

# Working alongside existing marine users

**Novocastrian Offshore Wind is looking to develop the Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm more than 20 kilometres off the coast of NSW's Hunter region. This project is in the early stages of feasibility assessment.**

Before an offshore wind farm can be approved, developers must first demonstrate good knowledge of the local marine environment and an in-depth appreciation of how existing maritime users – like fishers, commercial shipping, charter groups and others – operate in the area.

While offshore wind generation is a relatively new industry in Australia, existing operations globally show that offshore wind projects can successfully operate alongside the operations of other marine users



Oceanex is currently engaging with the Hunter region's marine stakeholders to better understand their expectations and to plan for how the proposed Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm can successfully integrate and 'co-exist' with their existing interests.

## Our Philosophy

We believe coexistence can be achieved by carefully evaluating the existing uses of the lease area, and working with users to avoid or reduce impacts where feasible through the implementation of mitigation strategies.

## Our Commitment

We are committed to working with the existing marine users to develop a successful co-existence strategy.

We will maintain open and regular communication, starting with the development and survey phase, and continuing through permitting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the wind farm.

We will adopt an approach which seeks to minimise disruption to existing users, which includes:

1. Anticipate and avoid impacts to existing users
2. Minimise impacts where avoidance is not possible
3. Take steps to offset any significant residual, adverse impacts that are predicted to remain

## Our Intention

We do not intend to restrict or apply for broad-based restrictions on fishing and other compatible activities within the operational wind farm. To the extent that any restrictions are necessary, these may be limited to standard safety zones during the construction phase, and operational safety zones around manned or sensitive offshore platforms or access points.

## A shared area with existing marine users and interests

The Novocastrian Wind Farm will harness strong winds off the coast of the Hunter region to generate up to 2 gigawatts of clean, affordable energy.

The Project will feature approximately 100 - 130 turbines fixed to modern floating foundations that are moored to the seabed by flexible anchors or cables. Energy will then be transported to the mainland via undersea cables.

The choice of floating wind turbine foundations will significantly reduce the Project's environmental impact and will provide greater flexibility to develop the Project to reflect the interests of existing marine users.

## Acknowledging feedback

Our ongoing engagement with marine users will provide multiple opportunities to provide feedback. We will also provide feedback to stakeholders to show how their needs have been considered and their input has been used to inform our design approach. The feedback will help us:

- ✓ **Modify survey schedules and locations in survey planning and in real-time by adaptive management of survey locations to avoid areas with active and/or seasonal fishing**
- ✓ **Establish fisheries communications and outreach strategies to effectively engage with and solicit input from a wide range of fishers and stakeholders in multiple regions**
- ✓ **Apply data and fisheries feedback in early spatial planning for the project area, including setting “Layout Rules” for the wind farm layouts that aim to minimise impacts on fishing and facilitate continued safe access to traditional fishing grounds**
- ✓ **Avoid high use, high value, and high sensitivity fisheries areas in planning the export cable routes**

We encourage marine users with an interest in the Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm to engage with us and share their views. As well as potential marine impacts, we are also interested to understand your views on how the Project might contribute positive benefits to marine industries, like job creation, joint research, industry innovation or net positive environmental initiatives.

## Safety

The safety of all marine users will be a primary consideration as we move through the process of designing and constructing the Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm. Alongside views on marine operations and needs we will collate a register of important safety considerations that will inform how the Project is designed, constructed and operated.

In fitting with our belief that offshore wind energy can co-exist with existing marine users, Oceanex does not plan to apply for broad-based restrictions to marine activities within the Project site. Small restricted areas immediately around turbines and substations may be required to ensure the safety of workers and other marine users, and to protect infrastructure from damage.

## Got a question?

To find out more about the Novocastrian Offshore Wind Farm or to register for updates, please visit



[novocastrianoffshorewind.com.au](https://novocastrianoffshorewind.com.au)



[info@novocastrianoffshorewind.com.au](mailto:info@novocastrianoffshorewind.com.au)