



The Hon Chris Bowen MP  
Minister for Climate Change & Energy  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [Minister.Bowen@DCCEEW.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Bowen@DCCEEW.gov.au)

**Re: Offshore Windfarm Exclusion Zones**

Dear Minister,

AFTA is the peak national industry body representing the fishing tackle industry at the wholesale, import, manufacturing, media, and retail levels as well as the charter/guiding sector with members throughout Australia and our members through the process of conducting their business have contact with every recreational fisher.

AFTA is a non-partisan association, the AFTA board representation is very broad and representative of the community, our only interest is the future of recreational fishing through strong well thought out equitable policy.

As such I refer to your media release of June 20, 2024 wherein you state with reference to the United Kingdom and Denmark offshore windfarms:

*“In those jurisdictions turbines are around 2 kilometres apart with an exclusion zone of just 50 metres around turbines. It means fishing vessels can go about their normal operations within the wind farm.”*

In relation specifically to recreational fishing, would you please confirm what the government's exclusion zones will be for each of the following Offshore Windfarm sites:

- |                         |                       |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Gippsland (VIC)      | 15000 km <sup>2</sup> | approved 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 |
| 2. Southern Ocean (VIC) | 1030 km <sup>2</sup>  | approved 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024     |
| 3. Hunter (NSW)         | 1854 km <sup>2</sup>  | approved 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023     |
| 4. Illawarra (NSW)      | 1022 km <sup>2</sup>  | approved 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2024     |
| 5. Bass Straight (TAS)  | 10136 km <sup>2</sup> | proposed                                |
| 6. Bunbury (WA)         | 7674 km <sup>2</sup>  | proposed                                |

We await your response, once received it will be published on [AFTA.net.au](http://AFTA.net.au) for our members to consider.

Yours sincerely,

Bob

The Hon Bob Baldwin  
Independent Chair  
Australian Fishing Trade Association  
1 July 2024