

Site investigation work

Central-Orana Renewable Energy Zone

July 2022

EnergyCo is delivering the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW. The REZ will initially unlock three gigawatts of new generation capacity within the next decade, enough to power 1.4 million homes.

What are we doing?

EnergyCo is carrying out field investigations in a number of locations throughout Mid-Western, Warrumbungle Shire and Dubbo local government areas.

Between **July and December 2022**, field investigations will take place at Merotherie, Coolah, Elong Elong, Spicers Creek, Ulan, Wollar and Burrendong. These investigations include:

Ecological surveys

This work involves identifying existing animal and plant species in the area and studying their habitat. This work usually involves between two and four ecologists and is carried out in different seasons over the course of the year.

Flora surveys involve cataloguing local plant species and vegetation communities. In some cases, small plant samples may be taken for cataloguing purposes.

Fauna surveys involve studying local wildlife. The type of survey can vary but usually include observations and gathering of samples. In some instances, and pending approval from landowners, ecologists can set up wildlife cameras to monitor when fauna are most active as well as small box traps to help collect samples. Box traps are usually set up in native vegetation or attached to trees for a period of 1-2 weeks and checked daily.

Heritage surveys

This work will be carried out by qualified heritage specialists including archaeologists and Aboriginal participants to identify and assess any items of potential heritage significance. This includes documenting any Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage items and sites.

This work will be carried out in two parts. The first part includes a walk over of the property and is limited to written notes and where appropriate photos or video. Where there is a higher probability of cultural heritage materials being found, the heritage specialists would carry out limited test excavation. The excavation would be done by hand using a shovel and trowel with soil searched for cultural heritage items before being restored.

Heritage surveys can be carried out by between two and nine specialists.

How will the work affect you?

Work will be carried out between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Some out of hours work will be required for seasonal fauna surveys and this will be discussed directly with relevant landowners.

In some cases, survey work may need to be carried out multiple times on one property for the duration of the survey period.

We'll work directly with landowners to understand expectations and requirements in carrying out work on private property.

Why is this happening?

This work will help us better understand local land uses and allow us to confirm environmental conditions, local ecology and understand engineering constraints as part of investigations to inform the design and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project.

Contact us

For more information about the Central-West Orana REZ project, you can visit our website or contact the project team:

- **Email:** info@cworez.net.au
- **Phone:** 1800 032 101 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)
- **Website:** energyco.nsw.gov.au

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 032 101**.



Work area map

Field investigation work area

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