

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.

We understand that concerns are often raised about the impact on fishing and shipping lanes. However, in our experience, close dialogue and clear regulations can mitigate these issues, allowing for coexistence with marine industries. Once the construction phase is finished, safety zones around wind farms will be reduced, allowing certain types of fishing activity to return to the area, and boats to sail between the turbines.

Through a partnership with Marine Scotland Science, Equinor has undertaken trials at Hywind Scotland to help understand what types of commercial fishing may be compatible with floating offshore wind and help to facilitate coexistence between the two sectors. These trials show that under the right conditions, and with the right information, it is possible to safely deploy and recover the static fishing gear tested. These trials will help inform discussions with the fishers operating within the Hunter-declared offshore wind area.



Novocastrian Offshore Wind is committed to engaging with the Hunter region's marine stakeholders to understand their operations and concerns. Our objective is to enable the coexistence of offshore wind and existing marine users.

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.

Our Intention

We do not intend to restrict or apply for broad-based restrictions on existing marine activities within the operational wind farm. To the extent that any restrictions are necessary, these will be developed in consultation with existing users in line with the requirements of the OEI regulations.

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. Energy will then be transported to the mainland via undersea cables.

There are a number of potential environmental benefits of floating offshore wind farms. These include the avoidance of the need to install foundations into the seabed and making their decommissioning and removal easier.



Seeking input

Our ongoing engagement with marine users will provide multiple opportunities to provide provide input. 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. Your input will help us:

- ✔ **Plan survey design and schedules to avoid or minimise conflicts with existing activities**
- ✔ **Establish communications and outreach strategies that effectively engage with and solicit input from a representative range of fishers and stakeholders**
- ✔ **Develop criteria for the layout of the wind farm facilitates continued safe access to the area for existing marine users, wherever possible**
- ✔ **Assess and select export cable routes between the offshore wind farm and the coast to avoid or minimise conflicts with existing marine users**

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, Novocastrian Wind does not plan to apply for broad-based restrictions to marine activities within the Project site. 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



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