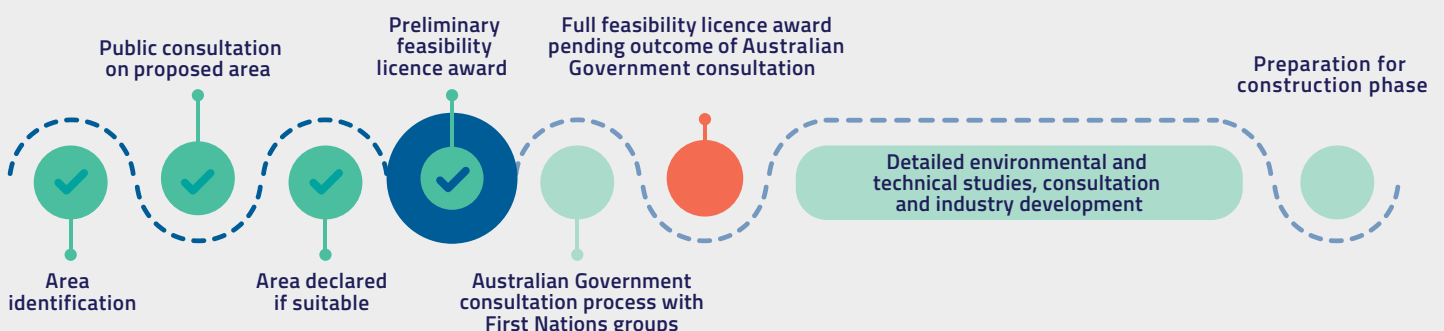
Studying marine mammal activity in the South West region

We've been monitoring marine mammal activity in the region since late 2023 and we've just completed our 18th aerial survey. The visual aerial surveys help to improve our understanding of how and when whales use the Southern Ocean, including the pygmy blue whale and southern right whale.

Baseline surveys, like visual aerial surveys will take around two to three years to complete and allow us to understand seasonal changes and the migration patterns of marine life, which may change from year to year. Survey data allows us to understand the baseline environmental characteristics of the area and covers a wide range of marine plants and animals, from plankton to whales, as well as bird life.

It's important that we take time to build up an accurate picture of the local marine environment, so we can design the project to reduce impacts in the best way possible.

Australian Government Licence application phases



Some of our studies will likely include:



Visual aerial surveys
(aeroplane spotters)



Sea bird and
seal tagging



Acoustic monitoring
(underwater instruments
that listen to whale song)



Benthic studies (the ecological
region from the shoreline down
to the deep seafloor)



We have a factsheet where you
can find more information about
our studies on the resources
section of our website.

spinifexoffshore.com.au/resources

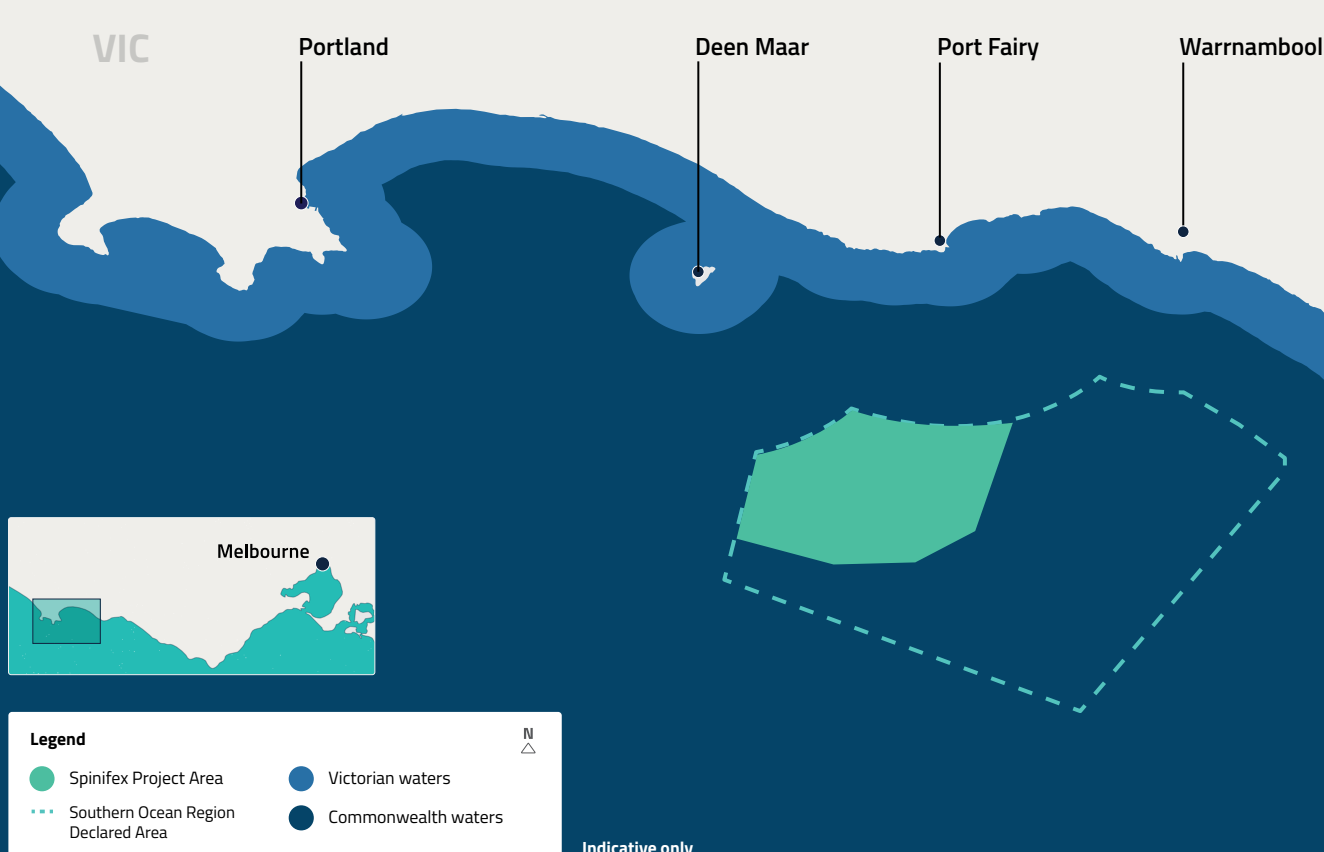
We're back at Upwelling this year



Upwelling Festival
10am - 5pm
Saturday 2 November
📍 **Portland Foreshore**

We'll be back at The Upwelling Festival in Portland next month for our third year running. The Upwelling Festival showcases the important environmental event of the Bonney Upwelling and celebrates what's unique about Portland and the community.

We'll have our Marine Mammal Expert, Janelle Eagle, who can talk about our survey works, what we're doing to protect the marine life in the Spinifex investigation area and answer your questions. We hope to see you there!



Spinifex acknowledges the Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar as the original Custodians of the Country where the project is proposed and pay respect to Elders past and present.

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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