

BlueFloat Energy is seeking feedback on the Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project

BlueFloat Energy, the developer of the Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project, has announced a series of community drop-in sessions across the Hunter region aimed at gaining insight to inform project plans.

The Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project is set to be located off the Hunter-Port Stephens coast in New South Wales (NSW), between Newcastle and Nelson Bay. With 115 floating wind turbines and three offshore substations, the project will sit approximately 25-45 km off the coast.

It is set to generate enough electricity to power 825,000 homes, the equivalent to almost a quarter of all households in NSW. The project will create hundreds of jobs whilst attracting international investment and growth for the region.

The sessions coincide with the offshore wind developer's forthcoming environmental referrals under the EPBC Act. The purpose of the referrals is to determine whether further assessment is required to be undertaken in relation to the Project.

It comes only a week after it was revealed that the government's Hunter offshore wind zone consultation received large public engagement with 1900 submissions, of which 93.6% came from individuals.

The drop-in sessions to be held this week will provide an opportunity for local people to meet with the Project team, learn about the Project and gain better understanding of the processes that an offshore wind project needs to go through from a regulatory perspective.

Whilst the Project is currently in the pre-feasibility stage, with applications for licenses expected to be open in mid 2023, BlueFloat Energy has emphasised that engagement is crucial with the community, to co-exist with other industries like tourism, fishing and resources.

Nick Sankey, BlueFloat Energy's Australian Country Manager, said:

"BlueFloat Energy is committed to bringing the Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project to life through the experience, feedback, and ideas of the local community. We want to create lasting benefits for the Hunter and Port Stephens region through the delivery of our Project. Our community engagement sessions represent just the start of our community consultation.

"The offshore wind industry will provide clean energy, as well as jobs in construction, operation and maintenance. We expect there to be massive benefit for the region and we are keen to deliver this benefit in a way that ensures that other industries and community members are not negatively affected, underlining the value of these sessions."

Kate Lancaster, Stakeholder and Engagement Manager, commented:

"It is exciting to see that the region is undergoing its transformation into a national hub for offshore wind, new industry jobs and significant economic opportunity. We believe that community guidance



and knowledge must feed into the development of our project and we look to working alongside community members, Traditional Owners and other industries as we move forward.”

The consultation sessions will be held on Tuesday 10 May and Wednesday 11 May in-person in Salamander Bay, Nelson Bay, Charlestown and Newcastle, with an online session to be held also on Monday 15 May, registrations via the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/webinar-eastern-rise-offshore-wind-project-tickets-628853988207>

Everyone is invited to attend the sessions.

Notes to editors

BlueFloat Energy is making three environmental referrals – one for the main Project, one for initial marine investigations and one for geotechnical and geophysical investigations. The community is invited to feedback on these proposals as part of public consultation period online and through the community engagement sessions.

Upcoming engagement sessions are:

BlueFloat Energy is hosting drop-in sessions for our Eastern Rise Offshore Wind Project

 SALAMANDER BAY Wednesday 10 May, 10am – 2pm Salamander Square Shopping Centre 2 Town Centre, Salamander Bay	 NELSON BAY Wednesday 10 May, 4pm – 7pm West Nelson Bay RSL Diggers 88 Shoal Bay Rd, Nelson Bay
 CHARLESTOWN Thursday 11 May, 9am – 1pm Charlestown Square Shopping Mall 30 Pearson St, Charlestown	 COOKS HILL Thursday 11 May, 2.30pm – 5.30pm Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club 107-109 Memorial Dr, Bar Beach



About BlueFloat Energy

BlueFloat Energy is developing offshore wind projects in various regions of the world, where it can implement its vision: to accelerate global deployment of offshore wind as a key enabler for the energy transition and economic growth. Founded by renewable energy professionals, BlueFloat Energy brings together remarkable team expertise in the design, development, financing, construction and execution of offshore wind projects. BlueFloat Energy is a market leader in offshore wind projects and currently has over 24 GW of planned capacity under development globally.

For more visit www.bluefloat.com