

Southern Coast Ocean Care

Our cause is to completely oppose the development of the Southern Ocean Offshore Wind Zone in the federal waters that abut the state waters adjacent to District Council of Grant.

This proposed zone goes from Warnambool to Cape Douglas approximately 10 km off shore.

The South Australian section is about one fifth the size of the entire area of the DC of Grant

Why we oppose this

Firstly the visual impact.

The proposal by blue float energy, should the zone be declared is for the construction of 77 towers and two substations.

The towers will be three times the size of the ones at Canunda, three times the height of Mount Shank and clearly visible from every beach and coastal township in the dc. If you are to look north from port mac mt shank is a landmark. If you were to look south the towers would be three times as high

The substations are similar in size as a small oil rig.

Fiscal Impact

the proposed zone if developed will result in no go zones, the area of which are not being disclosed at this stage.

Cray fishing. Entirely sustainable fishery Fifty Boats, 6 processors, creating hundreds of jobs. The development of this zone would potentially result in a reduction of quota, but certainly result in the

relocation of boats and the jobs that go with them, with up to 30% of the entire quota being caught in the proposed zone.

Trawl and shark fisheries will be similarly affected.

There are 7 charter boats that operate out of Port Mac Donnell

The main business of the charter industry is the barrel tuna fishing season between April and June, resulting in 280 trips by these boats, 6 visitors per trip with an outcome of 600 nights accommodation for around 3000 people

The tuna fishing takes place directly in the proposed zone, which is also used by the purely recreational sector with an outcome of about fifty boats per weekend for three months from NSW, Vic and out of town South Australia. The knockon effect from this for local business is huge.

Environmental impact

Bonney upwelling

Quote from '**Federal Government Species Profile and Threats data base**'

The Bonney upwelling is a predictable, seasonal upwelling bringing cold nutrient rich water to the sea surface supporting regionally high productivity and high species diversity in an area where such sites are relatively rare and mostly of a smaller scale.

It is one of twelve areas worldwide.

It is driven largely by the south easterly winds

It is a key ecological feature as it is an area of high productivity and aggregation of marine life

The proposed zone is in directly in the path of this upwelling.

It is the lifeblood of our coast and all creatures above and below the surface

Birdwatchers: hundreds of species of birds from around the world follow the upwelling, some of which are among the most protected in the world and some only going to land once every two years

It is one of 12 areas worldwide where blue whales are known to feed in high numbers

It is formed by south easterly winds

Nothing for nothing: every giga watt of electricity produced from wind is a giga watt of energy robbed from the wind, so there will be a reduction in wind energy that is vital to the movement of the Bonney Upwelling.

Seismic surveys and their impacts

No end of life plan: Artificial reef anyone?

In closing I will use the '**Southern Winds Offshore Project Preliminary Social Risk and Opportunity Assessment**' (Unwelt 2022) for reference.

Of twenty one recognised social impacts for our area there were three positives, two of which were the reduction in carbon emissions

Add to this the fact south Australia is already producing 60% of its electricity via renewables, with a projection for this to reach 100% by 2030 and 500% by 2050.

We have no need for, and no nett gain from this development.