

# Offshore Infrastructure Registrar

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

I, Graeme Waters, as the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar (**Registrar**), hereby present my Statement of Intent in response to the expectations outlined by the responsible Commonwealth Minister under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021 (OEI Act)* and associated regulations.

### Organisational Structure

I acknowledge the crucial role of the Registrar in administering the offshore electricity infrastructure licensing scheme. In executing the functions and powers conferred on, or delegated to, the Registrar under the OEI Act and associated regulations, I am assisted by staff employed in the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (**NOPTA**) Branch which sits within the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (**DISR**).

I am committed to upholding the principles of effective governance and performance outlined in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. To optimise efficiency, I will maintain an organisational structure that ensures competent capacity, effective collaboration, and a commitment to good corporate governance.

### Strategic Objectives

The establishment of an offshore renewable energy industry aligns with the Government's climate change and net-zero objectives by reducing emissions while contributing to energy security, reliability, and affordability. I recognise the significant benefits this industry brings to Australia's national interest, including job creation, regional development, and investment in coastal communities and economies.

To support the growth of the offshore renewables industry, I intend to maintain agility and adaptability to navigate changing economic, technological, and regulatory landscapes effectively and through this approach build confidence in Australia's ability to deliver an attractive yet robust legislative and regulatory framework.

### Functions and Operations

In the execution of the Registrar's principal functions relating to administration of the offshore electricity infrastructure licensing scheme, including the assessment of licence applications and providing advice and recommendations, monitoring licence holder compliance, and maintaining the register of offshore electricity infrastructure licences, I undertake to:

- Contribute to efficient decision-making for the responsible Commonwealth Minister through the provision of consistent, defensible, evidence and risk-based analysis and advice, which complies with relevant legislation, regulations, and guidelines.
- Provide efficient, consistent, and defensible Registrar decisions in relation to changes in control of licence holders.
- Use intelligence and data to proactively advise the responsible Commonwealth Minister and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**) on matters impacting Government or industry objectives.
- Actively monitor whether licence holders continue to meet the merit criteria set out in the OEI Act and associated regulations, including in relation to technical and financial capability.

- Develop and maintain an up-to-date compliance and enforcement policy that articulates the Registrar's approach to risk and how this informs engagement activities with licence holders and actions that may be taken in response to identified non-compliance.
- Foster meaningful and timely engagement with licence holders on their performance in meeting regulatory obligations and expectations during the lifecycle of offshore electricity infrastructure projects.
- Undertake the Registrar's functions in a manner that builds trust and confidence, and enhances accountability with stakeholder while maintaining the protection of confidential information.

### *Operational excellence*

The Registrar will foster and support a cost efficient, high performing workforce, focused on continuous improvement, best practice outcomes, and a positive workplace culture. In particular, I commit to:

- Ensuring that the organisational structure is optimised with a competent capacity to be able to deliver on the Registrar's functions, including accurate, consistent, and evidence-based advice.
- Collaborate with DCCEEW and other stakeholders to achieve well-informed, consistent, and timely outcomes.
- Uphold an effective risk-based framework for compliance monitoring and enforcement which is reflected in the Registrar's systems, processes, and planning.
- Stay informed of technological advancements and industry practices in the offshore renewables sector and adapt operations accordingly.
- Identify opportunities to reduce regulatory burden and improve operational practices, including through regular reviews of guidance material, processes, and procedures.
- Maintain a secure and reliable information management system to support the Registrar's functions, including to capture the reasons and supporting evidence for regulatory decisions.
- Provide a user-friendly and accurate online register of licences which is available for public inspection, as well as an online approvals tracking system for licence applications.
- Monitor, and where necessary, update cost recovery arrangements to ensure that these are adequate to effectively discharge the Registrar's administrative and regulatory functions.
- Use industry benchmarking, stakeholder surveys, and other feedback mechanisms to obtain performance insights that drive continuous improvement in regulatory outcomes.
- Provide an annual report on the Registrar's performance to demonstrate and promote accountability and transparency.

### **Regulatory Reform**

I acknowledge the value of reducing regulatory burden on industry and will seek to identify opportunities to improve efficiency without having an adverse impact on regulatory outcomes. As the Registrar, I will take a collaborative and risk-based approach to administration of the licensing scheme under the offshore electricity infrastructure framework.

In recognition of this, the Registrar's internal key performance indicators are aligned with the Government's principles of regulator best practice as set out under Resource Management Guide 128 Regulator Performance. I will report against these principles via the Registrar's annual reporting mechanisms.

### **Collaboration and Engagement**

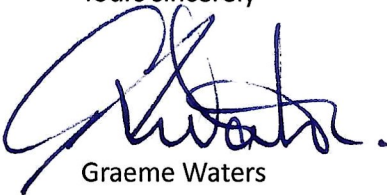
I commit to proactively informing the responsible Commonwealth Minister of significant actions or issues relating to the Registrar's functions. I will collaborate with DCCEEW, other Commonwealth agencies, and authorities that have functions relevant to the regulation of offshore infrastructure activities for a consistent, whole-of-government approach. In doing so, I will also seek to ensure that coastal communities and First Nations people impacted by offshore electricity infrastructure development are meaningfully engaged by licence holders and related industry stakeholders to leverage genuine benefits and mitigate unintended impacts on the environment, communities, and existing local industry.

I will continue to build and maintain collaborative relationships with overseas counterparts to ensure Australia can continue to deliver on international regulatory best practice.

### **Cooperation with the Regulator**

I will ensure cooperation with the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (**Regulator**) to provide clarity to licence holders on roles and responsibilities within the OEI framework and to support compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. I will work closely with the Regulator to facilitate information sharing with a view to addressing emerging issues, streamlining processes to improve administrative efficiencies and reduce regulatory overlap, and improve outcomes for stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Waters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Waters  
Offshore Infrastructure Registrar

11 April 2024