

Media Release

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THIRD RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE DECLARED IN SOUTH WEST NSW

The NSW Government has declared the State's third Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the South West region.

Mike Young, Executive Director at the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) said the South West REZ follows the declaration of the Central-West Orana and New England REZs in 2021 and includes the areas around Hay and Balranald in the South West region of NSW.

"This is great news for the region which is expected to receive up to \$2.8 billion in private investment by 2030 and at its peak, support over 2,000 construction jobs," Mr Young said.

REZs are modern day power stations bringing together low-cost solar and wind generation with transmission and storage to produce cheap, clean and reliable electricity.

EnergyCo is the infrastructure planner for the South West REZ and will coordinate transmission, generation and storage projects.

Mr Young said the South West REZ was chosen due to an abundance of high-quality wind and solar resources, proximity to Project EnergyConnect which is currently under construction, and strong interest from the renewable energy industry.

"It is anticipated that Project EnergyConnect and HumeLink will unlock around 2.5 gigawatts of transmission capacity in total to support the South West REZ, following the upgrade of the eastern section of Project EnergyConnect from 330 kV to 500 kV operation," Mr Young said.

"The registration of interest process for the South West REZ attracted 49 registrations totalling 34 gigawatts from potential generation and storage projects, more than 13 times the intended capacity of 2.5 gigawatts.

"This is a great win for communities in the South West as the REZ will deliver a massive boost to jobs and businesses in the region as well as providing new income streams for landholders that decide to host energy infrastructure."

"This is another example of the NSW Government powering ahead with the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and capitalising on economies of scale so cheap, clean and reliable electricity is delivered for NSW," Mr Young said.

For more information visit <https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sw-rez>

Figure 1: Stylised map of the geographic area of the South West REZ

