



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and
Resources
Offshore Infrastructure Registrar

COST RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021

2025 - 2026

Charging for regulatory activity involves government entities charging individuals or organisations in the non-government sector some or all of the minimum efficient costs of a specific government activity. The Cost Recovery Policy along with the Australian Government Charging Framework (the Charging Framework) sets out the policy under which government entities design, implement and review charging for regulatory activities. The CRIS is the public document to ensure the transparency and accountability for the level of the charging and to demonstrate that the purpose for charging, as decided by Government, is being achieved.

Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1.	Purpose.....	3
2.	POLICY AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CHARGE (COST RECOVER)	4
2.1.	Government policy approval to charge for this regulatory activity	4
2.2.	Statutory authority to charge	5
3.	CHARGING (COST RECOVERY) MODEL	5
3.1.	Outputs and business processes of the activity	5
3.2.	Costs of the regulatory activity.....	7
3.3.	Design of the regulatory charge	8
4.	RISK ASSESSMENT	13
5.	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.....	13
6.	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	13
6.1.	Financial Estimates	13
6.2.	Financial Outcomes	14
7.	NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	14
8.	KEY FORWARD DATES AND EVENTS.....	15
9.	CRIS APPROVAL AND CHANGE REGISTER.....	15

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.Purpose

This Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) provides information on how the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar (the Registrar) implements cost recovery for the administration and regulation of offshore electricity infrastructure (OEI) activities under *the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (the OEI Act), the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Act 2021* (the Levies Act) and associated regulations.

The Registrar is a statutory position, assisted by Australian Public Service employees in any department of state of the Commonwealth who are made available for the purpose by the Secretary of that department in accordance with section 158 of the OEI Act. The Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources has made staff in the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) Branch available to assist the Registrar.

Stakeholders that may be impacted by the charges presented in this CRIS include offshore electricity infrastructure participants with existing and proposed operations in Australian Commonwealth waters. Participants include licence holders and applicants that require a licence under the OEI Act.

The functions and powers of the Registrar include:

- Providing information, assessments, analysis, reports, advice and recommendations to the Minister in relation to the performance of the Minister's functions or the exercise of the Minister's powers under the OEI Act;
- Cooperating with the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (the Regulator) in matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the OEI Act and the applied work health and safety provisions;
- Cooperating with other Commonwealth agencies and authorities having functions relating to the regulation of offshore infrastructure activities;
- Such other functions as are conferred on the Registrar by or under the OEI Act;
- Doing anything incidental to or conducive to the performance of any of the above functions; and
- Doing all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of the Registrar's functions.

The Offshore Renewables Branch (ORB) within the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (the Regulator) also undertake activities under the same legislation.

ORB within the DCCEEW is responsible for the ongoing development, implementation and operation of the framework including: identifying and assessing marine areas to inform Ministerial decision making, ongoing policy and regulatory development and program management, administration and engagement activities. Licences are granted by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

On licence grant, the role of the Regulator commences. The Regulator is responsible for the regulation of work health and safety, infrastructure, integrity and environmental management for offshore infrastructure activities. The functions of the Regulator are carried out by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

This CRIS relates only to the Registrar and contains financial forecasts for the 2025-26 and 3 forward years.

The previous 2022 CRIS for the Registrar was a consolidated document for DCCEEW, the Registrar and the Regulator. This CRIS separates out the cost recovery and funding arrangements for the Registrar into a standalone CRIS.

On 16 September 2025 the Minister for Climate Change and Energy announced a temporary levy and fee relief to support the emerging offshore wind sector in Australia.

The temporary remittal of levies applies in respect of feasibility licences, research and demonstration licences and transmission and infrastructure licences granted on or before 30 June 2027. This relief covers two consecutive 12-month periods from the date that the licence is granted.

For a feasibility licence that was granted before the commencement of the Amendment Regulations, an unpaid levy that was due in the 12-month period that began before the Amendment Regulations commenced is remitted as well as the levy for the subsequent 12-month period.

During the relief period the following arrangements have been implemented from 14 November 2025:

- waive annual levies applied to feasibility and research and demonstration licences for two payment periods for licences granted before 30 June 2027;
- halve annual levies applied to transmission and infrastructure licences for two payment periods for licences granted before 30 June 2027;
- reduce application fees for research and demonstration licences from \$300,000 to \$20,000 for two years; and
- reduce application fees for transmission and infrastructure licences from \$300,000 to \$150,000 for two years.

Throughout the temporary relief period, the Registrar's resourcing expenditure will be covered by government funding. Full cost recovery for the Registrar's OEI charging arrangements will resume once the arrangements outlined above expire.

The cost recovery and funding arrangements for the Registrar documented in the previous CRIS are superseded by this document and will be reviewed again in 12 months.

2. POLICY AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CHARGE (COST RECOVER)

2.1. Government policy approval to charge for this regulatory activity

In January 2020, the Australian Government released a consultation paper on the proposed OEI framework and invited submissions on the proposed design. The paper flagged the Government's intention to charge fees and annual levies to recover all costs. In September 2021, the Australian Government introduced the OEI Bill and the Levies Bill. The Explanatory Memorandum of the Levies Bill states that cost recovery will be used to ensure the Commonwealth (including the Registrar, Regulator and ORB) are appropriately resourced to effectively and efficiently regulate the new offshore industry and administer the OEI framework.

The Government agreed to commence full cost recovery from 1 January 2022 for activities related to the offshore electricity infrastructure framework such as the construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore transmission and renewable energy generation infrastructure. The budget papers can be found at Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2021-22.

In December 2021, both the OEI Bill and Levies Bill received Royal Assent establishing a regulatory framework to enable the construction, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of offshore electricity infrastructure (collectively, offshore infrastructure activities) in the Commonwealth offshore area. The OEI Act provides that costs associated with ORB, Regulator and Registrar's functions under the legislative framework will be fully recovered through a combination of cost recovery fees (see section 189 of the OEI Act) and cost recovery levies imposed on regulated entities (see section 8 of the Levies Act and section 190 of the OEI Act).

In September 2025 the Government agreed to provide temporary financial relief to the offshore wind sector, allowing developers to continue work to determine the feasibility of commercial windfarms and reduce the

risk of developers exiting the market at a critical stage for offshore wind development in Australia. This document outlines the details of the temporary financial relief to be provided.

2.2. Statutory authority to charge

The statutory authority to charge levies for activities delivered by the department is derived from the legislation below:

- [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021](#) (OEI Act)
- [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure \(Regulatory Levies\) Act 2021](#) (OEI Levies Act)
- [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure \(Regulatory Levies\) Regulations 2022](#) (OEI Levies Regulations)
- [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment \(Remittal of Fees and Levies and Other Measures\) Regulations 2025](#)

The legal authority to impose offshore electricity infrastructure levies is contained in Part 2 of the Levies Act. The levy amounts are prescribed in the [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure \(Regulatory Levies\) Regulations 2022](#).

The legal authority to prescribe application fees can be found in Chapter 5 of the OEI Act. The fee amounts are prescribed in the [Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022](#) (OEI Regulations).

3. CHARGING (COST RECOVERY) MODEL

3.1. Outputs and business processes of the activity

The Registrar's ability to effectively administer and discharge its functions under the OEI Act is underpinned by access to sufficient resources, capacity and qualified personnel. The Registrar must be able to retain a competent capacity to undertake its advisory and compliance roles under the OEI regime. The Registrar is funded through Government funding and the cost recovery charges imposed under the OEI legislation and manages the funds through an administered Special Account.

The Registrar's average Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff (including contractors) for 2025-26 is 31.2 to support the delivery of its legislated functions. This includes 15.0 FTE in three OEI specialised teams. These specialised teams are supported by staff within existing NOPTA teams, the table below indicates the FTE of each team attributable to the Registrar's functions.

TABLE 1: REGISTRAR FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF (INCLUDING CONTRACTORS)

Team	FTE
<i>Specialised</i>	
OEI - Policy and Engagement Team	3.0
OEI - Assessment Team	7.0
OEI - Operations and Licencing Team	5.0
<i>Support</i>	
Legislative Support	1.3
Commercial (Economic Analysis)	2.3
Commercial (Suitability Assessment)	2.5
Compliance Assurance and Performance	2.4
Technical (Development)	0.3
Geospatial and Web Services	1.8
Security, Information Management and Business Applications	1.2
Senior Leadership Group	1.5

Business Support Unit	2.9
Total	31.2

TABLE 2: OUTPUTS AND BUSINESS PROCESSES

All references are to the OEI Act unless otherwise described.

Output		Process
1	Declaration of an area and invitation to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of notifiable instrument for invitation to apply.
2	Grant of Feasibility Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General overview of process:
3	Grant of Commercial Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receipt of application - Screening of application and re-submission - Assessment of application - Request/s for further information - Meeting/s with applicant
4	Grant of Research & Demonstration Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with the Regulator etc. - Provide advice and support to the Minister - Financial offers and overlapping of proposed licence areas (where applicable) - Procedural fairness and legal advice - Implement the decision - Maintain the Register of Licences - Notifiable instruments of event
5	Grant of Transmission & Infrastructure Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General overview of process: - Receipt of application - Screening of application and re-submission - Assessment of application - Request/s for further information - Meeting/s with applicant - Consultation with the Regulator etc. - Provide advice and support to the Minister - Procedural fairness and legal advice - Implement the decision - Maintain the Register of Licences - Notifiable instruments of event
6	Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General overview of process:
7	Change In Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receipt of application - Screening of application and re-submission - Assessment of application - Request/s for further information - Meeting/s with applicant - Consultation with the Regulator etc. - Provide advice and support to the Minister - Procedural fairness and legal advice - Implement the decision - Maintain the Register of Licences
8	Extension, Variation, Surrender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General overview of process: - Receipt of application - Screening of application and re-submission - Assessment of application - Request/s for further information - Meeting/s with applicant - Consultation with the Regulator etc. - Provide advice and support to the Minister - Procedural fairness and legal advice - Implement the decision - Maintain the Register of Licences
9	Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing assessment of compliance with the legislation including conditions on the licence and review of annual licence reports (includes cancellation)
10	Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder engagement and dissemination of information outside of application process - Development and maintenance of website and communications material - Ongoing management of feedback and complaints
11	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of resources to undertake Registrar activities including staffing, contract management and risk management. - Special Account transactions, levy invoicing, refunds and review of cost recovery arrangements - Management of statutory reviews, senate estimates and other oversight arrangements - Corporate planning, divisional reporting, ad-hoc reports to the Minister
12	Regulatory Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain guidance material for applicants including factsheets, application forms, submission guidance, website and training
13	Legislative Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with stakeholders on regulatory issues and requirements - Coordination with DCCEEW and the Regulator as required

3.2. Costs of the regulatory activity

Direct and indirect costs are allocated to outputs based on estimates of effort required. Indirect costs are allocated on an FTE basis.

NOPTA became responsible for the Registrar function during 2022-23 and has had to quickly build capacity to manage and advise on 6 consecutive and overlapping licensing rounds. This process is now nearing completion and the activities of the Registrar will transition from establishment to the ongoing management of licences. Considerable uncertainty exists in relation to the level of future activity and as such the CRIS will be reviewed in 12 months once there is a clearer understanding of the level of future industry activity and the effort required to support it.

In September of 2025, the Government agreed to provide temporary financial relief to the offshore wind sector in Australia, while allowing developers to continue work to determine the feasibility of commercial windfarms. To support the implementation of this relief, regulation amendments came into effect in November 2025, waiving levies for feasibility and research and demonstration licences, and reducing levies for transmission and infrastructure licences granted on or before 30 June 2027.

TABLE 3: FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR THE BUDGET YEAR AND FORWARD YEARS

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Direct Expenses	5,846	4,753	4,704	4,835
Indirect Expenses	2,031	1,729	1,690	1,696
Total Expenses	7,877	6,482	6,394	6,531

Direct costs comprise:

- Employee and associated expenses of the three OEI teams (e.g. salary, superannuation, leave entitlement, learning and development, professional memberships).
- Apportioned employee and associated expenses of the NOPTA support teams based on effort spent on Registrar activities.

Indirect costs comprise the Registrar's portion of:

- Overheads - Department
- Office accommodation and utilities
- ICT desktop services
- Travel, liaison and stakeholder engagement
- Legal advice and support

Departmental Overheads

The department provides the governance structure, access to corporate support and systems and insurance coverage and allocates these costs to the Registrar¹. These costs consist of:

¹ DISR overhead \$148,392 for 2024-25.

- Workers compensation insurance premium
- Property and general liability insurance premium
- Governance structure (Accountable Authority instructions, delegations, departmental policies), mandatory training, financial and other departmental systems, corporate support
- Standard Protected Desktop Offering
- Human Resources support and payroll processing

Capital costs for 2025-26 are budgeted at \$181,500.

3.3. Design of the regulatory charge

The Registrar's cost model has been designed to ensure stable revenue to enable effective regulation and management of its Special Account in line with Australian Government Charging Framework (AGCF). The Registrar's cost recovery charges comprise an annual licence levy imposed on different types of licences and fees charged on applications made to the Registrar for the approval of activities under the OEI Act and regulations. As a new framework, effort has focussed on the assessment of initial licence applications and the award of licences across multiple geographic areas. As this initial establishment stage draws to a close ongoing effort will be directed towards the management of licences and ensuring ongoing compliance with the regulatory framework, this will largely be supported through the levies², and complimented by application specific fees. The cost structure will be reviewed and re-assessed as part of a regular CRIS review cycle on an annual basis.

Waived annual levies will be applied to feasibility and research and demonstration licences for two payment periods for licences granted before 30 June 2027. Halved annual levies will be applied to transmission and infrastructure licences for two payment periods for licences granted before 30 June 2027.

The Registrar will maintain full transparency by notifying and consulting industry where required prior to any potential future price changes.

Funding provided by Government through appropriations to support the establishment of the Registrar have been taken into account in determining the appropriate level of fees and levies (see government contributions in Table 6), future funding will be taken into consideration in any changes to cost recovery arrangements.

Cost recovery annual levy

An annual licence levy for licence administration is imposed on holders of OEI licences. The annual licence levy is payable in accordance with the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2022* at 30 days after the grant of a licence and annually thereafter at the end of 30 days after the anniversary date of the grant of the licence. Where a licence is in force for less than 12 months, the annual licence levy is calculated for the period the licence remains in force. Annual licence levies are used to fund Registrar activities where it is not practical to attribute costs to a specific licence, for example, ongoing stakeholder engagement (including with prospective licence applicants), guidance material and legislative/policy support, licence compliance and monitoring, reporting, cancellation of licences and protection of confidential information.

Annual licence levy revenue estimates are based on the anticipated number of licences incorporating known upcoming activities. The small number of licences currently awarded under the OEI Act creates a higher level of risk to revenue as a result of un-anticipated changes in licence numbers over time.

² Levy activities outlined in Table 2, outputs 1, 8-13.

The structure for the annual licence levy (Table 4) is relatively easy to calculate, involving a:

- fixed base rate per licence for feasibility licence, commercial licence and research and demonstration licence plus an additional levy on a per square kilometre basis above the base area;
- fixed flat rate for a transmission and infrastructure licence, as effort is not affected by the area.

Consistent with the principles of the CRGs, annual licence levy amounts have been designed to encourage development in an efficient manner and discourage maintaining licences over unnecessary areas by increasing the annual licence levy on a per square kilometre basis above a minimum area size. The application of a staggered annual licence levy for feasibility licence, commercial licence and research and demonstration licence also reflects the increased cost of administration for activities which have different levels of complexity and risk associated with them. This is consistent with the approach applied to other offshore industries. Under the framework there is a requirement for licence holders to continue to meet the merit criteria and commence activities within a reasonable time. Therefore, it is expected the amount of effort required to monitor and manage the ongoing compliance requirements, particularly the use of the complete licence area will increase with the size of the licence. The variable component intends to make sure the costs are split proportional to effort.

The table below outlines the expected activity levels and the revenue forecast takes into account the levy relief expected to be provided. A reduction in the fixed base rate for Research and Demonstration licence levy from \$120,000 to \$50,000 is proposed to come into effect after the temporary pause to reflect the level of effort required for Research and Demonstration licences and the expectation that these will generally cover smaller areas. It should be noted there is significant uncertainty regarding the number and timing of transmission and infrastructure licences and research and demonstration licences.

TABLE 4: ANNUAL LICENCE LEVY REVENUE ESTIMATES

Licence Type	Estimated Total No. of licences				Levy amount								Outputs funded		
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Current Base Levy	Proposed Base Levy	Current Additional Levy	Proposed Additional Levy	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29			
Feasibility licence ³	14	14	14	14	\$120,000	Paused for two payment periods then \$120,000	for up to and including 100 km ²	\$1,000	Paused for two payment periods then \$1,000	per 10 km ² above 100 km ²	\$1,143,273	\$0	\$444,693	\$2,138,304	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Commercial licence	0	0	0	0	\$150,000	\$150,000	for up to and including 100 km ²	\$2,000	\$2,000	per 10 km ² above 100 km ²	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Research & Demonstration Licence	0	4	4	4	\$120,000	Paused for two payment periods then \$50,000	for up to and including 50 km ²	\$1,000	Paused for two payment periods then \$1,000	per 10 km ² above 50 km ²	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Transmission & Infrastructure Licence	1	16	16	16	\$120,000	Paused for two payment periods then \$120,000	flat	N/A	N/A	\$30,000 ⁴	\$930,000	\$960,000	\$1,920,000	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	
Levy Estimate	15	34	34	34						\$1,173,273	\$930,000	\$1,404,693	\$4,258,304		

³ Levy revenue is received in advance for 12 months and spans different financial years. Figures calculated using actual licence areas.

⁴ Updated to reflect levy relief forecasted to be in force for half the financial year for this figure.

Cost recovery application fees

Registrar licence and licence-related application fees are payable in accordance with the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022* at the time that an application is submitted to the Registrar. Revenue from application fees fluctuates from year to year as they are dependent upon the timing, type and number of applications lodged. There remains uncertainty around the type and number of applications that may be lodged in coming years.

The focus of the Registrar's activities in relation to licence-specific applications is on assessing applications in relation to the OEI Act, regulations and guidelines. This includes whether the licence would meet the merit criteria set out under the OEI framework, which includes: the technical and financial capacity of applicants, the likely viability of a proposed project, the suitability of the applicant to hold the licence, and whether the project for the licences is in the national interest.

The application fees are calculated by applying a fixed/flat rate to the type of application submitted. The charging of different fee amounts for different application types is necessary to reflect the level of complexity of the assessment.

Current estimates for activity levels over the coming years are shown below in Table 5. The number of application and associated fees will fluctuate according to industry activity and is difficult to predict.

Under the temporary relief measure, a reduction to application fees for two years will apply to research and demonstration licences, from \$300,000 to \$20,000, and to transmission and infrastructure licences from \$300,000 to \$150,000.

A reduction in the Research and Development licence application fee from \$300,000 to \$50,000 is proposed to come into effect after the temporary reduction to reflect the level of effort anticipated to be associated with these licences.

No other amendments are proposed.

TABLE 5: APPLICATION FEE REVENUE ESTIMATES

Item and type of application	No. of applications				Current Application Fee	Proposed Application Fee from late Nov 25 until late Nov 2027	Proposed Application Fee from late Nov 2027	Application Fee Amount				Outputs funded
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29				2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
Grant of feasibility licence (s33)	0	0	0	0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	2
Grant of commercial licence (s42)	0	0	0	0	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	3
Grant of research & demonstration licence (s52)	0	4	0	0	\$300,000	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	4
Grant of transmission & infrastructure licence (s61)	1	15	0	0	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$2,250,000	\$0	\$0	5
Extension of licence, all types (s37, s47, s56, s65)	0	0	0	0	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	8
Variation of licence, all types (s38, s48, s57, s66)	0	0	0	0	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	8
Surrender of licence, all types (s74)	3	0	0	0	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$67,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	8
Approval of transfer of licence, all types (s70)	1	1	1	1	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	6
Approval of change in control of a licence, all types (s87)	2	1	1	1	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$71,000	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500	7
Fees Estimate	7	21	2	2				\$474,000	\$2,401,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the Charging Risk Assessment (CRA) template, the overall risk rating of the cost recovered activity is assessed as medium. The reason the CRA has been rated medium rather than low, is because the CRIS involves both levies and fees, rather than just fees. This document will be reviewed again in 2026-27.

The major budget risk for the Registrar would be a reduction in the number of anticipated licences in the outyears. In particular, the number of transmission and infrastructure licences is highly uncertain. Annual cost recovery reviews and CRIS updates will be undertaken in the coming years to manage changes in licence numbers and activity. Funding has been provided by Government to date to support the establishment of the Registrar and will be provided to offset the pause in levies and reduction in application fees. Future funding will be taken into consideration in any changes to cost recovery arrangements.

The Registrar will continue to monitor the cost recovery arrangements to ensure that they remain cost effective and equitable among titleholders. The Registrar will actively engage with industry representatives, raising issues relating to cost structures as they arise.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

<to be completed>

6. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

6.1. Financial Estimates

TABLE 6: SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Expenses	7,877	6,482	6,394	6,531
Revenue (cost recovered)	1,647	3,331	1,476	4,329
Government contributions	1,259	8,378	3,469	27
Balance	(4,971)	5,227	(1,449)	(2,175)
Cumulative Balance	1,664	6,891	5,442	3,267

Table 6 outlines the Registrar's forecasted revenue and expenses across the CRIS period. The revenue line shows funding that will be received from industry from levies and fees that are in place. The government contributions line is made up of partly of budget funding provided in Budget Measure 2023-24, accelerating the offshore renewable energy in Australia⁵. The balance is made up of government funding provided to offset the financial impact of the temporary relief being provided to the offshore wind sector. It should be noted that Table 6 is prepared on an accrual accounting basis and that the Special Account cash balance is maintained as a positive balance across the CRIS period.

6.2. Financial Outcomes

TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Expenses	1,304	3,712	7,104
Revenue	11,100	3,353	4,302
Balance	9,796	(358)	(2,802)
Cumulative Balance	9,796	9,437	6,635

7. NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

To date, the Registrar has received 52 feasibility licence applications through feasibility licensing rounds in the 6 priority offshore renewable declared areas – Gippsland, Hunter, Southern Ocean, Illawarra, Bunbury and Bass Strait, with 13 feasibility licences granted by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy (the Minister) under the OEI Act.

In the Gippsland feasibility licensing round, 37 feasibility licence applications were received, with 12 feasibility licences granted. A further feasibility licence has been granted in the Southern Ocean declared area. In the Hunter declared area where 8 feasibility licence applications were received, an offer was made to the successful applicant. However, this offer was not accepted. In the Bunbury feasibility licensing round, the Minister has offered to grant 3 feasibility licences. The Bass Strait round, where 1 application was received, is yet to be finalised.

The Registrar works closely with DCCEEW in implementing the licensing framework, including development and amendments to the OEI Act and Regulations and developing guidance for additional licence types, including transmission and infrastructure licences and research and demonstration licences. The Registrar has also developed and published guidance to licence holders on annual reporting requirements under the OEI framework.

To date, the Registrar has also received annual reports for 10 feasibility licences, the first application for the grant of a transmission and infrastructure licence, 3 applications relating to changes in control of a licence holder, and 3 applications for consent to surrender a licence.

The Registrar maintains the Register of Offshore Infrastructure Licences under section 162 of the OEI Act. This is available for public inspection at <https://neats.nopta.gov.au>. The National Electronic Approvals Tracking System

⁵ Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures, \$680,000 relates to the Registrar in 2025-26 and \$686,000 relates to the Registrar in 2026-27.

(NEATS) also includes application tracking and an interactive map. NEATS also has an industry portal where applicants and licence holders can make applications and submissions to the Registrar.

The Registrar engages regularly with government and industry stakeholders and is a member of various committees and fora, including the Gippsland Licence Holders Advisory Committee, the Southern Ocean Wind Industry Committee and the Global Offshore Wind Regulators' Forum.

As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, the Registrar is required to prepare and give to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report on the Registrar's activities under section 159 the OEI Act for that year. This is also published at www.offshoreregistrar.gov.au. The activities of the Registrar are also captured in the broader NOPTA annual report of activities available at www.nopta.gov.au.

In accordance with section 160 of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act), the first review of the activities of the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar (Registrar) is to relate to the 3-year period beginning on 2 June 2022. The review is to be completed and the report given to the Minister within 6 months, or such longer period as the Minister allows, after the end of that 3-year period. The first report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in quarter 1 2026.

8. KEY FORWARD DATES AND EVENTS

Nov 2025	Submit Charging Risk Assessment to the Department of Finance
Feb 2026	Secretary Certification of the CRIS; Minister approval
Feb/Mar 2026	Publication of the CRIS

9. CRIS APPROVAL AND CHANGE REGISTER

Date of change	CRIS change	Approver	Basis for change
September 2022	Initial CRIS (combined with DCCEEW, Registrar and Regulator)	Finance Minister	New regulatory charging activity - Joint CRIS developed with DCCEEW, Registrar and Regulator for the new OEI framework
TBA	Revised CRIS as standalone Registrar CRIS. Outlines temporary financial relief measures. Reduction research and demonstration application fees and levy.	TBA	Revised CRIS as standalone Registrar CRIS. Outlines temporary financial relief measures. Reduction research and demonstration application fees and levy.