

Revised study corridor

New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

April 2024

EnergyCo has released a revised study corridor for the New England REZ transmission project that minimises overall impacts on local landowners and the environment and increases the use of public land. This document outlines frequently asked questions to help landowners and communities better understand the revised study corridor and next steps.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is the revised study corridor?

EnergyCo has been consulting with landowners and communities on a study corridor for the New England REZ transmission project since June 2023. This feedback, along with information gathered from ongoing field investigations, has resulted in several changes to the preliminary study corridor. These changes make up the revised study corridor.

Q. Where can I view the revised study corridor?

The revised study corridor is available to view by:

- visiting our online interactive map at caportal.com.au/energyco/rez
- reading our March project update at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne
- speaking to your dedicated Property Manager or Place Manager
- contacting our team on 1800 061 114 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or by emailing nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au.

Q. What changes have been made?

The revised transmission study corridor includes the deferral of the south hub, as announced in January 2024, as well as further changes in response to feedback and investigations. Details of the changes can be found by viewing our [March project update](#). We welcome any feedback on the revised study corridor and the changes made.

Q. Is the corridor finalised?

No. The study corridor will continue to be refined in response to ongoing consultation and the findings of technical assessments, including the environmental and social studies that will be completed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Through this refinement process, the project design will be developed and presented in the EIS.

Q. Why does EnergyCo want to meet with me?

EnergyCo engages with all landowners within the 1-kilometre-wide study corridor. Your feedback will help us further investigate and refine the study corridor. We understand you may have questions and we want to address as many of those as we can. We also want to:

- understand your views on hosting transmission infrastructure
- understand your land use and business activities
- identify any potential constraints on your land.

When we meet with you, we will provide a personalised map of the corridor in relation to your property so you can better understand the proposal and provide feedback to inform our planning.

Q. Why am I now in the study corridor when I wasn't before?

Since releasing the preliminary study corridor in June 2023, we have carried out field investigations to inform the design and have been working with landowners, key stakeholders and industry to better understand local constraints and potential opportunities to refine the corridor. The study corridor has moved in some locations as a result of this work, meaning some new landowners are now included in the corridor.

Our team of Property Managers and Place Managers are contacting new landowners to discuss what this means and the next steps. We encourage landowners to speak with our team to ask questions, provide feedback or set up a meeting.

Q. Why do you need access to my land for field investigations?

Field investigations will help us to plan the transmission route, by carrying out a robust technical and environmental assessment of the study corridor and identifying potential interactions with your property and business activities.

This allows us to work with landowners to understand farming operations, details of sensitive flora and fauna or the locations of existing dwellings, sheds and other structural features. This information helps us to achieve better outcomes for landowners, communities and the environment when planning and designing the transmission route.

Q. What measures will you use to protect biosecurity on my land?

We have biosecurity management procedures in place for site-based activities, including practices for planning, entering and working on site and leaving the site in a safe manner. Before we seek access to private land for field investigations, we will ask you questions about any biosecurity conditions or plans relating to entry, access and leaving that we need to comply with.

We will comply with all biosecurity requirements outlined in NSW legislation and regulations, as well as any additional requirements outlined in land access agreements with individual landowners.

Q. What are the next steps?

We will continue to carry out community consultation and technical studies to investigate and refine the transmission study corridor. This includes meeting with new and existing landowners in the study corridor to understand their views on hosting transmission infrastructure and identify potential constraints.

EnergyCo is preparing to lodge a scoping report with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in the coming months. The scoping report will include an updated 1 kilometre-wide study corridor which will form the basis for detailed environmental and technical studies to be carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be submitted to DPHI for public exhibition and assessment in 2025.

Q. Will there be further changes to the study corridor after the scoping report?

A scoping report is the first step in the environmental planning process and supports EnergyCo's request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to be issued by the department. The SEARs will outline the requirements we must address in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Importantly, the scoping report does not mean the study corridor is finalised. The study corridor will continue to be refined in response to stakeholder feedback and the findings of technical assessments including the environmental and social studies that will be completed as part of the environmental impact statement. Through this refinement process, the project design will be developed and presented in the environmental impact statement.

Q. Have landowners been informed about the revised study corridor?

EnergyCo sent letters to existing and new landowners in the revised study corridor in early March 2024 and we are making direct contact with landowners via phone and email. If you are a landholder who has not yet spoken to EnergyCo about the revised study corridor, we encourage you to get in touch with our team.

Q. Where can I find more information?

Information about the New England REZ transmission project can be found on EnergyCo's website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne, including maps, fact sheets, project updates and more. You can view the revised study corridor on our interactive map at caportal.com.au/energyco/rez.

You can contact our team by calling 1800 061 114 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or by emailing nerез@energyco.nsw.gov.au. We have a dedicated team of Property Managers and Place Managers in the New England region that are available to meet with landowners, answer questions and listen to feedback.

We look forward to hearing from you.