

New England Renewable Energy Zone

January 2024 Project Update

The New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is a critical energy project for NSW, that will provide clean and reliable electricity to consumers for generations to come.

In June 2023, EnergyCo released a preliminary study corridor for the proposed REZ transmission project. We have been working with industry, landowners and key stakeholders to better understand local constraints and potential opportunities to refine the corridor.

The first two stages of the project are scheduled for completion by 2033 to ensure energy security across NSW as our coal-fired power stations retire. We are currently engaging with landholders and securing access to properties to carry out surveys to refine the development of the project.

Through our ongoing engagement with communities, landowners and stakeholders we've received a range of feedback and identified potential opportunities for the project. EnergyCo will announce a number of changes to the preferred study corridor this year aimed at minimising impacts on landowners and local residents, in line with our planning principles and practical project constraints.



Read the [December 2023 project update](#) for more information regarding project design and development.



Cows grazing along a transmission line near Armidale.

South hub deferred

In June 2023, EnergyCo announced a preliminary study corridor for the New England REZ, which sought to provide a complete picture of the 8 GW intended network capacity set out in the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (EII Act) to help secure the future energy needs of New South Wales.

The May 2022 NSW Network Infrastructure Strategy sets out potential pathways and best network options currently available to achieve the NSW energy transition targets set under the EII Act. For New England, the Strategy identified the need to deliver 6 GW of new network capacity for the New England REZ by 2033, and a further 2 GW of future network capacity by 2043.

Ongoing consultation with the generation industry and local communities in the New England REZ has identified an optimal pathway to secure the required 6 GW as part of Stage 1 and Stage 2, without impacting NSW energy security and the overall renewable energy roadmap for NSW.

This optimised pathway highlights the need to deliver four of the five proposed hubs for the New England REZ as an immediate priority. As a result of this process, EnergyCo will no longer be including the development of the south hub as part of the current New England REZ Transmission Project. This decision reflects generator feedback about the timing and scale of generation planned to connect to the south hub in time to meet the immediate electrification targets for the New England REZ.

This means that the south hub and associated transmission infrastructure will not be assessed as part of the current planning process. View these changes on EnergyCo's [interactive map](#).

EnergyCo is continuing to consider opportunities to achieve the 2 GW of declared future network capacity by 2043. This may require reconsideration of a south hub or development of additional energy hubs and transmission lines within the New England REZ as part of a future project. EnergyCo will continue to work with industry and communities as this future planning progresses.

What happens next?

EnergyCo is committed to ongoing engagement as the project progresses and will be focusing on the following activities in the coming months:

- 1 Continue to work with landowners to gather feedback, refine the corridor and discuss field investigations
- 2 Progress studies to inform the coordination of the overall New England REZ program and identify opportunities for local communities
- 3 Continue field investigations to better understand the local area and to inform project design
- 4 Continued consultation with local community groups, councils, businesses and services
- 5 Prepare and lodge the Scoping Report with the Department of Planning and Environment
- 6 Start engagement for the Environmental Impact Statement

Field investigations



Specialist teams have begun field investigations to better understand and identify constraints and opportunities within the preliminary study corridor. These studies are a key step in helping us refine the study corridor and identify site specific issues. They will also help to inform the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

In late January, we expect to begin geotechnical investigations to help us understand the ground conditions within the preliminary study corridor. Geotechnical investigations typically involve taking soil and rock samples using low impact methods, such as small diameter borehole drilling and test pits.

For more information about the investigations happening throughout 2024 please refer to our [Field investigations fact sheet](#). We will work closely with landholders to ensure all relevant arrangements are made to facilitate access for investigations to take place.

Have your say



If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact us via the details below.

EnergyCo will continue to engage with landowners, stakeholders and communities during the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Once the EIS is developed it will be placed on public display and we encourage you to make a formal submission.

We will continue to communicate and consult with the community throughout this project.

Contact us

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📞 Call 1800 061 114 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

🌐 energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/new-england-transmission-project

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