



EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is part of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)



NSW REZ Update: *Coordination in practice*

August 2024

Acknowledgment of Country



Energy Corporation of New South Wales acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past and present through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

The Roadmap co-ordinates investment in generation, storage and transmission



Generation

12GW of renewable generation by 2030



Storage

2GW of long-duration storage by 2030



Transmission

REZ Network Infrastructure
PTIPs (e.g. Hunter Transmission Project)
Interconnectors (HumeLink, VNI West, PEC)
Waratah Super Battery



Supporting Infrastructure

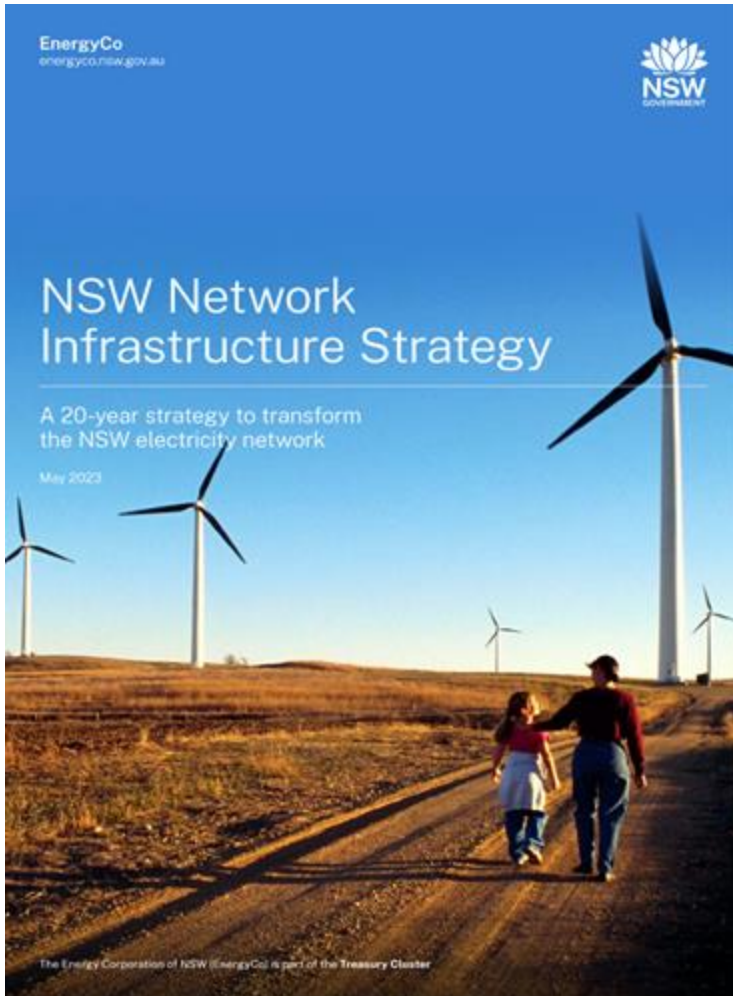
Road upgrades for oversize deliveries
Accommodation for 10,000 workers
Telecommunication upgrades to support remote workforces

Roadmap and EII Act implementation challenges



Network Infrastructure Strategy

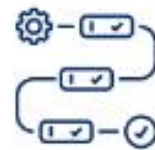
A rolling 20-year strategy to transform the NSW electricity network



EnergyCo's primary statutory function is **“to investigate, plan, coordinate and carry out the planning and design”** of generation, infrastructure as well as the construction and operation of storage and network infrastructure.

As Infrastructure Planner, EnergyCo acts in three ways for the practical coordination of transmission with generation and firming infrastructure:

1



plans and procures major network infrastructure projects to unlock additional network capacity across the state

2



designs and manages network access schemes to ensure new generators can get connected and stay connected

3



coordinates local community engagement to support joined-up delivery of major infrastructure and benefits

Five Renewable Energy Zones and two Priority Transmission Projects



Central-West Orana REZ



Increased from 3 to 6GW network capacity

Commitment Deed with ACERZ Dec 2023

Access scheme allocation launched April 2024

Area	20,000 km ²
Declaration	5 November 2021
2024 Access applications	7.7 GW for 5.8 GW initial tranche including over 1700 GW storage

Initial energisation date	2028
----------------------------------	------

Land acquisition to date Over 3000 engagements with landowners since March 2023. The land has now been handed over to the Network Operator for the energy hubs	87/90 voluntarily acquired
--	----------------------------

Planning, Authorisation, Licence and Determination	All By Q4 24
---	--------------

Community and Employment Grants Scheme announced 2023
Initial tranche of \$70m released July 2024 (out of \$128m)

Central West Orana

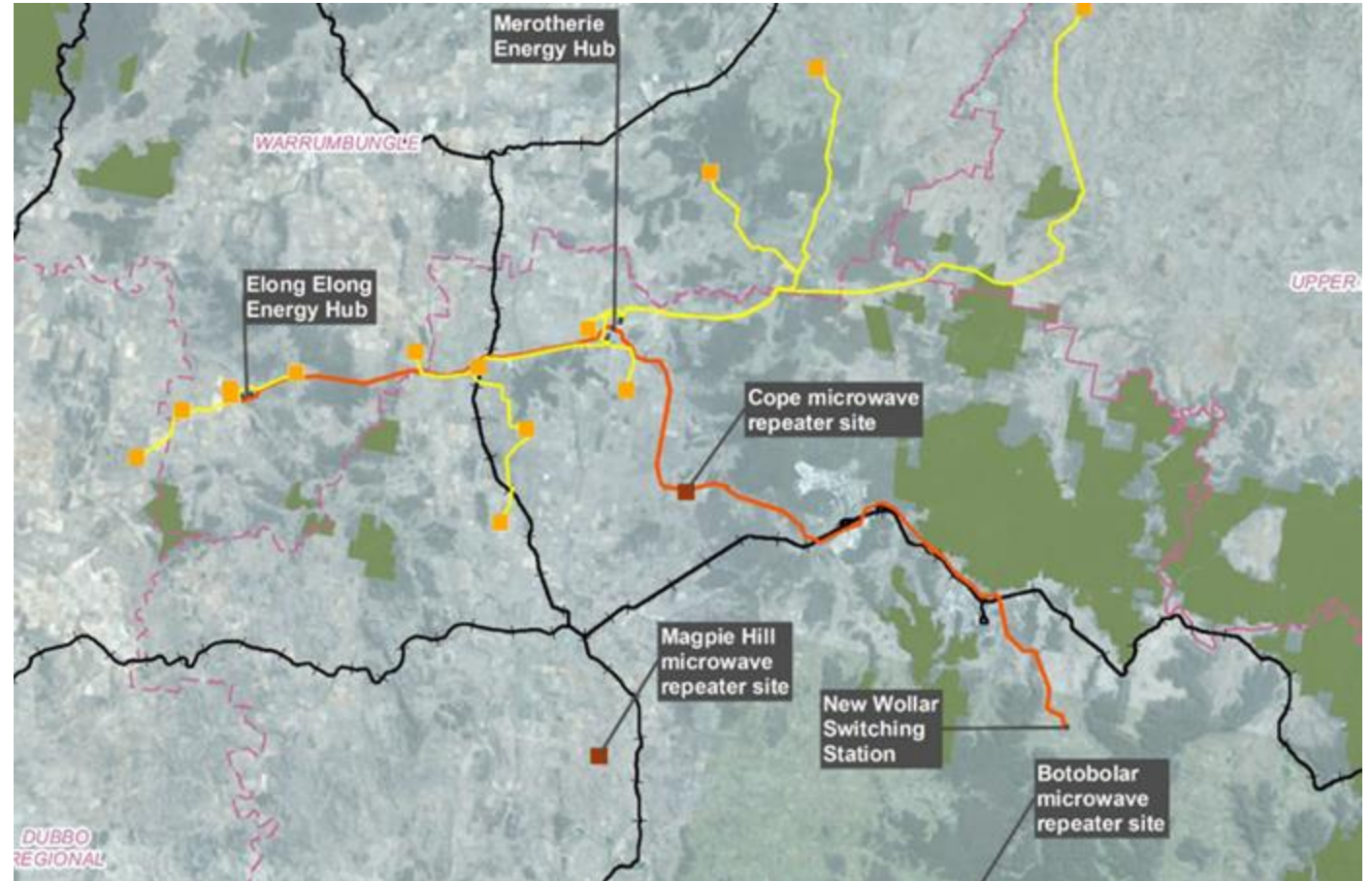
Key features



New transmission infrastructure, energy hubs and switching stations to connect renewable energy generator projects in the REZ to the NSW transmission network.

Key features include:

- Around 90km of 500kV transmission lines
- Around 150 km of 330 kV transmission lines
- Energy hubs at Merotherie and Elong Elong
- 13 switching stations for 330kV network
- 1 switching station for 500kV network
- Road and intersection upgrades
- Maintenance facility
- Two workforce accommodations camps
- Multiple compounds and access tracks





Central West Orana planning approval achievement



The CWO REZ transmission project was given NSW Planning approval on 26 June 2024, 18 months following receipt of SEARs in October 2022.

The EPBC approval is expected 8 August 2024, six weeks following NSW approval as per the Assessment Bilateral.

This is a key achievement considering:



the alignment continually evolved throughout the environmental planning process **in response to landowner, generator and network operator requirements**



large community and stakeholder interest in the project, with **420 submissions** made on the EIS



89% of the biodiversity study area was surveyed, avoiding large areas of native vegetation



94% of the heritage study area was surveyed and high value Aboriginal and historic heritage sites avoided

Whole-of-Government REZ coordination and delivery



EnergyCo is also partnering with agencies to deliver the Roadmap's supporting infrastructure in ways that address emerging supply chain risks and secures long-term benefits for host communities



Roads and transport – 2000 85m+ turbine blades are expected to need transport from ports to CWO REZ alone

MoU with TfNSW to coordinate and plan for road upgrades and operational considerations in ways that also benefit host communities



Housing – up to 10,000 workers will need accommodation over next ten years

EnergyCo is working with Regional NSW and housing agencies to identify opportunities for new worker accommodation that could also meet social and affordable housing needs in regional areas



Telecoms – Mobile and data network upgrades are needed to facilitate large scale and often remote construction and operation

EnergyCo is considering a proposal from the NSW Telco Authority to improve telecommunications services for both transmission developers and regional communities.



Transportation of 65m long turbine blade (2020)



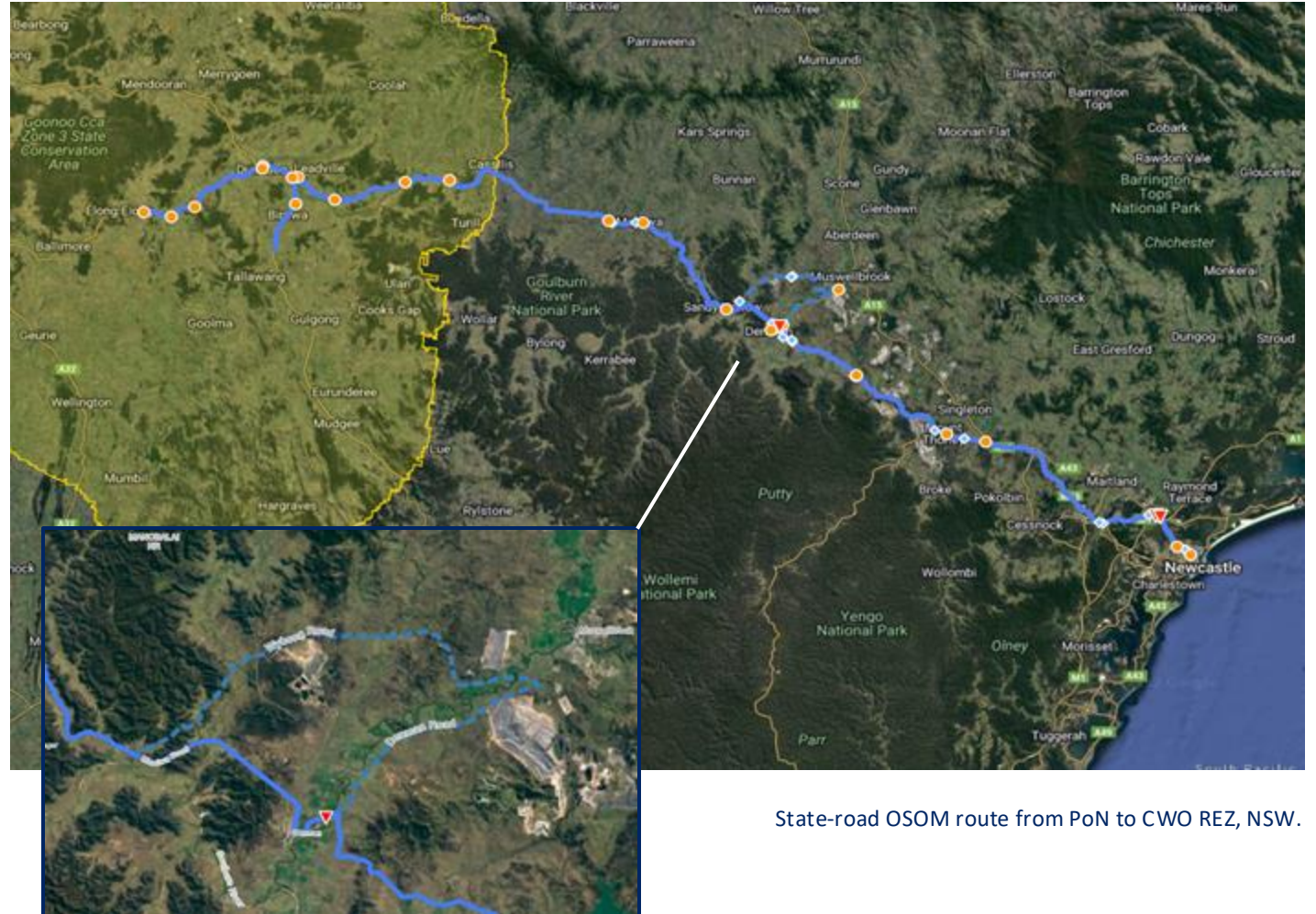
1400 bed FIFO worker village for sale at Gladstone, Qld

Port to REZ Program



The Port to REZ Program is designed to enable the **timely, efficient, and successful delivery** of key components required for the construction of critical REZ infrastructure.

- Port of Newcastle and the Golden Highway will transport the majority of components for most energy projects in NSW
- On time delivery of those components is a key dependency for all projects
- EnergyCo and Transport for NSW are coordinating the design, approvals, and delivery of the Port to Paddock State road upgrades to meet critical path dates for CWO project schedules. This will also assist all other projects
- This includes:
 - development of a renewable energy logistics hub at PoN to facilitate the storage and logistics of OSOM components after import
 - Work with projects and Councils for project specific upgrades to local roads



State-road OSOM route from PoN to CWO REZ, NSW.

Community and Employment Benefit Program Central West Orana

The *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (the EII Act) requires components of REZ access fees to be used for a “community purpose” and an “employment purpose” (ss 26[2] and [4]) and gives EnergyCo, as the infrastructure planner in a REZ with a declared access scheme, a function to administer, manage and make payments of money held for these purposes (cl 42D of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulation 2021*).

The **Community and Employment Benefit Program** (the Program) provides the framework for how EnergyCo administers access fees for community and employment purposes across REZs within a declared access scheme.

The Program will:



Invest hundreds of millions into regional communities



Share the benefits of the REZ with impacted communities



Be informed by local community priorities



Leave communities better off than they were before

Community and Employment Program objectives (REZ-wide)

No.	Objectives	Details
1	 Improve liveability	Improve liveability in regional communities by supporting better access to health services, housing and accommodation, telecommunication connectivity and other public services and infrastructure
2	 Improve community connection	Improve community connection by making it easier for people to access quality sport, recreation and other community facilities, as well as arts and cultural programs that bring people together
3	 Improve and create local employment opportunities	Improve and create local employment opportunities through training and skills programs or infrastructure that increases the capacity of the local community to benefit from local employment opportunities
4	 Boost resilience and innovation	Boost resilience and innovation through community energy programs and environmental improvement programs
5	 Improve outcomes for First Nations people	Improve outcomes for First Nations people by increasing capacity of First Nations organisations and providing additional services and infrastructure to support First Nations people
6	 Support regional economic development	Support regional economic development through tourism programs and infrastructure and legacy projects that provide enduring benefits for host communities

Community and Employment Benefit Program

Program launch and next steps



The Program was launched on 15 July 2024 will be delivered in the CWO REZ two stages - **Stage 1** will launch imminently with grant streams totalling **\$70.5 million**, with **Stage 2** likely following towards the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

Following launch, EnergyCo has commenced development of the Program in other REZs, including the New England and South West REZ, with remaining **\$57.9 million** funding to be announced dispersed in the CWO REZ by the end of 2028.

#	Name	Funding available	Min funding	Max funding	Grant type	Description
1	Local Community Fund Round 1 of 2	\$15,000,000	\$50,000	\$1,000,000	Competitive	Funds projects that improve community amenity, increase community connection and boost resilience and innovation
2	Local Community Small Grants	\$500,000	\$2,000	\$49,999.99	Non-competitive	Funds small-scale activities, events, initiatives or projects that deliver benefits to the local community in the geographic area that forms the Central-West Orana REZ Stream One aims to support Local Aboriginal Land Councils to build community capacity.
3	First Nations Fund	\$10,000,000	\$20,000	\$1,000,000	Non-competitive	Stream Two aims to support Aboriginal organisations to drive local initiatives through future planning, project and program delivery.
4	Legacy Infrastructure Fund	\$45,000,000	N/A	N/A	Non-competitive	Open to Dubbo, Mid-Western, Upper Hunter Shire and Warrumbungle Shire Councils. Will fund infrastructure projects that support regional economic development, improve liveability and improved community amenity

Industry Forums with local and First Nations businesses



11 Industry Forums held July - August for local and First Nations- owned businesses in Wellington, Dubbo, Mudgee, Coolah, Cassilis and Dunedoo



The forums provided information on:

- opportunities to participate in work packages for the construction of the Central-West Orana REZ
- advice on how to participate in tenders, scope of works, training, business support and resources available



EnergyCo actively encourages local business (including small business) to engage with work packages, providing further local benefit

*Delivered in partnership with the network operator, ACERZ (a consortium of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy)



EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is part of the **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**



Thank you