



2 November 2022

**SUBMITTED BY APH.GOV.AU WEBSITE AND EMAIL ([ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au))**

To: Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Dear Committee,

**OCEANEX ENERGY PTY LTD  
SUBMISSION TO ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
INQUIRY INTO THE OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (CTH)**

Oceanex Energy Pty Ltd, an Australian offshore wind farm developer and owner (**'Oceanex'**), makes this submission in respect of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Legislation Amendment Bill 2022* (Cth) (**'Offshore Bill'**).

Oceanex notes that the inquiry is about the following:

'The *Commonwealth Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act) entered into force on 2 June 2022. The bill would make amendments to the *Customs Act 1901* to support the implementation of the OEI Act, including to:

- ensure appropriate security of offshore electricity infrastructure (OEI), by extending existing Commonwealth provisions relating to offshore infrastructure; and
- allow the Border Force to treat OEI in the same way as existing sea and resources installations for customs purposes, and for the Anti-Dumping Commission to treat OEI on the same basis regarding anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

The bill would also amend the OEI Act to provide appropriate administrative arrangements for an Offshore Infrastructure Registrar to be appointed and provided with ancillary staff.'

(as per [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au))

Oceanex is supportive of the Bill which is consistent with the briefing provided by the Cth Government to industry on Tuesday 27 September 2022.

We believe the overall Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Legislation package, including this Offshore Bill, on the whole, largely provides the certainty required for developers and investors like Oceanex, working with governments, industry, Traditional Owners and communities, to rapidly accelerate projects and commit expenditure expected to be in the tens of billions of dollars once projects are constructed and operating.



We look forward to helping realise the objectives recognised by the Cth Government which include the creation of new jobs, regional development and significant investment in Australia's coastal economies.

Oceanex respectfully further submits that there needs to be haste in starting public consultation processes, and declarations of offshore zones, particularly in the Pacific/Hunter and Pacific/Illawarra regions, where Oceanex has been working on projects for a number of years. The Hunter and Illawarra are world-leading industrial regions with a workforce and mindset able to deliver offshore wind projects in an unparalleled way globally. The Oceanex Offshore Wind Supply Chain and Investments Report, published in March 2022, illustrates why the Hunter and Illawarra are the natural offshore wind centres for offshore wind in Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

Oceanex and its' founders, who are also the co-founders of the Star of the South Offshore Wind farm, have had the benefit of working with the Cth Government, Opposition, State Governments, local governments, industry (local and international), Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and those otherwise interested, for many years and welcomes the introduction of this Bill in rounding out the offshore electricity infrastructure regulatory framework.

## **About Oceanex Energy**

Oceanex Energy Pty Ltd (**'Oceanex'**), is an Australian company owned by its' Australian co-founders (Andy Evans and Peter Sgardelis, two of the co-founders of the Star of the South and still two of the shareholders in that project) and Green Tower B. V. (an international sector specialist investor).

Oceanex is actively developing a portfolio of offshore wind farms off the coast of New South Wales and Western Australia, with a particular emphasis on the development and deployment of 'floating foundation' technology, which is deployed in waters deeper than 50 metres, which most of Australia's coastline is. The projects will result in nearly 10,000MW of installed capacity in locations chosen on a set of key criteria necessary to meet the economic development objectives of the creation of new jobs, regional development and significant investment in Australia's coastal economies as well as the energy system requirements of strengthening the security, reliability and affordability of electricity supply in Australia. The use of floating foundations also creates an incredible innovation opportunity for Australia to create intellectual property and know-how that can be used globally.

Our lead projects proposed off the coast of the Hunter Valley (Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm), Illawarra (Illawarra Offshore Wind Farm), Eden (Eden Offshore Wind Farm) and Bunbury (Bunbury Offshore Wind Farm) have been carefully chosen to utilise the strong existing industry and skillsets of those regions, existing local infrastructure (especially grid transmission that will become available over the next 15 years in the Hunter and Illawarra), access the strong wind resource at sea to generate consistent energy production at scale, create significant jobs and investment and instil a sense of regional pride for what will be nationally-significant projects.



Each of the projects in the Oceanex portfolio are planned to be of approximately 2,000MW nameplate capacity and have the following economic benefits (per project):

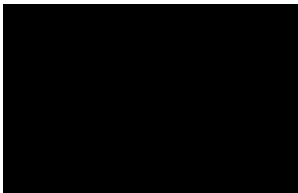
- Creation of 3,000+ direct jobs during a construction period of 3-4 years
- Creation of 300+ direct jobs during an operating life of 30 years
- Capital expenditure of approximately A\$10 billion
- Powering of 1,000,000+ homes

On 30 August 2022, Oceanex announced that it will be working with Norwegian broad energy company, Equinor, a global leader in offshore wind and floating foundation technology, in developing and delivering offshore wind farms off the coast of New South Wales. The collaboration will be through project companies established to progress the projects. The collaboration is subject to Foreign Investment Review Board approval as at the date of this submission.

As evidenced since the Oceanex founders created the Star of the South in 2012, Oceanex is committed to 'on the ground' development of an offshore wind industry in Australia based on sincerity, respect for the environment within which we operate, good planning and attraction of appropriate investment to grow and maintain sustainable projects for decades to come.

We would be delighted to provide further detail on our submission, projects or our learnings and can be contacted at [REDACTED] (Andy Evans) or on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Andy Evans  
Chief Executive Officer  
Oceanex Energy Pty Ltd