

1 February 2024

Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC
ENERGYMATTERS@PARLIAMENT.TAS.GOV.AU

Dear Ms Forrest,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee.

Due to the live process underway for the Bass Strait offshore wind zone, we will make this submission brief.

Preliminary investigations for the proposed Bass Offshore Wind Energy project (BOWE) commenced in March 2019 and have continued to mature the project in readiness to lodge a feasibility licence application (FLA).

BOWE is being developed in partnership between local Australian development company Nexsphere, and Norwegian global energy company Equinor.

BOWE is intended to be a transformational renewable energy project that will help accelerate Australia's change to a green and clean energy supply. The project plans to sensitively design, construct and operate an offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters in Bass Strait, taking advantage of the Bass Strait's world-class offshore wind resources.

We believe that Tasmania is in a relatively good position at present to meet current local demand, both through existing 'on-island' generation and through low-cost imports via the existing interconnector, Basslink. To ensure energy security remains into the future for Tasmania, there will be a need for new renewable generation and dispatchable capacity - particularly when considering climate change impacts on water resources, retiring thermal generation in the National Electricity Market (that is at times imported into Tasmania), and in considering future demand pressures from existing and new industries, together with the wider electrification of business, industry and transport (i.e. electric vehicles).

With greater energy security and further development of low-cost renewable generation and storage, industries and the wider local economy in Tasmania will have attractive settings to grow in a sensitive and sustainable way. Through that growth will come more clean and meaningful jobs, skills, training, and a wide range of products and services that will support the prosperity of Tasmania and Tasmanians over decades. Offshore wind can play a part in realizing those positive outcomes.

As you would be aware, the Australian Government is undertaking community consultation for the Bass Strait proposed offshore wind zone. This is an important step which allows the community in Tasmania (and across the National Electricity Market more broadly) to provide open and direct feedback on the Bass Strait proposed offshore wind zone. The public consultation period closed on 31 January 2024.

BOWE intends to lodge a feasibility licence application (FLA) for the Bass Strait proposed offshore wind zone at the appropriate time. An FLA is a significant undertaking for project proponents and partners, and will put into sharp focus the business case, deliverability, and technical description. Projects awarded feasibility licences need to progress on superior merit in a qualitative application process, based on 1) technical and financial capability, 2) project viability, 3) proponent suitability and 4) national interest (i.e. jobs & economic contributions, local content, co-existence, and national security).

We look forward to continuing to work with and engage in Tasmania and thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Sincerely,



Glen Kierse
Chief Executive Officer