Australia Country Update
Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum

12 January 2021
Scope of jurisdiction

One of the largest EEZ’s in the world – 8.2 million km²
New regulations

- Legislative and regulatory framework to be introduced progressively throughout 2021/22
- Process is being led by Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
- NOPSEMA identified as the regulator for offshore renewable energy with a core focus on worker health and safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management
- Licencing to be managed through the offshore energy registrar and the Minister for Energy.

Significant projects

- No commercial scale projects currently operating offshore
- Most advanced project from a planning perspective is Star of the South off the coast of Victoria
- Current licence for exploration activities only
- Framework will provide a pathway for full commercialisation
- Further interest off the West, East, South East and Southern coastlines of Australia proximate to population centres
- Some interest in green hydrogen potential, predominantly onshore options
Significant projects – Star of the South

- 496km² site
- 7-25 km offshore
- 2.2GW capacity powering approx. 1.2 million homes across Victoria
- Currently seeking primary environmental approvals
Trends - emerging issues

- Watching global trends with interest
- In particular advances in technology, worker health and safety and environmental management
- Seeking to ensure our regulatory approach strikes the right balance to allow safe operations without presenting barriers to industry entering Australia
- Most potential proponents awaiting finalisation of the regulatory regime to inform assessment of the Australian market
The year ahead – Preparatory work

- NOPSEMA will continue providing specialist advice to Government on the development of the regulatory framework and begin to establish its role as the regulator of the sector

- A small Offshore Renewables Project team has been established and funded by Government

- The team will set up the agency to deliver the functions of the offshore renewable energy regulator and provide advice and support to the industry

- Pending legislation, propose to be ready to regulate first major project submission from July 2022
The year ahead – Stakeholder engagement

- Proactive engagement with domestic and international stakeholders
- Establishing and securing ongoing partnerships
- Continually promoting industry and regulatory best practice
- Learning and capacity building for the agency
Thank you