



UPDATE

on project

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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 1,030km² (pictured below). You can read the details of the Minister's decision <u>here</u>.

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.



30km

10

20

Declared Area - OEI-01-2024 (Southern Ocean) 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

Feasibility Commercial Licence award Licence award Commercial Licence Pre-planning Up to 40 years 3-4 years **Pre-planning** Project development + Construction environmental approvals **Operations and** maintenance **Community engagement** There will be ongoing opportunities for community consultation during the project's development and operation. Application **Environmental and** Construction **Operations &** 4 1) 8 9 maintenance technical studies Developers can now Once a commercial licence apply for a Feasibility is awarded developers Undertake consultation, Once operational the wind Licence within the can start the construction environment and technical farm can begin producing declared area. Feasibility process. The Spinifex studies to understand power. The Spinifex Licence applications will Project may take 3-4 possible project impacts, project will require be due by 2 July 2024. mitigations and years to construct and up to 360 direct and could create up to 1,750 design requirements. indirect ongoing jobs direct and indirect jobs Assessment during operation. in the South West during Environmental The Offshore this period. 10 Decomissioning Infrastructure Registrar approvals assesses Feasibility Apply for environmental Developers are responsible Licence applications and and other approvals. for decommissioning their makes recommendations Community consultation project at the end of its to the Minister. undertaken before lifespan. approvals are received. Awarding **Management Plan** The Minister will award 6 licences to the most development Management plan

licences to the most meritorious developers. You can read more about the application process <u>here</u>.

Collaboration for

decarbonisation

manage co-existence.

development and

opportunities for

consultation to

application and award Once feasibility studies are completed and approvals received, developers can apply for a commercial licence.

We recently announced a

for renewable electricity to

Hydrogen project.

be supplied to their Portland

collaboration with Countrywide Hydrogen to explore the potential 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.



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.



Inspiring the next generation with a



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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