

Frequently asked questions

What is an offshore wind farm?

An offshore wind farm consists of a group of wind turbines that are built in a formation (or array) in the ocean. Offshore wind farms transform the energy from reliable and strong winds that occur in ocean waters via the large wind turbines and transport the energy onshore via seaborne cables. This renewable energy is then fed into the electricity transmission network to power homes and businesses.

When did Nexsphere start the BOWE Project?

The BOWE project commenced in March 2019 as a scoping and feasibility study to evaluate whether offshore wind was a viable renewable energy source in Australia. Zone identification and assessment progressed with a strong focus on southern Australia and the wind resource area in the Bass Strait.

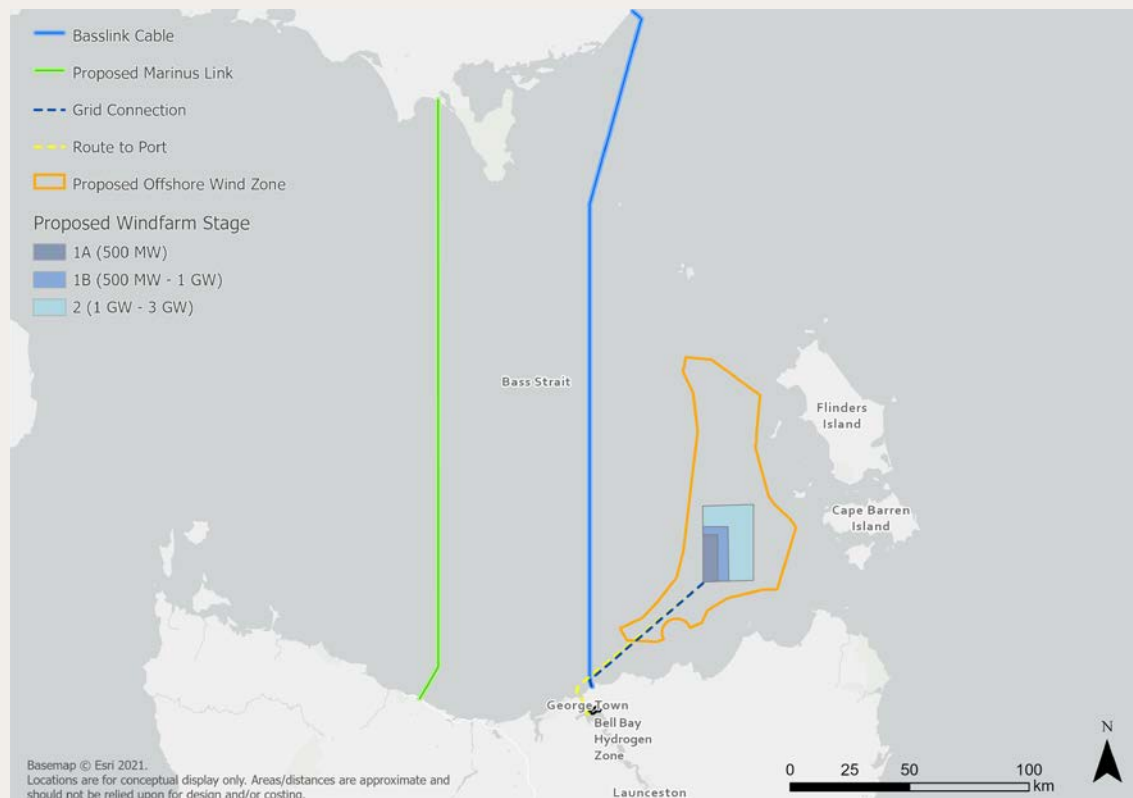
Following this, we identified a number of potential locations for the initial development of a utility scale offshore wind project within Bass Strait. A dedicated team has been working on the design and delivery of this project and is set to start the regulatory licencing process. Subject to necessary approvals, BOWE is expected to come online from 2026.

Who are the investors in the BOWE project?

BOWE is a project of Nexsphere, a private company comprised of Australian founders. Additional investors are targeted to join the project in 2022.

Where is the BOWE project?

The BOWE project will be located between 20 and 30 kilometres off the coast of north-eastern Tasmania. The map below shows the identified location along with the connection to Basslink and the proposed Marinus Link transmission cables.



BOWE

Change is in the air

How was the location chosen?

A combination of factors contributed to choosing the BOWE project zone, including:

- Water depth
- Wind resource
- Seabed landscape
- Consideration of local fisheries and other commercial activities in the zone
- Consideration of wildlife and bird species assessments within and nearby the zone
- Minimal visual impact and no noise impact from the turbines, with relation to nearby land masses
- Connectivity to ports, transmission networks and supporting local labour markets.

How will the BOWE wind farm be connected to the Tasmanian mainland?

It is proposed that the project will connect to the Tasmanian mainland via a transmission cable to George Town.

What is the size of the BOWE wind farm?

The total area of the wind farm will be determined during a Feasibility Assessment, which is expected to occur between 2022 and 2024.

How many turbines are proposed?

BOWE's initial wind farm will have between 35 and 70 turbines.

How large are the wind turbines?

The model of wind turbine being used for BOWE will be confirmed once technical assessments are completed. At this stage, it is expected that the rotation diameter of the wind blades will be 222 metres, with 108-metre-long blades. The height of the turbine will depend on the final location.

Will I be able to see or hear the wind farm from mainland Tasmania?

The BOWE wind farm will be located between 20 and 30 kilometres off the coast of Tasmania. It will have a minimal visual impact and be difficult to see from land. The wind farm will also have no noise impact at this distance.

Will the communities on Flinders or Cape Barren Islands be able to see or hear the wind farm?

The BOWE wind farm will be sufficiently distanced away from the communities of Flinders and Cape Barren Islands so that there will be minimal, if any, visual impact. The wind farm will also have no noise impact at this distance.

How much energy will be generated?

The BOWE wind farm will generate between 500 and 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy. This is enough energy to power over 325,000 homes. As a result, the BOWE wind farm will save over 2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions annually, contributing to Australia's net zero emissions by 2050 and Tasmania's 200% renewable energy by 2040 targets.

Will the BOWE Project be expanded in the future?

Subject to state and federal government approval, the BOWE project will have the capacity to expand to meet increased customer demand for green energy.

BOWE

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Where will the green energy generated by BOWE go?

The green energy produced by BOWE will be used by:

- Local Tasmanian businesses and industrial customers supplied through our connection to the TasNetworks electricity grid.
- Industrial hydrogen customers and users based at the Bell Bay Hydrogen Hub, who will use the green electrons produced by BOWE to manufacture hydrogen and green ammonia for export to Asia.
- Industrial and corporate customers in mainland Australia who are seeking to transition from coal-generated electricity sources.

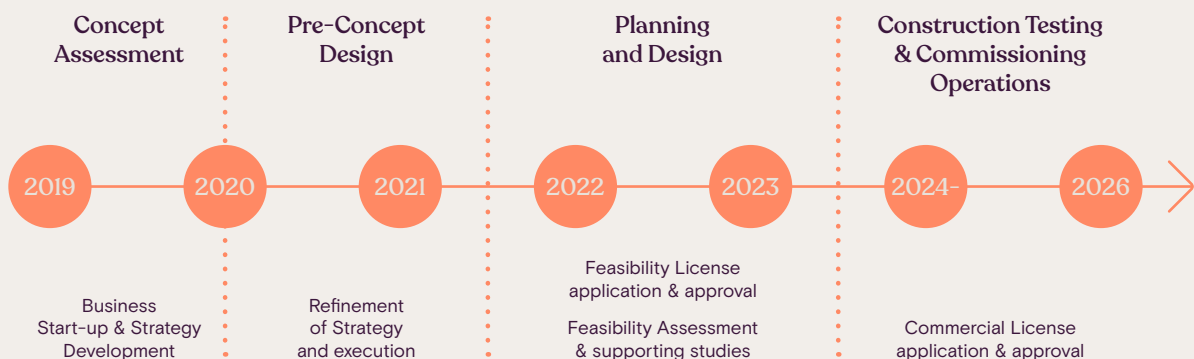
BOWE proposes to connect to the mainland through access to the Marinus Link transmission cable being developed by TasNetworks.

How long will construction take?

Construction of the BOWE project will take approximately two-three years after it is approved. The current approval timeline is outlined below.

What is the project program?

The high-level project program runs through to 2026, as set out below.



How will local communities benefit from BOWE?

The benefits of the BOWE project for Tasmanian communities are scoped to include:

- Supporting Australia's transition to a decarbonised economy, with contribution to Tasmania's world-leading 200% renewable energy goal
- Resultant economic investment into north-eastern Tasmania
- A new industry for Tasmania alongside the Hydrogen Hub, resulting in hundreds of jobs in construction and operation
- A local head office based in the Launceston region
- Working with local environmental researchers and specialists with the goal to protect and share waters
- Commitment to a local focus within Tasmania and Australia regarding jobs manufacturing and supply chain
- Research and development opportunities across biophysical, engineering, technology and sustainability research streams

We will share with the community the outputs of a full social impact analysis in 2022. We are also reviewing how best the BOWE project can benefit local communities, and we are interested to hear your ideas at our community engagement sessions.

BOWE

Change is in the air

Where will visiting workers be accommodated?

Wherever possible, we are committed to using a local labour force during construction. For visiting workers, suitable accommodation will be identified in consultation with key community groups.

How will you assess the environmental impact of the BOWE project?

Work has already commenced on environmental assessments, which have also guided the zone selection process. The project will undergo a comprehensive environment and planning approvals process in consultation with state and federal regulatory agencies, prior to commercial license approval and commencement of any construction. Detailed environmental investigations to gather information about the local area will be completed during the Feasibility Assessment, which is expected to occur between 2022 and 2024. These studies will be reviewed by Tasmanian and Federal authorities and will meet legal and regulatory requirements.

Can recreational or commercial fishing take place around the BOWE wind farm?

This will depend on laws and regulations that are still being drafted by the Federal Government. Current legislation suggests fishing may be considered within a distance from the turbines that is designated as safe. This legislation will also determine movements around the wind farm by ocean vessels.

Will transmission cables on the ocean floor prevent boats anchoring near the wind farm?

Transmission cables are a necessary feature of wind farms and are used to transmit the energy produced back onshore. The transmission cables for BOWE will not prevent anchoring near the wind farm.

How have you considered the impact on bird life?

An initial investigation into bird life impacts from the BOWE project has already been conducted by experts in the field, and through reviewing and analysing leading studies on the topic. Detailed environmental investigations will be completed during the Feasibility Assessment, which is expected to occur between 2022 and 2024, and will include detailed studies and investigating on bird migration patterns.

Have you considered the impact on fish life and whale migration patterns?

An initial investigation into sea life impacts from the BOWE project has already been conducted by experts in the field. Detailed environmental investigations will be completed during the Feasibility Assessment, which is expected to occur between 2022 and 2024, and will include detail assessments on any potential impacts on flora and fauna.

How can I provide feedback on the BOWE Project?

We are committed to project transparency, collaboration, and communication with stakeholders and landholders. Information on project activities will be provided regularly, a detailed strategy for collaboration and communication with stakeholders and landholders is under development.

You can also provide feedback at any time during the project by emailing hello@bassoffshorewindenergy.com.au