

Environment and Communications References
 Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Offshore wind industry consultation process
Question No: IQ25-000001
Division/Agency: Net Zero Industries Division
Topic: Six priority areas for offshore wind
Question Date: 3 February 2025
Question Type: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

1. In relation to the six priority areas for offshore wind, the areas declared as suitable for offshore renewable energy were smaller than the areas proposed, after feedback on potential environmental and other impacts received during the consultation process on Stage 1 of the offshore renewable energy process. Please provide the committee with the proposed area maximum size, declared area maximum size and the percentage decrease for the priority areas:

- o off Gippsland, Victoria;
- o Pacific Ocean off Hunter, New South Wales;
- o Southern Ocean off Victoria;
- o Pacific Ocean off Illawarra, New South Wales;
- o Bass Strait off Tasmania; and
- o Indian Ocean off Bunbury, Western Australia.

Answer:

The proposed and declared area sizes and the percentage change is provided in the table below.

Priority Area	Proposed Area Maximum Size	Declared Area Maximum Size	Percentage Size Decrease
Gippsland, VIC	27,500km ²	15,000km ²	45.45%
Hunter, NSW	2,811km ²	1,854km ²	34.04%
Southern Ocean, VIC	5,132km ²	1,030km ²	79.93%
Illawarra, NSW	1,461km ²	1,022km ²	30.05%
Bass Strait, TAS	10,136km ²	7,104km ²	29.91%
Bunbury, WA	7,674km ²	3,995km ²	47.94%