



Special Council Meeting

# Agenda

1 May 2024



## *Our Vision*

Where environment, lifestyle and opportunity meet

## *Community Aspirations*



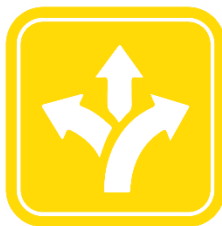
### KEY THEME 1 **Environment**

An environment that is valued, conserved and enjoyed by current and future generations.



### KEY THEME 2 **Lifestyle**

A place that is relaxed, safe and friendly, with services and facilities that support positive lifestyles and wellbeing.



### KEY THEME 3 **Opportunity**

A vibrant City with diverse opportunities and a prosperous economy.



### KEY THEME 4 **Leadership**

A Council that connects with the community and is accountable in its decision making.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**TO: THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

**NOTICE** is given that a Special Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Administration Building, Southern Drive, Busselton on Wednesday 1 May 2024, commencing at 5:30pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

**DISCLAIMER**

Statements or decisions made at Council meetings or briefings should not be relied on (or acted upon) by an applicant or any other person or entity until subsequent written notification has been given by or received from the City of Busselton. Without derogating from the generality of the above, approval of planning applications and building permits and acceptance of tenders and quotations will only become effective once written notice to that effect has been given to relevant parties. The City of Busselton expressly disclaims any liability for any loss arising from any person or body relying on any statement or decision made during a Council meeting or briefing.



**TONY NOTTLE**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

30 April 2024

## BEHAVIOUR PROTOCOLS

The City of Busselton values are:

- Listening
- Considered Decision Making
- Appreciation
- Respect
- Teamwork

In accordance with these values, the following outlines the behaviour expectations while attending a Council meeting, Committee meeting, Community Access Session, or Public Agenda Presentation:

- Listen respectfully through the meeting or presentation
- Respect the Council process and comply with directions from the Presiding Member
- Use respectful language when addressing Council, staff, and other members of the public
- Behave in a manner that is respectful and non-confrontational
- Do not use offensive language or derogatory language towards others

The City values the diverse input of the community and seeks to ensure that all members of the community can attend a meeting and have their say.

Elected Members, Committee members and Candidates are bound by the City's Code of Conduct and agree to uphold the values of the City of Busselton and principles of good behaviour, maintaining and contributing to a harmonious, safe, and productive environment.

Anyone who does not behave in accordance with the above values and behaviours may be asked by the Presiding Member to leave the gallery.

**CITY OF BUSSELTON**

Agenda for the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 1 May 2024

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1. OFFICIAL OPENING.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. PURPOSE OF MEETING.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. ATTENDANCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1. QUESTION TIME FOR PUBLIC.....	7
<b>6. PRESENTATIONS BY PARTIES WITH AN INTEREST .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1. RESPONSE TO MOTIONS CARRIED AT SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS .....	9
<b>8. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9. CLOSURE.....</b>	<b>20</b>

## 1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The City of Busselton welcomes Elected Members, staff, guests and members of the public to the Special Council Meeting of 1 May 2024.

The City of Busselton acknowledges the Wadandi and Bibbulmun people as the traditional custodians of this region and pay respects to Elders past and present.

This meeting will be audio recorded for minute taking purposes and will also be live streamed on the City of Busselton YouTube channel.

## 2. PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the motions carried at the Special Meeting of Electors held 24 April 2024.

## 3. ATTENDANCE

<b>PRESIDING MEMBER</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Mayor Phill Cronin	Cr Anne Ryan (Deputy Mayor)
	Cr Val Kaigg
	Cr Jodie Richards
	Cr Kate Cox
	Cr Mikayla Love
	Cr Richard Beecroft
	Cr Andrew Macnish
	Cr Jarrod Kennedy

<b>OFFICERS</b>
Chief Executive Officer
Director Infrastructure and Environment
Director Community Planning
Director Economic and Business Development
Acting Director Corporate Strategy and Performance
Governance and Risk Coordinator
Governance Officer

## APOLOGIES

Nil at time of publishing	
---------------------------	--

## 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

### DISCLOSURES OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

A declaration under section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that the nature of the interest must be disclosed. An elected member or employee who has made a declaration must not preside, participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making procedure relating to the matter on which the subject of the declaration without the approval of the Council in accordance with the Act.

### DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST

Elected members and employees are required, in addition to declaring any financial interest, to declare an interest that might cause or perceive to cause a conflict. If the elected member or employee declares that their impartiality will not be affected then they may participate in the decision-making process.

## 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public question time allows members of the public to participate in local government by asking questions of the Council in relation to issues affecting the City.

### 5.1. QUESTION TIME FOR PUBLIC

#### Public question time procedures and guidance

- The City will allocate a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes per Council meeting for public question time.
- Members of the public should register their intent to ask a question at a Council meeting by completing and submitting the [Public Question Time form](#) before 4pm the day prior to the relevant meeting.
- Members of the public will be invited to ask their question in order of registration.
- Questions will be limited to three per person. Additional questions may be permitted by the Presiding Member where time permits.
- Where a person is not present to ask their submitted question it will be responded to administratively as general correspondence.
- Questions may be taken on notice, to be responded to at a later time by the CEO in accordance with clause 6.7 of the Standing Orders.
- Public question time is for the tabling of questions, not for members of the community to make statements. For context, the Presiding Member may allow a short preamble.
- Questions containing defamatory remarks or offensive language, or that question the competency or personal affairs of Elected Members or employees may be ruled inappropriate by the Presiding Member subject to the Presiding Member taking reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to rephrase the question.
- There will be no debate or discussion on the response provided.

For further information, please see the [Meetings, Information Sessions and Decision Making Processes Policy](#).

## 6. PRESENTATIONS BY PARTIES WITH AN INTEREST



## 7. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS

### 7.1. Response to motions carried at Special Meeting of Electors

<b>Strategic Theme:</b>	Key Theme 1: Environment 1.4 Respond to the impacts of climate change on the City's coastlines through informed, long term planning and action. Key Theme 4: Leadership 4.1 Provide opportunities for the community to engage with Council and contribute to decision making.
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Strategy and Performance
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Manager Legal and Governance - Ben Whitehill
<b>Authorised By:</b>	Chief Executive Officer - Tony Nottle
<b>Nature of Decision:</b>	Advocacy: to advocate on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government/body/agency.
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	Simple Majority
<b>Disclosures of Interest:</b>	No officers preparing this item have an interest to declare.
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Notice of proposal to declare area - Bunbury, Western Australia [7.1.1 - 2 pages]

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. In response to the motions 1 to 4 carried by the electors, write to the Premier and relevant State and Federal Government Ministers to:
  - a) Advise that approximately 100 electors of the City of Busselton attended a special meeting of electors to collectively express strong concern about the proposal to declare an area for offshore wind development in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region in Western Australia (Proposal), in particular:
    - i. issues with the Federal Government's consultation process for the Proposal;
    - ii. the impact of the Proposal on the business and tourism industry;
    - iii. the impact of the Proposal on the marine environment; and
    - iv. the impact of the Proposal on real estate and development.
  - b) Request that these concerns be taken into account when considering matters related to the Proposal.
2. In response to motion 5 take no further action as sufficient information is available publicly to answer the matters specified in the motion.
3. In response to motion 6:
  - a) Request that the CEO publish all correspondence sent to and received by the relevant State and Federal Government Ministers under resolution 1 in the Elected Members Information Bulletin; and

- b) Resolve not to undertake a survey to determine whether there is a social licence for the wind farm.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report considers the motions carried by electors at the special meeting of electors on 24 April 2024, and makes recommendations as to the Council's response to the same.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Special meetings of electors provide opportunity for community members to engage with the Council and contribute to decision making.

## **BACKGROUND**

On 20 February 2024, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy gave notice under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (Cth) of an intention to declare an area for offshore wind development in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region in Western Australia (Proposal). The Minister is seeking feedback on the Proposal and submissions close on 3 May 2024. A copy of the notice and map of the proposed area is attached at Attachment 1. The southern limit of the proposed area is approximately 36km from the Busselton foreshore and 20km from Cape Naturaliste.

The region was selected as one of six areas across Australia due to (according to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water):

- proximity to areas of high electricity demand, grid connections and port facilities;
- a skilled energy and manufacturing workforce;
- strong, consistent winds; and
- known industry interest in developing projects in the area.

If an area is declared by the Minister, then developers will be able to apply to the federal government for feasibility licences to progress proposals in the declared area. As part of that process, and before obtaining a commercial licence, developers will need to obtain all necessary environmental approvals and develop an approved management plan.

Through public consultation the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is seeking feedback on:

- whether the area is suitable for offshore wind; and
- views on what this industry may mean for the region, including potential interactions with other marine users and interests.

On 25 March 2024, the City received a request from over 300 electors of the district to hold a special meeting of electors. The request was signed by 345 electors and called for a meeting "to hear the views of the electors in regard to the proposed implementing and construction of a Wind Turbine Farm in Geographe Bay".

On 12 April 2024, the Mayor wrote to the Hon. Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, advising the Minister that the City was holding a special meeting of electors on 24 April 2024 and requesting an extension to the closing date for submissions on the Proposal to 31 May 2024, to allow appropriate community and agency feedback and submissions. As at the time of writing the City has not received a response to that request.

Attendance records show that 107 people attended the special meeting of electors (however 13 of the attendees are recorded as not being electors). Several electors spoke and made statements in opposition to the Proposal. Six motions were considered, nobody spoke against the motions and all motions were carried by the electors present. Details of the motions carried are provided below.

### **Motion 1**

*The electors of the City of Busselton ask the Councillors and Mayor forward written correspondence to the following ministers within 14 days from this meeting for a thorough explanation why the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, have not followed their own internal due process, policies and procedures regarding the public consultation process.*

*Contact all relevant parties, departments and ministers, not limited to and including:*

- *The Hon. Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy;*
- *The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Environment and Water;*
- *The Hon. Reece Whitby, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Action;*
- *The Hon. Roger Cook, Premier, Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade, Public Sector Management, Federal and State Relations.*

#### Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- The public consultation by DCCEEW in Busselton was inadequate because it was held at an inconvenient time at a facility that was not fit for purpose without consideration for the elderly or people with impaired hearing.
- Flyers about the Proposal were only delivered sporadically.
- The nature of the consultation was chaotic and unfriendly, delivered by unqualified staff who were unable to provide answers to the questions asked.
- DCCEEW staff had no knowledge and were not aware of the local considerations about the Proposal.

### **Motion 2**

*That the Electors of the City of Busselton ask the elected Council and Mayor to write to the following ministers for a formal response regarding the following issues associated with the proposed offshore wind turbines, to communicate and strongly express concern regarding direct impact on businesses and tourism in the Busselton region.*

*I request the communications are sent to include, but not limited to:*

- *Hon. Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism;*
- *Hon. Julie Collins, Minister for Small Business;*
- *Hon. Roger Cook, Premier, Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade;*
- *Hon. Stephen Dawson, Minister Assisting for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade.*

#### Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- Busselton has a significant reliance on tourism (intrastate, interstate and international).
- There is a strong reliance on our natural environment for our tourism products and the prosperity of our region.

- Industrialization of pristine ocean will negatively impact tourism, and damage to marine ecosystems is a significant risk to the tourism industry.
- The destruction of the marine environment is likely to inhibit the attraction of high value visitors to the region.
- Concerns were also raised about electricity prices and the impacts on affordability for local businesses and tourists.

### **Motion 3**

*The electors of the City of Busselton ask the Councillors and Mayor forward written correspondence to the following Ministers within 14 days of this meeting, for thorough explanation on how the Federal and State Governments can allow contraventions of the EPBC Act 1999, by the historical knowledge and documented evidence of harm and impact from Offshore Wind Turbine they have planned in Geographe Bay and the City of Busselton region. We the electors have done our due diligence in researching as local experts, professionals and scientifically qualified individuals, we do not support this proposal in any way in our ocean in Geographe Bay or throughout WA.*

*Correspondence to:*

- *Hon. Chris Bowen;*
- *Hon. Tania Plibersek;*
- *Hon. Reece Whitby;*
- *Hon. Roger Cook;*
- *Hon. Murray Watt;*
- *Hon. Don Punch.*

Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- The proposal is likely to have significant adverse effects on fragile marine ecosystems.
- There is a risk of potential interruption to the natural flow of the Leeuwin current.
- There may be impacts on migrating birds, both ocean based and those that use the Ramsar wetlands as well as impacts on rock lobster and associated industry.
- High voltage cables will cause segregation of marine environments as well as impacts associated with electromagnetic fields on sessile and benthic species.
- Infrasound and other noises associated with construction will impact cetaceans (whales, dolphins).
- Wind turbines will contribute to pollution of the marine environment (for example hydraulic fluids, oils and microplastics).

### **Motion 4**

*The electors of the City of Busselton ask the Councillors and Mayor to forward correspondences to the following minister within 14 days for a full response regarding the Councils and Electors concerns on the following issues with the offshore wind turbine proposal direct impact on electors, businesses and visitors, real estate and development in the City of Busselton.*

*Contact all relevant parties, departments and ministers, not limited to and including:*

- *Hon. Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government;*
- *Hon. Murray Watt; Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and*

- *Hon. Kristy McBain; Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.*

Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- Real estate prices will be affected by offshore wind developments.
- There will be increased industrial traffic on roads like Bussell Highway.
- The creation of a new offshore wind industry will create additional pressure on the existing housing shortages.
- There is a lack of information about where transmission infrastructure will be located.

**Motion 5**

*I motion that the City of Busselton sends a formal enquiry to the Federal government seeking clarity regarding the projected power output of the Leeuwin Offshore Wind Farm. Furthermore, we request information on whether this generated power is designated solely for intra-state consumption and if not, how much and what method will be used to distribute it.*

Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- Some concerns about discrepancies between estimated power generation between government figures and the project proponent's figures.
- Seeking transparency about the destination and use of power.

**Motion 6**

1. *Should the Council endorse the motions, we the residents of the City receive a copy of all correspondence sent to all listed Ministers and responses received, and a list of Ministers who did not respond. These letters are to be included in the next practicable 'Elected Members Bulletin' for the next Ordinary Council Meeting.*
2. *Should the Council endorse the motions, a survey of electors be undertaken to establish if there is a social licence for the wind farm.*

Summary of rationale as put by mover / seconder

- Correspondence should be published for transparency.
- A survey would be useful to determine whether there exists a social licence for offshore wind.

**OFFICER COMMENT**

Officers recommend that the motions be dealt with by the Council as follows.

**Consideration of Motions 1-4**

Motions 1-4 request that the City correspond with relevant state and federal government ministers on various matters including failures with the DCCEE public consultation process, concerns associated with impacts of the Proposal on local business and tourism, the marine environment, and real estate and development.

The views expressed at the special meeting of electors indicated strong opposition to the Proposal. However, the electors meeting was only attended by 94 electors, which represents 0.3% of the electors in the district. Officers note that there is likely to be a diversity of views in the community about the Proposal and recommend that the Council exercise some caution when determining how

to respond to motions carried. Unfortunately, without undertaking a referendum or survey on the Proposal (which is not recommended), it will be difficult for elected members to accurately ascertain the views of all electors.

Motions 2 and 4 request that the City write to the relevant ministers to express concerns about impacts on local business and tourism, and real estate and development. In contrast, motions 1 and 3 are specific in their requests for thorough explanations about perceived failures of the state or federal government. For example, motion 1 requests a thorough explanation on alleged breaches of DCCEEW's internal due process, policies, and procedures regarding the public consultation process. This claim is made without providing substantiation. Similarly, motion 3 seeks thorough explanations on how the Federal and State Governments can allow contraventions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). Again, the City has no detailed substantiation to support these claims. Both motions 1 and 3 propose to send correspondence to ministers that have no responsibility for the matters they are being requested to respond to. Therefore, for the purposes of providing professional and respectful correspondence to the relevant ministers, and to avoid making unsubstantiated claims, officers recommend that the Council, in response to motions 1 and 3, note concerns with the consultation process and the potential impacts on the marine environment (only).

Officers note that motions 1-4 request the City to write to 11 state and federal government ministers. Officers recommend that one letter is prepared in response to motions 1-4 (subject to the above with respect to motions 1 and 3) and that the same letter be sent to all ministers to ensure that each of them is fully aware of all the concerns raised by electors. Officers further note that any decisions made by the local government will be carried out by the CEO or the Mayor, and not by individual councillors (in their capacity as a councillor) as was requested in the carried motions.

Specifically, officers recommend that the City write to the relevant State and Federal Government Ministers to:

1. Advise that approximately 100 electors of the City of Busselton attended a special meeting of electors to collectively express concern about the Proposal, in particular:
  - a) issues with the Federal Government's consultation process for the Proposal;
  - b) the impact of the Proposal on the business and tourism industry;
  - c) the impact of the Proposal on the marine environment; and
  - d) the impact of the Proposal on real estate and development.
2. Request that these concerns be taken into account when considering matters related to the Proposal.

This recommendation is consistent with the approach taken by the Council in March 2022 in response to a special meeting of electors held in February 2022 to consider, amongst other things, the impacts of the vaccination mandates on the City of Busselton community. That meeting was attended by approximately 450 electors and in that instance the Council resolved to write to the Premier and relevant state government ministers on behalf of those electors to express the concerns raised by the electors and ask that those concerns be taken into account.

### **Consideration of Motion 5**

Motion 5 requests that the City submit an enquiry to the federal government to seek clarity regarding the projected power output of the Leeuwin Offshore Wind Farm. It further requests information on whether this generated power is designated solely for intra-state consumption and if not, how much and what method will be used to distribute it.

Officers do not recommend that the Council make an enquiry to the federal government because the information requested is publicly available from the proponent's (Leeuwin Offshore Wind Farm) website and in their EPBC referral. At this stage, the Leeuwin Offshore Wind Farm is only a proposal, and the proponent does not hold any environmental approvals or have a licence to operate.

From a review of the information available:

- The projected power output is stated to be up to 3 GW and is estimated to be capable of generating up to 11 Terawatt-hour (TWh) of power per annum.
- The generated electricity will be brought onshore via export cables proposed to reach land north of Binningup in the Shire of Harvey. Once onshore, electricity is proposed to be transmitted, via underground and/or overhead cables, to a substation and connected into the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

### **Consideration of Motion 6**

Motion 6 is in two parts and requests that all correspondence be publicly available and that a survey be conducted to determine social licence for offshore wind as set out in the Proposal.

Officers are supportive of publishing all relevant correspondence in the Elected Members Information Bulletin in the monthly Council agenda which is publicly available.

With respect to the second part of the motion, conducting a survey to determine social licence is not recommended. Officers believe it is not advisable to undertake a survey for a Proposal that does not fall within the jurisdiction of local government. In addition, the public consultation period closes on 3 May 2024, and it is unlikely that the City would be able meaningfully utilise any data gathered, as the minister would not be required to consider the results. On this basis a survey is not recommended or considered to be an effective use of the City's resources. Instead, it is strongly recommended that all interested community members, businesses, and other entities respond to the federal government's consultation process before the 3 May 2024 deadline.

### **DCCEEW consultation response**

None of the motions specifically requested that the City make a formal submission to the DCCEEW consultation portal prior to the 3 May 2024 deadline. It is open for the Council to make a submission, which has been undertaken by some local governments in the eastern states in respect to proposals in proximity to their local government areas. Importantly, if a submission is made by the City prior to 3 May 2024, that submission must be considered by the Minister when deciding whether to declare an area (see s 19(1)(b) of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (Cth)). Submissions made after this date may be, but do not have to be, considered by the Minister.

If the Council wishes to make a formal submission it should consider all relevant information including the information on the DCCEEW website about the Proposal, the information provided in the presentation to elected members by DCCEEW on 10 April 2024, the potential positive and negative impacts of the Proposal, the views of electors and the City's policy position on climate change.

Due to the short timeframe between the special meeting of electors, the special council meeting, and the closing date for consultation, the lack of specific expertise to accurately assess potential impacts and the lack of information about broad elector views on the Proposal, officers are unable to provide the Council with a detailed assessment and recommendation for a proposed response to the consultation.



## **Statutory Environment**

Section 5.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires a special electors meeting to be held on the request of not less than 300 electors or 5% of the number of electors, whichever is the lesser number. Section 5.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that all decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting or, if that is not practicable at a special meeting called for that purpose.

The *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (Cth) sets out the framework to regulate the development of electricity infrastructure in Commonwealth waters. It is under this legislation that the Minister for Climate Change and Energy gave notice of an intention to declare an area for offshore wind development in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region in Western Australia.

## **Relevant Plans and Policies**

The officer recommendation aligns to the following adopted plan or policy:

Plan:

Not applicable.

Policy:

[Climate Change](#)

The City is a signatory to the WALGA Climate Change Declaration and has adopted the Climate Change policy which states the City's position on climate change. Relevantly the policy states that the City acknowledges (at paragraph 5.1):

1. *The science is clear: climate change is occurring and greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the dominant cause;*
2. *Climate change threatens human societies and the Earth's ecosystems;*
3. *Urgent action is required to reduce emissions, and to adapt to the impacts from climate change that are now unavoidable;*
4. *A failure to adequately address this climate change emergency places an unacceptable burden on future generations.*

Furthermore, the policy states that "*the City is committed to addressing climate change*" and calls for "*strong climate change action, leadership and coordination at all levels of government*". The City's policy position is a relevant consideration when determining the City's position in relation to the Proposal.

## **Financial Implications**

Not Applicable

## **External Stakeholder Consultation**

This report considers motions carried at a special meeting of electors on 24 April 2024.



**Risk Assessment**

An assessment of the potential implications of implementing the officer recommendation has been undertaken using the City’s risk management framework, with risks assessed taking into account any controls already in place. No risks of a medium or greater level have been identified.

**Options**

As an alternative to the proposed recommendation the Council could decide:

1. Not to advocate on behalf of the electors who attended the special meeting of electors.
2. To conduct a survey of electors to determine whether offshore wind farms have a social licence. For the reasons outlined in the officer comment this is not recommended.
3. To make a submission to the DCCEEW Consultation prior to the 3 May 2024 deadline, noting that the Council will need to determine the content of that submission.
4. To take some other course of action.

**CONCLUSION**

Motions carried at a special meeting of electors on Wednesday 24 April 2024 are required to be considered by the Council. This report recommends that the Council advocate on behalf of those electors who attended the special meeting to ensure their concerns are considered by relevant state and federal government ministers.

**TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

The officer recommendation will be implemented in full, or in stages as per the following table:

Milestone	Completion Date
Send correspondence to relevant State and Federal Government Ministers	Early May 2024



## Notice of Proposal to Declare an Area – Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region in Western Australia

20 February 2024

I, The Honourable Chris Bowen MP, the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (the Act), make the following notice under section 18 of the Act:

- (a) I propose to declare an area in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region in Western Australia, as identified by the dataset titled '*Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021– Proposed Area – Bunbury region, WA*' available on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website](#).
- (b) I invite submissions from the public on this proposal.
- (c) Submissions are to be made via the [Consultation Hub](#).
- (d) Submissions must be received by **3 May 2024** in order to be considered.

**All areas declared as suitable for offshore renewable energy will be multi-user areas. Offshore renewable energy projects must share the area with other users and interests.**

### Further Information

For more information on the area proposed, see *Frequently Asked Questions* and the *Marine Users, Interests and the Environment in the Bunbury region* supporting documents available on the Consultation Hub.

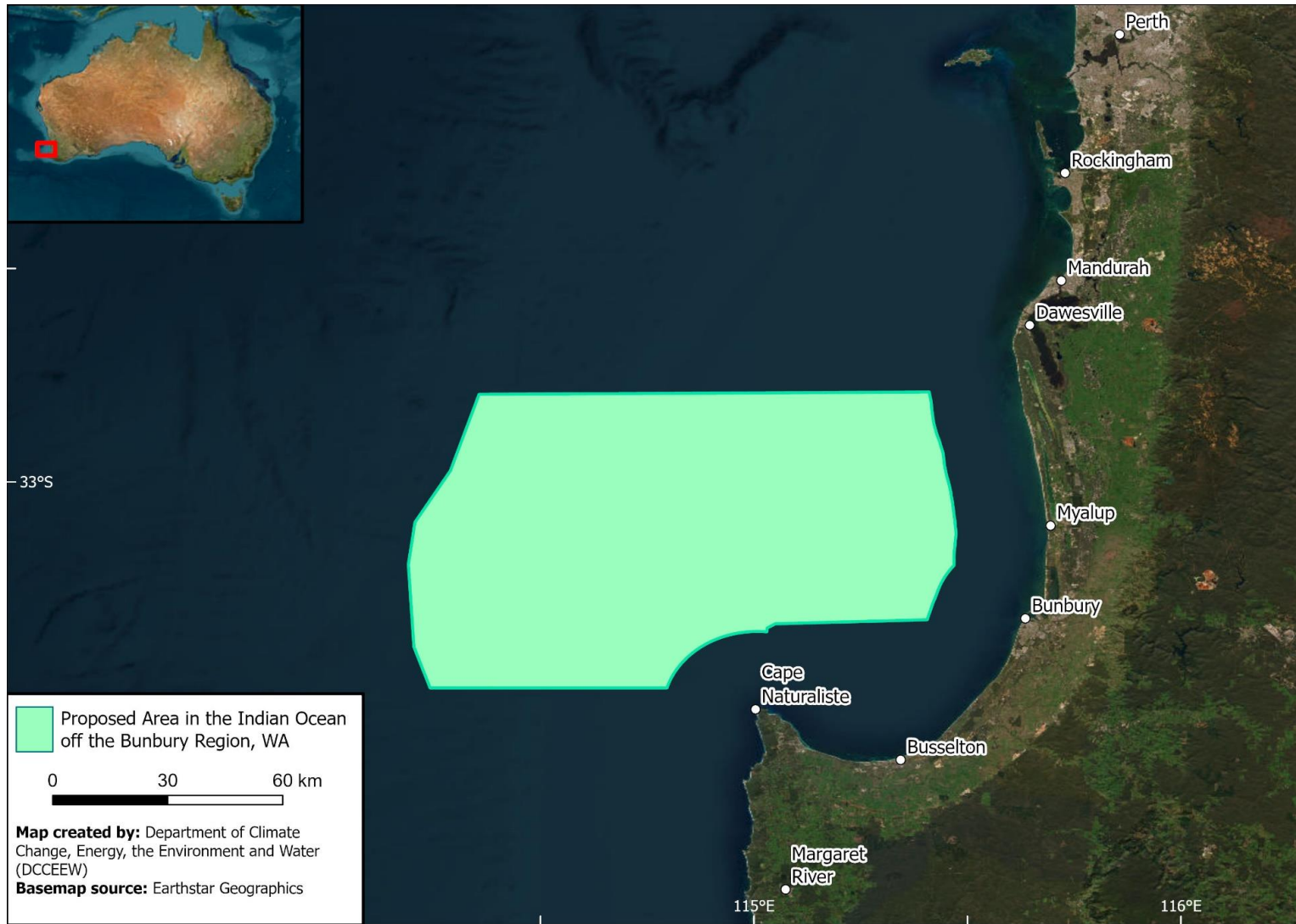
A map allows users to interact with the proposed area in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region under consideration and geographic information relevant to other users and interests in the area. The map, as well as other tools, visualisations and data relevant to offshore renewable energy in Australian waters are available on the [Australian Marine Spatial Information System](#) portal.

### Indicative map of area

An indicative map of the proposed area is shown below. This map is a guide only, and is not a definitive representation of the area proposed to be declared. The exact series of geospatial coordinates for the area is available in the dataset titled *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021– Proposed Area – Bunbury region, WA* available on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water**



**8. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

**9. CLOSURE**