

ITEM 13 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MITHRA COX - OCEANX OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Councillor Mithra Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Council –

- 1 Welcome the announcement from renewable energy company OceanX that they intend to build a large offshore wind farm off the Illawarra coast.
- 2 Write to OceanX, inviting them to brief Council on their plans, specifically -
 - a What further regulatory framework and approvals are required, given that this is a new industry based offshore and offshore wind has required special federal legislation to enable approval at the federal level
 - b What the onshore land use requirements will be
 - c What types of jobs will be created and how many
 - d What the estimated size of the windfarm will be and what the timeframe for construction will be.”

Background provided by Councillor Cox:

Oceanex Energy was set up last year by the founders of Star of the South, the company behind the massive 2GW project off the coast of Gippsland in Victoria that is likely to be the country's first offshore wind farm. Star of the South has been waiting several years for the federal government to introduce legislation to enable an approvals process for offshore wind, because it is a new industry with no existing process for assessment and approval. This legislation was finally introduced into Parliament on September 3rd this year and is expected to be passed by the end of the year.

Oceanex has flagged plans for 7.5GW of floating wind projects at various locations off the coast of New South Wales, including the Illawarra, with feasibility studies already underway.

The offshore wind farms would be located around 30km out to sea, and float on the ocean surface rather than being built onto the ocean floor. This technology allows the turbines to be further out to sea, where the wind is stronger and more constant, and where there is less visual impact from the shore.

The International Energy Agency has identified offshore wind as key to the transition away from coal, because the wind resources offshore are constant and predictable and wind farms can be built at a very large scale. The coastline off the Illawarra has been identified as one of the locations with very constant and reliable wind resources. The proposed wind farm in Gippsland represents about 20% of Victoria's energy needs. The Illawarra proposal is likely to be of a similar scale.

More information can be found via the following links:

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/oceanex-eyes-massive-10gw-of-offshore-and-floating-wind-farms-in-australia/>

<https://theconversation.com/australias-first-offshore-wind-farm-bill-was-a-long-time-coming-but-here-are-4-reasons-its-not-up-to-scratch-yet-167196>