



Commercial fishing & offshore wind in Gippsland

Offshore wind has recently joined commercial fishing as an ocean industry operating in Bass Strait, off the Gippsland coast. Offshore wind projects are regulated under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (OEI) Act which operates under the principle of shared use of the marine space.

Working together

We want to be good neighbours and work together so our industries can operate safely and successfully to support both Australia’s food and energy security.

Nobody knows Bass Strait like the people who fish there. Your local knowledge is valuable and can help us plan offshore wind projects that co-exist better with fishing and nature, and which can create opportunities to support fishing in the long-term.

Here’s what you can expect from our industry. We will:



Keep you informed

by sharing information and making ourselves available to discuss your questions, views and ideas.



Listen with respect

for your profession, knowledge and experience, and consider your feedback before making decisions which could affect you.



Be open and honest

about what we do and don’t know, and about what you can expect from us and when.



Do what we say we’ll do

and provide plenty of notice – so there are no surprises.



Consult and cooperate

with you, to understand and address issues and find the best way forward.

This information sheet has been prepared by the 10 offshore wind developers with project proposals off the Gippsland coast. Each project is unique – please contact the project/s where you fish to discuss your individual circumstances.



Sharing the waters

We want to see fishing and operating offshore wind farms co-exist wherever it is safe and practical to do so.

1

Share the waters

Our starting position and goal is to safely co-exist.

2

Mitigation

If 1. isn't safe or practical with certain fishing gear or methods, we will work with you to identify and explore options to keep you fishing.

3

Compensation

If 1. and 2. aren't possible, licence holders with a genuine claim will be fairly compensated.

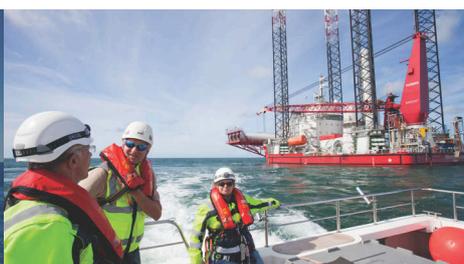


What to expect at each stage



Feasibility (current)

- Up to 7 years.
- Environmental, seabed and metocean surveys and monitoring.
- Minimal or no impact.
- We'll work with you to plan and deliver feasibility activities in a way that avoids or minimises disruption.
- We'll consult you about project design and future construction and operations.



Construction

- Typically around 3-5 years.
- Major construction activities and vessel movements.
- We'll ask you to keep clear of construction areas.
- Regular and clear communication.



Operations & Maintenance

- Typically around 30 years.
- Regular maintenance activities, occasional works to replace or upgrade parts, and environmental monitoring.
- Operating wind farms are open to other users, with restrictions only applied if essential for safety.
- We'll work with you to co-exist safely and support the fishing industry.
- After their operational life is finished, offshore wind farms must be decommissioned in line with government requirements.

Getting work in offshore wind

There will be opportunities for locals to work on offshore wind projects – from supporting feasibility studies through to construction and ongoing maintenance. Each developer will have its own procurement process and requirements. Look out for opportunities and register your interest with individual developers.