

13 October 2023

Offshore Renewables Team  
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Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Proposed offshore wind area: Pacific Ocean off Illawarra region, NSW**

NSW Ports welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed offshore wind area in the Pacific Ocean off the Illawarra region announced by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 14 August 2023.

NSW Ports is responsible for managing the key trade gateways of Port Kembla, Port Botany, the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre, and the Cooks River Intermodal Terminal. Through its diversified trade, Port Kembla is essential to regional NSW, the Illawarra and Greater Sydney. It services growing demand for population-driven trades such as vehicles and construction materials, along with supporting the importation of onshore wind projects throughout New South Wales. In the coming years, Port Kembla will become the site of the state's next container terminal once Port Botany nears capacity and will play an increasingly critical part in supporting Australia's green energy future.

NSW Ports strongly supports the establishment of the proposed offshore wind zone in the Illawarra.

Australia's emissions reduction target of 43 per cent below 2005 levels and net zero emissions by 2050 requires significant regulatory and infrastructure reform and investment, and the declaration of this zone will provide opportunity to increase the Illawarra's role in meeting these targets including through providing a renewable source of power. Additionally, as green hydrogen production requires the co-location of substantial renewable energy production, it makes good sense for offshore wind and hydrogen to be co-located around heavy industry to address long term decarbonising targets in areas like the Illawarra.

The Illawarra Region has many of the key features needed for an offshore wind industry – strong wind speeds at sea, a deep-water port at Port Kembla, existing heavy transport routes (both road and at-port dedicated freight rail), existing transmission routes and an experienced industrial labour workforce.

As outlined in the NSW Ports 40-year Master Plan released in May 2023, we have identified the need to develop a port facility in the Outer Harbour of Port Kembla (see Figure 1, below) to facilitate the needs of the offshore wind industry. This facility will accommodate offshore wind proponents' requirements for layup and assembly of wind tower components before the completed turbines are towed and installed in the proposed offshore wind zone.



Figure 1 - artist impression of Port Kembla Outer Harbour Offshore Wind Facility

The development of Port Kembla is a critical enabler to support any offshore wind development in the Illawarra. There are no alternative locations (within 150 kilometres of the Illawarra offshore zone) for the assembly of the turbines, making Port Kembla critical in ensuring the economic viability of the entire wind zone. With this in mind, NSW Ports stands ready to work with both state and federal governments to solve the challenges of delivering the required port infrastructure to enable offshore wind projects to meet our broader decarbonisation targets.

The development of Port Kembla could also support offshore wind developments elsewhere off the NSW coast, if required. In fact, given the size of the declared Hunter offshore wind zone and proposed Illawarra offshore wind zone, it is likely that existing port facilities will not be able to support these zones and the development of Port Kembla will be required to support projects in both the Illawarra (primarily) but also the Hunter region as a secondary port or to support ongoing operations and maintenance.

NSW Ports recognises the ongoing work of the Port Authority of NSW and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in reviewing the zone and minimising potential impacts on commercial shipping lanes and anchorages. Given the primary purpose of Port Kembla in supporting the economic needs of NSW and Australia, it is vital that Port Kembla's role as a commercial shipping port is able to continue operating safely following the declaration of the offshore wind zone. To this end, NSW Ports encourages the Department to consult with both the Port Authority of NSW and AMSA to address potential challenges or conflicts to allow both commercial activities to operate in parallel.

As the consultation process for proposed Illawarra offshore wind zone continues, NSW Ports welcomes the opportunity to engage further, particularly to ensure required regulatory reforms and investment needs are addressed to allow industry to expedite the development and operation of the region's offshore wind industry.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact me at [Greg.Walls@nswports.com.au](mailto:Greg.Walls@nswports.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

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NSW Ports