

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Fifteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b> <i>Swakopmund, Namibia, 1 – 5 June 2026</i></p> <p><b>The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) – Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (ACAP-RERI)</b> <b><i>Australia</i></b></p>
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### SUMMARY

In June 2025 Australia made a voluntary contribution of AUD 2,500,000 to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Special Fund 1 to deliver research to inform the assessment of potential long-term impacts of offshore renewable energy developments on ACAP-listed species (ACAP – ANCP Circular 2025 06).

The ACAP – Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (ACAP-RERI) will be overseen by a Steering Group that includes the Secretariat, representatives from Australia and potentially other interested ACAP Parties, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Scientific expertise will be provided by a multi-disciplinary Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including members of ACAP Working Groups. Funds will be distributed through a call for research proposals that will be assessed by the TAG and the Steering Committee.

The contribution will support the initiative for up to five years to June 2030.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Australia's Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI) was established to deliver a suite of projects to determine, for vulnerable species, the potential impacts of renewable energy developments, and inform guidance on how to best avoid, mitigate and offset impacts. The initiative is aimed at supporting proponents and environmental decision-makers and accelerating environmental assessment timeframes in Australia.

More information about the projects being delivered through the RERI is available at: [The Renewables Environmental Research Initiative - DCCEEW](#).

Building on the RERI, in June 2025 Australia made a voluntary contribution of AUD 2,500,000 to ACAP to deliver research to inform the assessment of potential long-term impacts of offshore renewable energy developments on ACAP-listed species. The ACAP – Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (ACAP-RERI) will leverage the considerable standing, reach and international expertise linked to ACAP in order to fill knowledge gaps related to ACAP-listed species and support evidence-based decision-making.

While the initiative will contribute greatly to our knowledge of ACAP-species in the region and inform regulatory decision-making in Australia, it is hoped that ACAP-RERI will also provide benefits to all ACAP Parties, especially those with or in the process of developing offshore wind energy infrastructure.

The contribution arrangement includes provisions to engage a project manager to administer the funds and its associated projects and therefore minimise the support required from the ACAP Secretariat.

## **2. ACAP - RERI**

ACAP-RERI seeks to address knowledge gaps in the spatial and temporal distribution, abundance, behaviour and flight characteristics of albatross and petrel species. This will facilitate improved assessments of the potential short- and long-term impacts of renewable energy developments on these seabirds.

The funds will be distributed through calls for proposals that will focus on the following research themes:

1. Size, structure and population trends for albatross & petrels breeding and foraging in Australia's jurisdiction;
2. potential ecological / ecosystem impacts from offshore renewable energy infrastructure; and
3. mitigation measures for any impacts

ACAP-RERI will also support development of educational materials and guidance for windfarm operators and ACAP Party member states.

The first call for proposals will be made in the second half of 2026.

A governance structure has been established to provide strategic oversight and technical input to the project. A Steering Group that includes the Secretariat, representatives from Australia, potentially representatives from other ACAP Parties, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee will provide overall direction and coordination under agreed Terms of Reference. A Technical Advisory Group, including members of ACAP working groups, will provide expertise-based advice to inform Steering Group decisions, review funding proposals, provide feedback to funding recipients, and guide the project's scientific approach.

Funding will be available to support ACAP-RERI to 30 June 2030.