

Road Upgrades

Port to REZ

November 2024

EnergyCo is delivering Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW. EnergyCo and Transport for NSW are upgrading sections of the State Road network to enable delivery of equipment to build the REZs.

Overview

To enable renewable energy to be exported to electricity consumers across NSW, EnergyCo is ensuring new network infrastructure is built in the REZs to power NSW with affordable, clean and reliable electricity. This includes new energy hubs, overhead transmission lines and related infrastructure.

Delivery of projects in the REZs will require the transportation of large renewable energy components from the Port of Newcastle, such as wind turbine components and transformers for transmission.

These loads would be transported using oversize and over-mass (OSOM) vehicles.

OSOM loads are typically transported along State roads, with connections along regional and local roads to individual projects where required. This is standard practice for major infrastructure projects and many existing mining projects, which require large components for construction.

To ensure the State Road network can accommodate OSOM vehicle movements for renewable energy and transmission projects in the Central-West Orana REZ, minor road work and corridor modifications are required along the Port to REZ route.

The Port to REZ route

The initial stage of the Port to REZ route generally follows the State Road network from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana REZ. This includes sections of the Pacific Highway, New England Highway, Golden Highway and Castlereagh Highway.

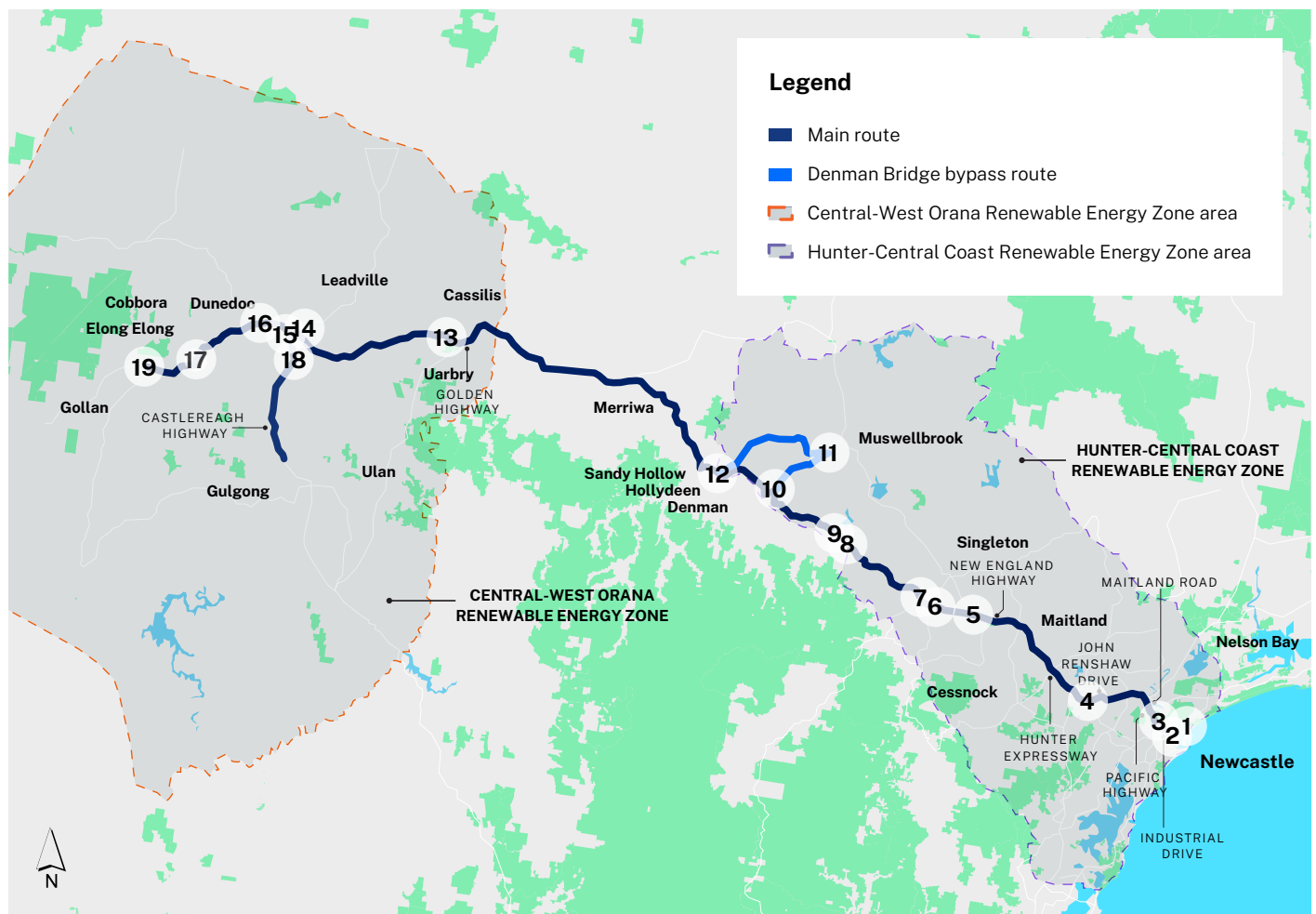
While EnergyCo is working with Transport for NSW to coordinate upgrades along the Port to REZ route, individual developers will be responsible for planning and implementing the necessary OSOM vehicle movements and upgrades along local roads.

This will be assessed as part of their respective Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).



Wind turbine blade transportation, Transport for NSW

Map of the Port to REZ Route – Port of Newcastle to Elong Elong



Newcastle Council LGA

1. Quayside Cl/Selwyn St
2. Selwyn St/George St/Industrial Dr
3. Industrial Dr/Pacific Hwy

Cessnock City Council LGA

4. John Renshaw Dr onto Hunter Ewy eastbound exit ramp

Singleton Shire Council LGA

5. New England Hwy/Mitchell Line of Rd (Golden Hwy)

6. Golden Hwy (Mitchell Line of Rd)/Putty Rd
7. Jerry Plains Rd/Putty Rd
8. Golden Hwy/Lonsdale St
9. Pringle St/Golden Hwy

Muswellbrook Shire Council LGA

10. Jerrys Plains Rd (Golden Hwy)/Denman Rd
11. Denman Rd/Bengalla Rd
12. Wybong Rd/Golden Hwy

Upper Hunter Shire Council LGA

13. Golden Hwy/Vinegaroy Rd

Warrumbungle Shire Council LGA

14. Golden Hwy/Black Stump Way
15. Golden Hwy/Castlereagh Hwy
16. Golden Hwy/Bolaro St
17. Golden Hwy/Spring Ridge Rd

Mid-Western Regional Council LGA

18. Castlereagh Hwy/Barneys Reef Rd

Dubbo Regional Council LGA

19. Golden Hwy/Saxa Rd

Artist impression.

Current status

EnergyCo and Transport for NSW have identified 19 locations on the Port to REZ corridor that will require minor upgrades to facilitate OSOM vehicle movements. Road work may include pavement widening, drainage adjustments, intersection upgrades and relocating signage, lighting and utilities.

A range of early investigation work for the Port to REZ alignment was completed in 2023. Survey and geotechnical investigations took place in early 2024. EnergyCo is now finalising the design and planning approvals for the proposed roadworks.

Next steps

EnergyCo will engage a construction contractor to build the upgrades along the route. The work will be undertaken by EnergyCo with the support of Transport for NSW.

The successful construction contractor is expected to be announced in late 2024, with construction of the upgrades expected to start in early 2025.

Road upgrades are expected to be completed in late 2025 to enable the delivery of OSOM renewable energy components from 2026.

Local communities, councils and stakeholders will be notified ahead of work including expected work hours and temporary traffic changes.

REZs are located across a number of Local Government Areas. Councils are responsible for the management of local road networks, including road safety, road funding, road maintenance, and heavy vehicle access.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Will there be an increase in OSOM vehicle movements?

Transportation of large renewable energy equipment will increase progressively along the Port to REZ route as construction begins in the REZs.

Construction of new transmission lines, and major solar, wind and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ are expected to start in 2025, with transportation of the large components to start in 2026.

We are working closely with developers to understand the volume and frequency of OSOM vehicle movements on the Port to REZ corridor during construction of their energy projects. We will keep the community informed once further details are confirmed as part of the planning process.

Q. How will OSOM movements be managed?

OSOM vehicle movements will generally take place outside of peak traffic periods to help minimise impacts to the road network.

Depending on the size and mass of the load, escort vehicles will be used to ensure the deliveries are carried out safely while managing impacts to road users. Escort vehicles would be operated by accredited escort drivers or NSW Police.

OSOM vehicles are subject to speed restrictions and will pull over to allow other vehicles to pass safely at intervals outlined in the operational plan.

Permits for OSOM vehicles are managed by Transport for NSW and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). Transport for NSW and NHVR will notify communities and road users about OSOM vehicle movements along the Port to REZ route, including expected delivery volumes and times.

Q. Are there any new or improved pullover bays included in the Port to REZ upgrades?

EnergyCo, in consultation with Transport for NSW are assessing the existing pull-over opportunities along the Port to REZ route. EnergyCo are looking to provide additional pull-over bays along the route to allow other vehicles to safely overtake, and for OSOM vehicle operators to safely transport renewable energy components along the corridor. More information about new or improved pullover bays will be shared in early 2025.

Q. How big is the equipment?

Turbine blades used in wind projects for the REZs are expected to be 85 to 100 metres in length. Equipment such as synchronous condensers (large rotating generators) can be up to 6.2 metres wide.

Q. What is the Denman Bridge bypass?

The existing Denman Bridge has limited clearance for road users. OSOM vehicles that are too wide or tall to travel over the bridge will need to take an alternate bypass route around Denman Bridge.

The Denman Bridge Bypass Route is via Denman Road, Bengalla Road and Wybong Road, near Muswellbrook (see map page 2). Transport for NSW and EnergyCo are liaising with Muswellbrook Council about potential impacts, constraints on the detour route, including the reclassification of Bengalla Road and Wybong Road from local to State roads.

Q. Which roads will OSOM vehicles use?

The NSW Government is funding upgrades to the State Road network from ports in NSW to REZs.

OSOM vehicles will use a combination of State and local roads. Individual developers will be responsible for planning and implementing the necessary OSOM vehicle movements and upgrades along local road networks to their projects.

EnergyCo will work with Transport for NSW to reduce impacts to local road users while OSOM vehicle movements are carried out.

Q. What vehicles will be used?

OSOM vehicle movements require the use of road freight vehicles and specialised trailers that can be between 30 and 100 metres long depending on the equipment being transported. These vehicles would be operated by transport specialists with significant experience transporting OSOM loads.

About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

For more information about EnergyCo, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/about-energyco

About Transport for NSW

Transport's role is to lead the development of a safe, efficient, integrated transport system.

This includes transport planning, strategy, policy, procurement and other non-service delivery functions across all modes of transport.

For more information, visit the Transport for NSW website at transport.nsw.gov.au/about-us

Contact us

For more information about the Port to REZ road upgrades, you can visit the website or contact the project team.



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