

Meeting summary

Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee (SteerCo)

Monday, 20 November 2023

Online and in person at Girinyalanha Room, Dubbo Regional Council, Corner of Church and Darling Street, Dubbo

Attendance

Category	Attendees
Steering committee members	<p>Local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murray Wood, Chief Executive Officer, Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) (MW) • Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) (BC) • Roger Bailey, General Manager, Warrumbungle Shire Council (WSC) (RB) <p>NSW Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities, EnergyCo (MY) • Clay Preshaw, Executive Director, Energy & Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) (CP) • Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Regional Development, DRNSW (HW)
EnergyCo representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Swann, CWO Project Director, EnergyCo (CS) • Cara Inia, CWO Director Community and Place (CI) • Brian Cullinane, CWO Planning & Environment Lead, EnergyCo (BCu) • Adam Clarke, Manager Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (AC) • Thomas Watt, Director of Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (TW) • Kate Hunter, CWO Community and Stakeholder Project Manager, EnergyCo (KH) • Cleo Andrews, CWO Community and Stakeholder Lead, EnergyCo (CA) • Simon Fisher, CWO Project Manager, EnergyCo (SF)
Other local and NSW government representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Cutler, Director Housing Supply Policy, DPE (DC) • Garry Hopkins, Director Western, DPE (GH) • Gerry Collins, Director Orana Far West, DRNSW (GC) • Steven Jennings, Manager Growth Planning, DRC (SJ) • Lisa Grisinger, Executive Assistant, DRC (LG)

Category	Attendees
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary Development and Assessment, DPE (DG) – delegated to CP

Project groups

Group	Chair
Transport and logistics	Adam Clarke
Economic participation and development	Thomas Watt
Housing and accommodation	Dan Cutler (co-chair)
Environmental delivery coordination	Julian Geddes (co-chair)
Social services	Garry Hopkins

Agenda items

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Project group updates	Project group chairs
2	Port to REZ program update	AC
3	Data framework	AC/SJ
4	Communications and engagement	CA
5	Other business	MY/MW
6	Review of actions	All
5	Next meeting	All

Meeting minutes

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Project group updates Project groups presented an update on their draft action plans to the committee.		
1.1	Housing and accommodation	GH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GH provided an update on the housing and accommodation project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — feedback received is being considered and incorporated into the draft action plan — GH highlighted the need to establish a coordinator role for housing and accommodation. • MY noted EnergyCo will compile the action plans to coordinate actions which are common across project groups. EnergyCo is looking to increase resources for REZ coordination. <p>ACTION: Updated action plans to be distributed to the steering committee.</p> <p>ACTION: DRC to provide update at next Housing and Accommodation project group meeting about housing in Wellington as discussed with Crown Lands.</p>
1.2	Environmental delivery coordination	BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC provided an update on the environmental delivery coordination project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Additional potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carrying out a study on water demand and available alternative water sources for all projects in the region ○ engaging with DPE / NRAR Water NSW on water licencing frameworks ○ carrying out a study for effluent disposal and effluent re-use of construction water ○ implementing policy change to include no waste to landfill and minimum recycling standards — A water balance study needs to be completed to understand the required licencing data from Water NSW.
1.3	Transport and logistics	AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC provided an update on the transport and logistics project group action plan including:

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Development of an assessment package made up of a REZ-wide traffic impact map, timeframes for work and impacts to road sections and mapping of potential related impacts. — Plans to develop communication frameworks between local councils and transport agencies and between project groups as they relate to transport and logistics. — Strategic traffic assessment and studies of state and local road intersections. • The proposed actions intend to develop baseline and ongoing data to support councils and state agencies to coordinate, plan and deliver improvements to local roads which will provide community benefits.
1.4	Social services	GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC provided an update on the social services project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — further communication is required to improve community understanding of the REZ delivery timeline — lack of accurate data on REZ workforce and delivery timeframes to inform service planning — additional potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing best practice guidelines for temporary workforce camps including mental health and telehealth services ○ establishing bonded health scholarships for residents in the REZ to encourage increase skill and service levels.
1.5	Economic development and participation	TW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW provided an update on the economic development and participation project group. The action plan identifies key options to deliver outcomes with a focus on workers, businesses and regional development including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A 'Renewable Energy Skills Legacy Program' by Education and Training Services targeting skills shortages through funding part qualifications, local job coordinators and attract registered training organisations/TAFE and industry group training organisations to deliver in the REZ. — A 'REZ Ready' business roadshow to engage with local businesses and associations, provide business development support and generate interest and knowledge of opportunities. — a 'Spend Local' campaign which will complement local requirements to promote local spend and supply with a website, publication of procurement opportunities and upcoming work packages. — Recruitment of an Economic Development Manager for during construction and commissioning with a budget for projects / business cases.
2	Port to REZ program update	AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC presented an overview of the work EnergyCo and TfNSW are delivering to upgrade the road network between the Port of Newcastle and the Central-West Orana REZ under Stage 1 of Port to REZ including:

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — planned work at 20 locations along the road network — upgrades carried out at the intersections between the state and local road networks leading to major generation projects. Councils will be kept informed of the timing and proposed scope to coordinate interaction with local roads. — EnergyCo is planning to engage a contractor for the Port to REZ program to begin work in 2024, with targeted completion around Q3 2025.
3	Data framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC advised that EnergyCo will compile regularly updated data from the existing 11 major generators to inform future projects. • ACTION: AC to share data framework model with the steering committee.
3.1	REMPPLAN data update	SJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ provided an update on the REMPLAN proposal. ACTION: SJ to share report on the final proposal for REMPLAN data sharing to the steering committee including financial impact, governance framework and infrastructure service impacts. • EnergyCo is able to fund the additional REMPLAN plan once further investigations into data outcomes and reporting is carried out. • ACTION: EnergyCo to draft funding plan for REMPLAN.
4	Communications and engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA provided an overview of EnergyCo's communication approach to REZ coordination including proposed upcoming engagement activities and timeline. • Councils can be provided with communication and engagement support where required including to prepare businesses cases for grants, and to announce and provide media updates for projects. • TW presented the proposed consultation timeline to support the development of the community and employment benefit program and approval of early benefit initiatives.
5	Other business	MY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MY discussed next steps for the project group draft action plans and the committee. MY explained that the Roadmap is a NSW Government priority and the existing interagency steering committee is growing to take on greater representation and responsibility. MY stated that conversations over the next few months with the Department of Premier and Cabinet will determine how individual steering committees will exist and operate moving forward. An update will be provided to councils in the new year. During this time, EnergyCo will continue to work with councils bilaterally. ACTION: BCu to set up bilateral meetings with each of the councils and confirm funding priorities.

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MY encouraged SteerCo councils to consider and consolidate draft actions plans and begin to develop commitments and actions relevant to each community. ACTION: Council GMs to coordinate internal funding approvals for projects. ACTION: DRC to provide proposed list of benefit projects. • EnergyCo will continue to develop projects under the Community Employment and Benefit Program and align these with the desired outcomes of the action plans. • MY advised that generators may develop their own community benefit projects in addition to their requirements (eg. voluntary planning agreements). Projects may be co-funded with EnergyCo or councils. ACTION: EnergyCo to provide further information to councils on generator-led community benefit projects. • MY announced that the draft energy framework will be finalised in the new year and supported by roadshows in the region. ACTION: CP to circulate finalised energy framework. • CP encouraged councils to meet with DPE about pumped hydro projects in respect of VPAs. • ACTION: Spicers Creek Wind Farm draft planning agreement presentation to be shared with the steering committee. • ACTION: Draft public facing minutes to be distributed to the committee for feedback. Once finalised, council members should share the outcomes in council meetings.
6	Review of actions	MY/MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions reviewed from previous meetings.
7	Next meeting	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date of the next meeting will be arranged with steering committee members in the new year once EnergyCo receives further clarification on the role of the re-established DPC steering committee. The next meeting will be subject to consolidated action plans.

Project group actions

No.	Action	Status
1	Updated action plans to be distributed to the steering committee.	Open
2	DRC to provide update at next Housing and Accommodation project group meeting about housing in Wellington as discussed with Crown Lands.	Open

Steering committee actions

No.	Action	Status
1	AC to share data framework model with the steering committee	Open
2	SJ to share report on the final proposal for REMPLAN data sharing to the steering committee including financial impact, governance framework and infrastructure service impacts.	Open
3	EnergyCo to draft funding plan for REMPLAN.	Open
4	BCu to set up bilateral meetings with each of the councils and confirm funding priorities.	Closed
5	Council GMs to coordinate internal funding approvals for projects.	Open
6	DRC to provide proposed list of benefit projects.	Open
7	EnergyCo to provide further information to councils on generator-led community benefit projects.	Open
8	CP to circulate finalised energy framework.	Open
9	Spicers Creek Wind Farm draft planning agreement presentation to be shared with the steering committee.	Open
10	Draft public facing minutes to be distributed to the committee for feedback. Once finalised, council members should share the outcomes in council meetings.	Open

Next meeting

Date: 20 March 2024

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Online and at Dubbo Regional Council, Corner of Church and Darling Street, Dubbo