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**Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services;  
Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering**

Our ref: 77-13802

Mr Phill Cronin  
Mayor, City of Busselton  
By email: [eacouncil@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:eacouncil@busselton.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2024 regarding the Commonwealth Government's proposed offshore wind area in the Indian Ocean off Bunbury. I understand you also wrote to Premier Roger Cook regarding this matter. Please accept my response on behalf of the State Government.

While the proposed offshore wind area is a matter for the Federal Government, it is my firm belief that this process must include thorough and responsive consultation to understand the views of local communities. It is my expectation that the Federal Government engages in a comprehensive process ahead of any further action on their proposal. It is vital that the Commonwealth work with stakeholders to consider how this proposal could impact local communities, businesses, and amenity.

Separately, the WA Government is progressing \$5.4 billion of its own onshore wind, battery, and renewables projects to deliver clean, affordable, and reliable energy around the State. Our Government notes that Western Australia has much greater access to available land than the eastern states, meaning onshore wind opportunities are preferred ahead of more expensive offshore projects. Given the cost and complexity of offshore wind, we do not see it as a viable option for the foreseeable future, and it is not a focus for the WA Government.

I note the importance of this matter to the community in the City of Busselton and I thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Punch'.

HON. DON PUNCH MLA  
**MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES;  
FISHERIES; SENIORS AND AGEING; VOLUNTEERING**  
4 July 2024

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