



Request for feedback on proposed licence conditions- Consultation on the Offshore Electricity and Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024

Submission from the Hunter Jobs Alliance

7th June 2024

Submitted via email - offshorerenewables@dceew.gov.au

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

The Hunter Jobs Alliance is a collaboration of unions and environment organisations in the Hunter region, working together to create a future for our region with full employment, good union jobs, a thriving and healthy living environment, an equitable society, a stable climate, and renewable prosperity. The members and supporters of our organisations are workers, conservationists, local businesses people with deep ties to the Hunter region and a shared commitment to its fair and sustainable future.

We support growth and investment in renewable energy in the Hunter including offshore wind. Offshore Wind will generate significant investment and bring further investment in renewables to our region. With the right Government Policy and Framework settings we have the opportunity to maximise local content, mitigate environmental impacts & provide community benefits to the Hunter region.

Licence Conditions

The Hunter Jobs Alliance (HJA) supports the Australian Government's commitment to maximising the use of Australian businesses and workers in proposed offshore wind projects in Australia. HJA is supportive of establishing "licence conditions" & support that they become embedded in the OEI Regulations.

Recommendation 1. Additions to Condition 1 a. (In bold & underlined)

3). The local supply chain analysis must:

- a. outline a description of the proposed offshore infrastructure project and the potential supply opportunities for Australian businesses, suppliers and workers **including apprentices & trainees**;





Australia is currently experiencing a skills shortage. New Industries like offshore wind must not deplete existing industries of skilled workers but play a significant role in increasing skills workers through employment, training, apprenticeships & traineeships. The wind proponents must also ensure that apprenticeships & traineeships are part of the contracts they put in place with principal contractors, sub contractors & supply chains.

Recommendation 2. Additions to Condition 1 c. (In bold & underlined)

3). The local supply chain analysis must:

c. outline consultation that has occurred with Australian businesses for the purposes of subsection (2), including with any established forums or committees representing business owners, **local Industry Bodies, Unions** and workers located in the region adjacent to the proposed project;

HJA supports consultation & the establishment of forums or committees but that needs to be expanded to include Unions & local Industry Bodies. This is a new industry in Australia and there are currently no workers working on Offshore or its supply chains. Specific Unions directly related to the local supply chains have in-depth knowledge & experience of manufacturing, electrical, marine & construction supply chains that will add significant value to the consultation process.

Local Industries Bodies in their respective regions can play a significant role in the consultation process. As an example, in the NSW Hunter Valley, HunterNet is a network of 158 manufacturing, engineering and specialist services companies employing close to 95,000 workers, supporting programs covering business development, business systems and processes, WHS and training, marketing and communications, innovation, business improvement and government advocacy. Their knowledge of local industry capabilities will provide valuable input into the consultation process.

Recommendation 3. Additions to Condition 1 e. (In bold & underlined)

3). The local supply chain analysis must:

e. identify how the license holder will engage with suppliers, **Unions** and workers throughout the life of the project;

Unions representing workers in the supply chains bring in depth knowledge & experience of not only the supply chains, but will also add quality and veracity to the consultation processes. Workers have a right under the Fair Work Act to be represented by their Union in consultation processes.





Recommendation 4. Addition to Condition 2

National Coordination for Offshore Wind Industry Development.

The Australian Government will coordinate national collaboration between Offshore Wind proponents, supply chain businesses and governments to maximise industry development & national manufacturing & supply chain opportunities.

HJA believes a Nationally coordinated approach to industry development is needed to maximise the economic benefits of offshore wind. Early and ongoing collaboration with Offshore Wind proponents, supply chain businesses and governments is required. The proposed “licence conditions” does not encourage engagement between Wind Proponents around local or National Industry development.

Government will need to play a key role by creating offtake agreements or local content rules to create market certainty & demand for investment in new manufacturing facilities. Federal & State grants, Business & Wind Proponent capital will be required for investment in new manufacturing facilities.

As an example, the development of wind tower manufacturing is a huge opportunity for Australia. It will only be viable if the majority of proponents, Australian & State governments support developing a wind tower manufacturing industry. This will not happen through one developer or one region, it needs National Coordination.

Other opportunities for local manufacturing capacity are ladders, internal platforms, ship access platforms, sub-structure elements, jacket foundations, spar buoys, tension legs & marine vessels. All will need a National Coordinated approach to maximise the use of Australia business & workers.

For inquiries contact: Justin Page, Coordinator - Hunter Jobs Alliance
justin.page@hunterjobsalliance.org.au





HUNTER JOBS ALLIANCE
SECURING OUR FUTURE



Securing our Future

WWW.HUNTERJOBSALLIANCE.ORG.AU