

Energising the Illawarra

June 2022

What is a Renewable Energy Zone?

The NSW Government has identified five Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in the Illawarra, Central-West Orana, New England, South-West and Hunter-Central Coast regions of NSW. The REZs bring together investment in renewable energy, storage and transmission infrastructure to deliver reliable, affordable and clean electricity for the people of NSW as coal-fired power stations retire over the next 10 to 15 years.

Key benefits of Renewable Energy Zones



Economic growth for regional communities

Supporting existing industry, generating local jobs and investment, and attracting new and emerging industries to regional areas.



Cheaper and more reliable electricity

Improving the affordability and reliability of electricity for NSW consumers by increasing bulk supply and driving down wholesale electricity prices.



Emissions reduction and clean industries

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering new renewable energy sources in the National Electricity Market (NEM), supporting NSW and Australia's net-zero ambitions and encouraging growth in low-emissions industries such as green hydrogen.



Community benefit sharing

Working with local stakeholders to ensure benefits go towards community and employment purposes that benefit communities in the REZ.

About EnergyCo

Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a NSW Government statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of REZs as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (the Roadmap).

The Roadmap sets out the NSW Government's vision to coordinate investment in electricity transmission, generation, storage and firming infrastructure and transform the NSW electricity system into one that is cheap, clean and reliable.

EnergyCo will work closely with communities and industry on the Illawarra REZ to coordinate investment in renewable energy generation and storage projects (such as batteries or pumped hydro) for the long-term benefit to energy consumers, local communities and industry in NSW.



Image courtesy of NSW Department of Planning and Environment. People walking along the Port Kembla Seawall.

Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone

The Illawarra is a diverse region with a mix of coastal, rural and urban environments and industrial precincts. The Illawarra REZ will ensure the region has a key role in a renewable energy future, powering existing industries and supporting economic growth, including emerging technology in green hydrogen, ammonia and metal production.

The Illawarra REZ will utilise rehabilitated industrial land, port and transport infrastructure, and local skilled workforces to help drive a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 under the State's Net Zero Plan. The work of EnergyCo in developing the REZs will also support the implementation of the NSW Hydrogen Strategy which will produce some of the cheapest green hydrogen in the world.

The Illawarra region is an important part of the transmission network and will integrate with the South-West REZ and HumeLink to supply greater amounts of renewable electricity to major load centres. HumeLink is a transmission upgrade connecting Snowy 2.0 and expanding transmission capacity in southern NSW.

Planning, designing and building new electricity network infrastructure in the Illawarra region will be complex and requires a detailed understanding of the region's existing and future large energy users and new renewable energy projects.

EnergyCo is in the early stages of planning the Illawarra REZ and a registration of interest (ROI) is the first step in engaging with local stakeholders. The information collected will be used to inform the timing, capacity, design and location of the REZ.

Opportunities in the Illawarra

In developing the Illawarra REZ, there are opportunities to:



Utilise existing and rehabilitated industrial sites to host energy infrastructure.



Utilise port and transport infrastructure to access export markets for green hydrogen, ammonia and metal production.



Develop an offshore wind industry in the region, creating new skilled job opportunities and supporting the growth of emerging technologies.



Support large energy users, including emerging technologies such as green hydrogen, ammonia and green metal production, with cheap, reliable and clean electricity.



Leverage the region's highly skilled workforce, supply chains and experience in manufacturing to participate and thrive in a renewable energy future.

Powering industry and regional economies with clean and reliable renewable energy.



Overlooking Stanwell Tops, Wollongong.

Industry consultation

The ROI is the first step in engaging with industry on the design, location and delivery of the Illawarra REZ. The ROI is open for six weeks until 22 July 2022 and information received will be considered alongside EnergyCo's ongoing consultation with local communities and stakeholders. For more information on the Illawarra REZ ROI, please visit the [EnergyCo website](#).

After the close of the ROI, the NSW Government will begin the process for declaring the Illawarra REZ. The declaration is the first step in formalising the REZ under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. The declaration process includes a draft public exhibition followed by a Ministerial declaration to finalise the REZ, targeted for the end of 2022.

1 Registration of interest for renewable energy projects and businesses with new large electrical load closes on 22 July 2022.

2 Consultation with local stakeholders and industry to help inform the design, location and delivery of the REZ.

3 Exhibition of the draft declaration, including the intended network capacity (size), geographical area (location) and infrastructure that will make up the REZ.

4 Formal declaration of the Illawarra REZ under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* which is targeted for the end of 2022.



Image courtesy of NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Portside factories, Port Kembla.

Contact us

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EnergyCo wants to hear what you think about our plans. For more information or to subscribe to our EnergyCo mailing list for regular updates, please scan the QR code or visit energyco.nsw.gov.au.

