

Inaugural offshore renewables leadership forum

On 26 October 2022 the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator, the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water and the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner jointly convened a meeting of senior industry and government representatives in Melbourne.

This was a landmark occasion which represented an important coming together of key industry leaders, representative bodies and government authorities with interests and responsibilities in the emerging Australian offshore renewables sector.

The forum provided an opportunity for government and industry leaders to discuss the current state of play for offshore renewables and examine opportunities for collaboration and coordination on matters of mutual interest.

Key policy updates were shared including strengthened legislated targets for emissions reduction and participants were informed of priority government work programs, timelines for identification and declaration of future offshore areas, progress of regulatory and policy development and complementary initiatives underway to enable further establishment of the industry.

Insights from recent international forums in which Australia is represented including the Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum and the International Regulators Forum were communicated. It was noted that established jurisdictions are looking at Australia's new regulatory framework as an innovative and progressive approach to licensing and consenting of offshore renewables projects. Australia is in a fortunate position to leverage the experiences of leading and emerging international jurisdictions in designing and implementing policy and regulatory approaches and will continue to benefit from strong international engagement into the future.

Learnings from the onshore renewables sector and the unique challenges associated with deployment of offshore technologies were highlighted, as were opportunities for greater industry collaboration in areas such as community engagement and enhanced representation of industry priorities to government. Participants recognised the important work that has already been done in ensuring the interests of renewables industry are represented in Australia and acknowledged that further work specific to offshore renewables would be beneficial. Industry participants agreed to progress arrangements for coordinated engagement and to work with government to drive the long-term success and sustainability of the Australian offshore renewables sector.