

# Field Investigation Work

## Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

November 2023

**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 at least three gigawatts of new generation capacity from solar, wind and storage projects within the next decade.**

---

### What are we doing?

EnergyCo is conducting a range of surveying and investigation activities to inform the ongoing planning and design of the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project.

The field investigations will take place between **November 2023 and mid-2024**, weather permitting throughout the REZ transmission project corridor. This work will provide valuable information on the ecology, heritage and ground conditions of the area to inform design.

---

### Geotechnical Investigations

(November to mid-2024)

This work will be carried out by EnergyCo and the first ranked Network Operator proponent for the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project, ACEREZ.

The bulk of the work involves drilling boreholes and test pits to take soil and rock samples. This work will be supported by other associated investigations and activities where required, including service location surveys, seismic refraction testing and electrical resistivity testing. Once completed, the holes will be backfilled, and any work areas restored.

Work locations include the proposed sites for the Merotherie and Elong Elong energy hubs, New Wollar switching station and the length of the proposed 500kV and 330kV transmission alignments.

All field investigations on private property will be carried out through agreement with landowners.

---

### Ecological Surveys

(November to March 2024)

Our biodiversity teams will continue to complete flora and fauna surveys, which involve identifying existing plant and animal species in the area and studying their habitat. This work will typically involve up to four ecologists from specialist consultancy WSP. The type of survey can vary but usually includes observations, cataloguing and sampling of plant and animal species across the project area.

## Aboriginal Heritage Surveys

(November to March 2024)

Aboriginal cultural heritage pedestrian (walk-over) surveys are continuing across the project area. This involves walking over the land and documenting observations. It is supplemented by an ongoing program of test excavations in areas where there is higher potential for Aboriginal sites or artefacts that have been identified through existing surveys and desktop mapping.

The test excavations help identify and assess any items of potential heritage significance. Where required, excavation will be done by hand using a shovel and trowel. Soil is then carefully searched for cultural heritage items before being restored.

The work will be carried out by qualified heritage specialists including archaeologists, from specialist consultancy WSP, with support from Aboriginal participants.

---

### How will the work affect you?

Work will be carried out between 7am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, with no work on weekends or public holidays.

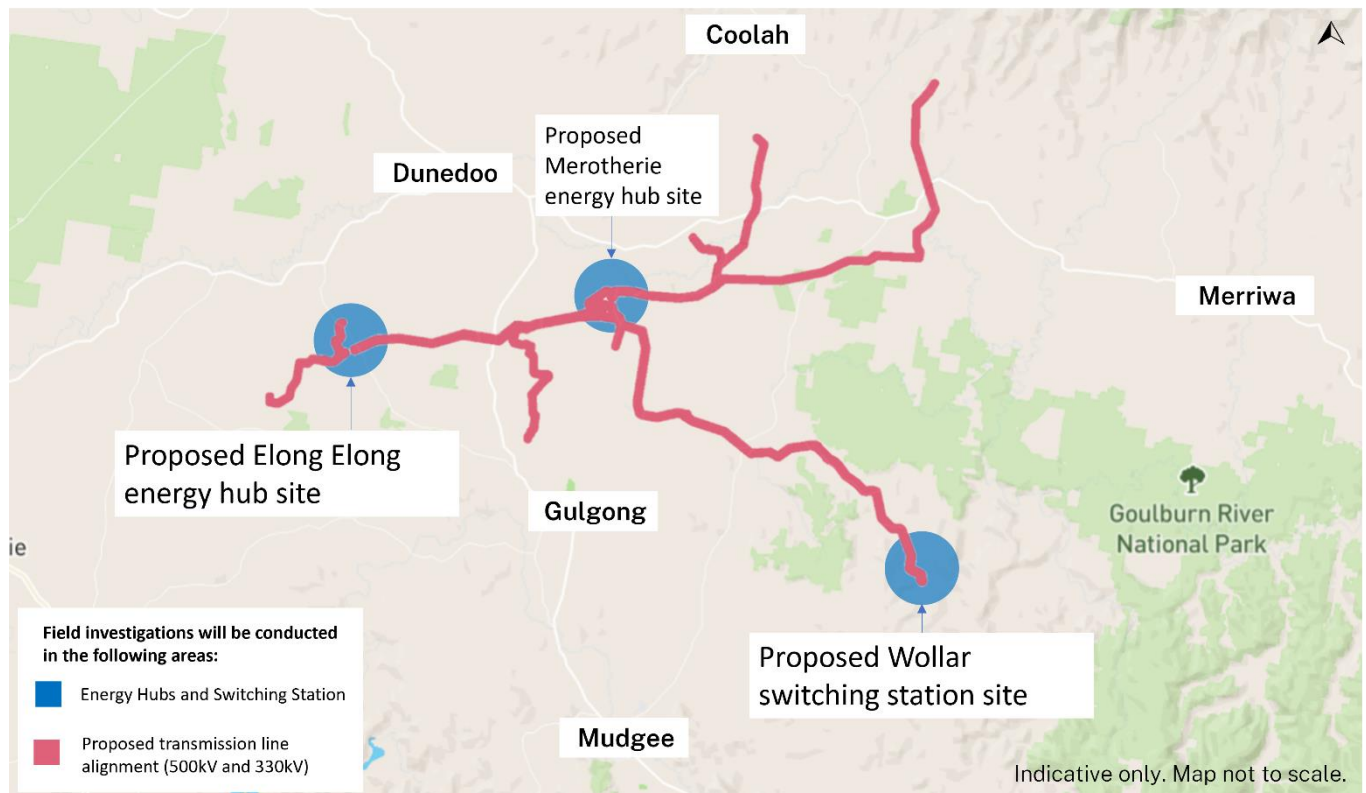
In some cases, work may need to be carried out multiple times on one property. We will work directly with landowners to understand expectations and requirements when working on private property.

More information about the process for land access agreements for private landowners is explained in our [field investigations fact sheet](#) at [energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo](http://energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo).


If you have questions about the Central-West Orana REZ or would like to provide feedback please refer to the contact details below.


## Work locations

The map below shows indicative work locations, with field work taking place along the transmission corridor (shown in red) and the hubs and switching stations (shown in blue).




## Contact us

 [cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au)

 1800 032 101 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

 [energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo](http://energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo)

 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.

