

**MEDIA RELEASE****8 June 2023****Tasmanian Government signs MOU with Bass Offshore Wind Energy project to power Tasmania and drive local jobs**

The Tasmanian Government has today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the owners of the Bass Offshore Wind Energy Project (BOWE), committing both parties to work together to supply northern Tasmania with green offshore wind energy.

BOWE is a multi-billion-dollar, multi-gigawatt offshore wind farm proposed for Bass Strait, north-east Tasmania. The project is set to deliver a major economic boost to northern Tasmania by providing a large-scale and renewable energy source for future green industry such as hydrogen and aluminium at Bell Bay, as well as providing excess renewable energy into the National Electricity Market.

The MOU was signed by Hon. Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy and representatives of BOWE, Ms Ingunn Svegård, Senior Vice President Renewables Asia Pacific, Equinor, and Mr Glen Kierse, CEO, Nexsphere, with a ceremony held in Devonport, Tasmania, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy Development Conference.

In addition to the supply of offshore wind energy, the agreement will also see the parties working together to assist in northern Tasmania being declared an Offshore Renewable Energy Zone by the Commonwealth Government.

The parties also agree to support the growth of local jobs and economic development in northern Tasmania, the efficient planning and delivery of transmission infrastructure and port facilities, and working together on environmental issues and community consultation.

In welcoming the signing of the MOU as a significant milestone in the development of BOWE, Equinor's Senior Vice President for Renewables Asia-Pacific, Ingunn Svegård, said "We are thrilled to be part of BOWE and will draw upon our deep global experience and resources from 50 years of offshore energy production to ensure that the project can be safely, sensitively and successfully developed."

Glen Kierse thanked all parties for their support in delivering BOWE through its next milestone stage.

"By signing this MOU, all parties are aligned in their desire to see the project become a significant contributor towards Tasmania's renewable future, as well as the creator of job opportunities throughout northern Tasmania," Glen said.

"Globally, offshore wind is accepted as a significant component of the future renewable energy generation mix."

"This project is a critical link in supporting Tasmania to achieve its world-leading 200 per cent renewable energy target."

The MoU is the first step of maturing this project together with the local authorities. The next stage will see BOWE progress through the feasibility licencing process once the area is declared, as set out in the Commonwealth's *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act*, a process which has already commenced in Gippsland, Victoria and will in the Hunter region in NSW soon.

The project will have an initial estimated capacity measured in the Gigawatt-scale, subject to state and commonwealth government approvals and customer demand.

-Ends-

## Media contacts

### Equinor

Australia: Marcha van den Heuvel, [Marcha.vandenheuvel@hkstrategies.com](mailto:Marcha.vandenheuvel@hkstrategies.com), +61 468 960 457

International: Magnus Frantzen Eidsvold, Media Relations Equinor +47 975 286 04

### Nexsphere

Kym Cheek, Polymer Studios, +61 401 120 924

## About Equinor

Equinor is a Norwegian broad energy company building a material position in renewable energy. The company, headquartered in Norway, is developing offshore wind clusters in Norway, Scotland and the UK, the US and in the Baltic Sea, and is positioned for future wind options in several geographies, including the Asia & Pacific regions where it is developing a pipeline of offshore wind projects in South Korea and elsewhere.

Equinor's ambition in Australia is to apply our industrial offshore experience and broad energy competence to create long-lasting value and supply of homegrown renewable energy by working closely with strong local partners.

For more information about Equinor in Australia visit: <https://www.equinor.com/where-we-are/australia>

## About Nexsphere

Nexsphere is an Australian-owned and operated company with a focus on projects that can significantly impact and accelerate Australia's transition to a green economy.

Founded in 2017 by Glen Kierse, an international expert in infrastructure and energy development, and Leanne McDougall, a finance professional who is passionate about our natural environment, Nexsphere has brought together a highly credentialled team of renewable energy experts and consultants to help identify, fund and develop projects that make a real difference.

Ultimately, these projects will be responsible for delivering green energy solutions that help Australia reach and exceed its emissions reduction targets.

For more information visit: [www.nexsphere.com.au](http://www.nexsphere.com.au)