



Offshore Renewables Policy Section
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water
offshorerenewables@dcceew.gov.au

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Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024* (proposed Regulations).

The diversification of the \$66 billion Hunter economy as it transitions from coal industries is the most significant priority for the Committee for the Hunter and our members

That's why we have a stake in the successful development of the offshore wind industry off the Hunter and across Australia. With the world's largest coal export port and home to the largest emitters and energy users in the nation, Hunter businesses and communities are affected more than most. We also have the most to gain from the opportunities offered by the emerging clean economy.

The Committee for the Hunter strongly supports the establishment of the offshore renewable energy infrastructure area in the Pacific Ocean off Hunter.

A large, thriving offshore renewable energy industry and associated value chains offers an at scale opportunity to replace jobs, economic activity, energy generation capacity and reduce emissions as the contribution of coal to the regional economy declines.

We are seeking assurance that the proposed regulatory framework facilitates the establishment and growth of offshore wind projects and does not embed further costs, delays and uncertainty for this nascent national industry

We encourage close attention to the technical feedback from the offshore wind and renewables sector as the proposed Regulations are finalised.

This includes:

- Reducing the proposed 90-day review period of Management Plans.
- Careful definition of "communities that the licence holder reasonably considers may be affected by the activities" to reduce interpretation, risk and better manage potential scope.
- Avoiding higher hurdles than international practice for provision of financial security and capacity.
- Addressing potential overlap and interaction with other regulatory frameworks and regulators including the EPBC Act, leveraging precedents set by the offshore oil and gas industry in Australia.

A UNIFIED VOICE
FOR THE HUNTER



About the Committee for the Hunter

The Committee for the Hunter is an independent and inclusive champion for the people of the Greater Hunter and their enterprises. Representing over 70 organisations including the largest employers, economic anchors and institutions in the region, we provide a unified voice for the Hunter. Our members are drawn from the private and community sectors and all three levels of government.

We come together with a shared interest in building a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future for our region. The Committee delivers through advocacy, thought leadership and partnerships.

More information about the Committee can be found at www.hunter.org.au