

Albatross Fisheries Pty Ltd

ABN: 11 618 482 643

83 Government Road Nelson Bay NSW 2315

Submissions to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications, Offshore wind Industry Consultation Process Inquiry

About Albatross Fisheries Pty Ltd

Our company operates a 23 metre long-line fishing vessel, *Miss Deb-A-Dell* ("The Vessel"). We are a local company operating from Nelson Bay. We employ 5 to 6 people.

The fishing lines that are shot from the vessel extend approximately 25 nautical miles (ie 46 kilometres) from the vessel.

The current area worked by the vessel is the area that has been identified as being the area reserved for the proposed wind farm off the coast from Nelson Bay. The proposed wind farm covers an area of some 1,854 sq km.

The Area to be Excluded

The area reserved for the proposed wind farm will exclude our vessel from our most productive fishing grounds.

A particular concern is the potential for loss of our fishing lines. The fishing lines from our vessel have a replacement value of approximately \$60,000. Being a small operation it would be a devastating loss for our company if these lines were lost.

When the lines are shot from the vessel the vessel drifts with the current. Typically the currents can push the lines towards the coast and this drift can be as much as 50 nautical miles (ie 92 kms). To ensure that the lines do not encroach into the declared wind farm zone risking entanglement the vessel would have to avoid not only the declared area but an additional 50 nautical miles (ie 92 kms) outside the declared area.

An effect of having to travel such a significant additional distances will result in additional fuel usage which would be a financial impost on our company.

The vessel can only work during periods of favourable weather. Given that the extra distance would involve significant extra time at sea for each trip the number of consecutive days of good weather conditions would be decreased resulting in the vessel working less number of trips impacting on the financial viability of our company.

Currently the area of the declared zone is the area where ships anchor and drift waiting to enter the Port of Newcastle.

Ships are a hazard to our operation as a ship drifting or steaming across our fishing lines can cut off the lines resulting in not only the loss of the catch but more significantly loss of the line.

Should the ships be re-routed and have to drift or anchor east of the current anchoring zone this will be an area that our vessel will have to avoid further reducing the viable fishing area for our vessel. The proposed wind farm would further push shipping routes to the east and increase traffic density.

Communication

We have no knowledge of whether there will be an arrangement that will permit fishing vessels to safely steam through the declared area or whether the proposal is that there be a blanket ban for fishing vessels in the declared area.

There is no doubt that the proposed wind farm will significantly reduce the area that we are currently licensed to fish. This is the area where we have fished in the years since we commenced our fishing business. We have no knowledge of whether there is any proposal for compensation for the financial losses that we will suffer should this wind farm proceed not only impacting our business but impacting the value of our fishing licences.

Yours sincerely

Michael Richard Annable
Albatross Fisheries Pty Ltd