

Media Release

1 May 2024

Offshore wind industry picks up pace

The Climate Capital Forum today welcomed Minister Chris Bowen's announcement that up to 12 projects have been granted or offered feasibility licences to assess feasibility of offshore wind projects off the coast of Gippsland in Victoria.

"This is great news for the industry in Australia and gives a clear signal that we can move forward in our task of ensuring the security of the Australian energy system," said Satya Tanner, CEO/Managing Director for LAUTEC Australia, a company supporting offshore wind projects nationally.

"Our sector stands ready to partner with communities who are keen to embrace Australia's renewable energy future, with First Nations and regional communities, to understand the unique coastal environments and start researching the offshore wind potential off the coast of Gippsland."

"Creating our own energy from our abundant wind resource is good for Australia's energy security, our economy and our national security," she said.

"It will be an important part of the mix of electricity generation and firming making Australia more self-sufficient in its energy production. By transitioning to a renewable energy supply source such as offshore wind, we build new export products using green electrons, adding value and bringing prosperity to ourselves and future generations," she said.

Naomi Campbell, co-founder of Energise Renewables, said: "Exploring the feasibility of offshore wind is a [complex and multi-faceted exercise](#) which takes time to get right, especially when consulting with communities about their concerns. By granting these licences, we can move to the next exciting step for the sector."

"The economic benefits from this phase will flow into the Gippsland community through increased activity in environmental, engineering and marine research. It will also bring skills development for a range of workers, including ancillary staff, and other flow-on benefits."

"The backing from both Commonwealth and state governments working together has been central in attracting international companies with skills and experience in the sector to implement world's best practice for these projects, in an Australian setting."



Investment for
Australia's Post
Carbon Economy

"For decades the Latrobe Valley's coal-fired power generators have supplied the state with its critical energy needs. Those transmission lines that once carried polluting coal-fired power, can soon bring even more energy, but it will be clean, green and carbon free."

Amy Boersma, Country Managing Director at JUM-BO Consulting said, "Getting these feasibility studies kicked-off in Gippsland will contribute significantly to our understanding of the unique environmental issues for offshore wind in Australia, which in turn will affect engineering and construction approaches."

"Australia will need to rely on global and regional (APAC) supply chains to deliver these first projects but the opportunities for development and use of existing local suppliers to support the industry will be a critical part of the success."

"The big benefit of this announcement is that it gives confidence to local businesses to go out and seek investment and further develop their ambition to enter the industry in Australia."

###

Contact: Satya Tanner is available for interview, contact Amanda Caldwell, Climate Capital Forum, 0410 148 173.