



30 August 2024

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Sent via email to: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Inquiry Into The Offshore Wind Industry Consultation Process

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the inquiry into the offshore wind industry consultation process. It is noted that the Southern Ocean Off Shore wind zone is still going through a feasibility stage and as such we have had limited experience with industry consultation.

It is clear to Council that the community wants factual and independent information on all aspects of an off shore wind proposal including – in no particular order of importance:

- The location and impacts of transmission infrastructure.
- Visual and amenity impacts.
- Community benefits including opportunities for significant and meaningful contributions upgrades to key infrastructure.
- Workforce management including provision of housing.
- Comprehensive environmental assessments including details on migratory species.

Council has no authority or jurisdiction in relation to offshore marine management, however during the consultation process on the proposed offshore renewable energy areas, Council was faced with pressure to form a position on a proposal that we have limited resources to assess or understand from a technical perspective. In addition, the community grappled with understanding the proposal and any impacts on the environment, economy and visual impact.

Meaningful consultation and engagement with Traditional Custodian groups should be an important component to any off shore wind energy proposal.

If you have any inquiries concerning this matter, please contact me on (03)5559 4800.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ben Blain
Mayor
Warrnambool City Council