

Media Release

Thursday, 12 January 2023

ENERGYCO STRIKES A DEAL TO REDUCE DA FEES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BY 30 PER CENT

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE's) Planning Group to establish dedicated resources to manage the assessment of major energy projects in NSW Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

The additional resources will help to facilitate the transition to renewable energy across the state, while maintaining the integrity of community consultation and environment assessments under the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The MOU is a key milestone under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap that will ensure the Department has the resources needed to handle the increase of renewable projects coming through the system, and provide a 30 per cent discount on development application fees for all renewable energy and storage projects in the REZs.

It will ensure a timely assessment of major transmission lines, which have been identified by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as critical for modernising our electricity system and connecting the REZs to the grid.

Mike Young, Executive Director at EnergyCo said that the MOU supports our ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency and timeliness of both transmission and renewable energy project assessments, while ensuring a robust process based on meaningful community engagement.

"EnergyCo will continue to look at ways to realise the State's potential in becoming a renewable energy superpower and finding ways to keep electricity costs down.

Importantly, all projects will still be subject to the same rigorous environmental assessment and community consultation requirements that apply to all State significant projects in the planning system."

The MOU covers assessments of projects, including:

- Transmission Projects in REZs and Priority Transmission Infrastructure Projects that are carried out on behalf of, or by EnergyCo including:
 - Hunter Transmission Project
 - Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project
 - New England REZ Transmission Project
 - Waratah Super Battery at Munmorah

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is part of the Treasury Cluster

- Private large-scale renewable energy and storage projects such as wind, solar, batteries and pumped hydro that are proposed in a declared Renewable Energy Zone.

The MOU also provides additional resources for the compliance team at DPE, which will help to ensure that all projects are built and operated strictly in accordance with the approvals.