



Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Powering Western Australia's future

Final area for offshore wind
applications announced



**For further
information go to:**

[dcceew.gov.au/energy/
renewable/offshore-wind/
areas/bunbury](https://dcceew.gov.au/energy/renewable/offshore-wind/areas/bunbury)

A decision has been made about the size and location of a new area where offshore wind projects might be built.

The South West Interconnected System (the WA electricity grid) will need 50 GW more electricity by 2042 and offshore wind provides reliable renewables to meet that gap.

The Minister for Climate Change and Energy has declared an area off the coast of Bunbury, WA, where offshore renewable energy infrastructure, such as offshore wind, can be developed.

Offshore wind projects can't be built yet.

Interested offshore wind companies will now need to apply for a 'feasibility' licence, lasting up to seven years.

Investigations, environmental assessments, approvals and consultation are prepared during the feasibility stage and before an offshore wind developer can apply for a 'commercial' licence to begin construction.

Companies will be required to consult:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ✓ the community | ✓ aviation regulators |
| ✓ port users | ✓ fishing industry and recreational fishing |
| ✓ Defence | ✓ Bureau of Meteorology |
| ✓ WA state & local government | ✓ First Nations communities |

The Australian Government's role

- ✓ Choose future feasibility licence holders based on the merit of their licence applications.
- ✓ Ensure that companies comply with their legal obligations including protecting the environment and cultural heritage, including First Nations heritage on land and at sea.
- ✓ Keep the community up to date with any news on the development of the offshore wind industry in Western Australia.
- ✓ Help community members address their concerns about wind farms through the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.

Quick facts



Potential power generation:

11.4 GW



Potential jobs:

6,840 jobs during construction
and 3,420 ongoing jobs



Distance from shore:

30km minimum from shore in
response to community concerns
(41km from Bunbury)



Declared area max size:

3,995 km²



Public consultation:

20 Feb 2024 to 3 May 2024



Submissions received:

Over 2,600



Date of Declaration Announcement:

September 2024

Current status: Feasibility licence applications
are open until November 2024.

Did you know: Just one rotation of
one offshore wind turbine generates
as much energy as an average rooftop
solar installation generates in one day.

Area
identification

Public
consultation

Assessment
of feedback

We are here:
**Area
declaration**

9 MONTHS – 1 YEAR

How the zone has changed since

We read more than 2,600 submissions and talked with the community, First Nations groups, government, and industry. In response to feedback the Minister has declared an area that:

- ✓ is smaller than originally proposed (approximately half the size)
- ✓ removed more than 60% of area requested by recreational fishers, including Naturaliste Reef
- ✓ is further offshore to minimise visual impact (30 km minimum)
- ✓ allows space for the safe management of shipping
- ✓ is a greater distance from Southern Right Whale migration and breeding areas.

Map showing initially proposed and declared areas



Feasibility
licence
applications

Environmental
assessment
and approvals

Developing
management
plan

UP TO 7 YEARS

we heard from you

For further
information
check the QR
code or go to:

consult.
[dcceew.gov.au/
oei-bunbury](https://dcceew.gov.au/oei-bunbury)



Commercial
licence
application

Construction
and operation

Decommissioning

UP TO 40 YEARS

The environment will be protected

The environment is protected under Australian law.

Offshore wind proponents must:

- ✓ undertake environmental assessments
- ✓ obtain approval before any projects can proceed
- ✓ avoid or mitigate against any environmental impacts
- ✓ consult further with the community.

To learn more: www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc

The government is investing in targeted science to improve the environmental data used in decision making under the National Environmental Science Program (NESP): www.nespmarinecoastal.edu.au

Recreational fishers can continue to fish

Offshore wind projects must be designed to share the waters with other marine users. The government will work with fishers and licence holders to ensure this can happen.

Fishing can continue unimpeded during the feasibility stage.

Safety zones may be required during construction, however overseas experience shows that once projects are operating, these zones can be reduced to 50m or sometimes removed altogether.

Benefits for community

Offshore wind offers:

- ✓ opportunities to maximise use of local businesses and workers.
- ✓ potential for new local apprenticeships and reskilling.
- ✓ opportunities for local communities and First Nations people to benefit from offshore wind projects.
- ✓ reliable and clean energy supply.
- ✓ more consistent renewable energy when other sources aren't available.
- ✓ reduced pollution including greenhouse gas emissions to help combat climate change.