

Aboriginal Opportunities and Outcomes

Community and Employment Benefit Program

July 2024

EnergyCo acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Wiradjuri, Wailwan (also known as Weilwan and Wayilwan), and Gamilaroi (also known as Gamilaraay and Kamilaroi) countries. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations who also call the Central-West Orana home. We commit to respect the land we walk on and the communities we walk with.



Central-West Orana Community and Employment Benefit Program

The Community and Employment Benefit Program which will invest millions of dollars into communities in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) over the next four years to deliver community projects and employment opportunities.

The Program has been developed in consultation with councils, community and First Nations organisations and other stakeholders by identifying community priorities with the aim to create long-term legacy programs in the region. There are four funding streams: the First Nations Fund, the Legacy Infrastructure Fund, the Local Community Fund, and Local Community Small Grants.

First Nations Fund

While all four grant streams are open to Aboriginal applicants, the First Nations Fund is a dedicated stream of \$10 million. Within this are two categories. Projects can be submitted and assessed every six weeks.



LALC Support

Up to \$4 million available

Supports the Local Aboriginal Land Councils to build capability and better protect and further the aspirations of their members and the broader Aboriginal community.



Aboriginal Outcomes

Up to \$6 million available

Supports Aboriginal organisations to drive local initiatives that result in economic, social or environmental outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

Applications for either stream can be for a minimum funding amount of \$50,000 and up to a maximum funding amount of \$500,000 (GST exclusive). The aim of this fund is to build capacity of First Nations organisations through programs, services, infrastructure, or activities that are designed to reflect local needs and provide lasting benefits. All eligible projects must be delivered within the Central West Orana REZ boundary or provide primary benefit to local communities in the Central-West Orana REZ. To see the map go to: <https://caportal.com.au/energyco/rez>

How to apply

EnergyCo, with NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, will support applicants in developing and submitting their application. The application form is in two parts. Part A will require applicants to answer a series of questions in relation to eligibility. Part B covers the more detailed aspects of the project. Details of all four funding streams including the dedicated First Nations Fund, are on our website energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo.

About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The Central-West Orana REZ is a new network of transmission towers, lines and energy hubs. These transfer power generated by solar and wind farms owned by independent developers, to consumers. EnergyCo is the Infrastructure Planner for this new transmission network.



EnergyCo Contact Details

For more information about the Central-West Orana REZ project, you can visit our website or contact the Project team or First Nations Outcome team:



Project Team Email

cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au



First Nations Outcome Team Email

firstnationsoutcomes@energyco.nsw.gov.au



Project Team Phone

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



EnergyCo Website

energyco.nsw.gov.au

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 061 114.



If you have questions or want to give feedback, please get in touch with our team. You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or by visiting energyco.nsw.gov.au.