



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland

14 September 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE (REGULATORY LEVIES) BILL 2021 AND OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE BILL 2021

Wellington Shire Council welcomes the introduction of the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill to Parliament to create a local offshore wind industry, particularly here off our coast in Gippsland.

Council supports this important Bill as we have several significant wind projects, proposals and investments at varying stages of development waiting for this legislation approval.

Council is welcoming, supporting and facilitating these projects as we appreciate this is a major growth industry for our Shire as evidenced in our draft [Council Plan 2021/25](#) and [Wellington Investment Prospectus](#). These projects will ultimately boost our local economy which is still recovering from recent floods, bushfires, drought and the decline of local industries including timber and coal-based generation. These renewable energy projects offer an exciting pathway for Wellington's community to benefit from a clean energy economy.

Offshore wind represents a strong economic opportunity for Wellington with modelling demonstrating an estimated 3,000 direct jobs and more than \$10 billion of wider economic benefits resulting from offshore wind projects in Gippsland.

The proposed Bill will be pivotal piece of legislation to foster and drive this emerging sector in our region and we wish to extend our full support for approval.

Yours sincerely

Cr Garry Stephens
MAYOR