

## Agenda

### Hunter Central Coast Regional Reference Group – Meeting

**Monday, 5 May 2025**

**10:00am – 12noon**

**Venue: The Store, 6 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle or Teams**

#### Business items

Item	Lead	Time
Welcome	Chair	1 minute
Acknowledgement of Country	Rodney Groves HTP First Nations Lead	2 minutes
Revised Terms of Reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion and adoption</li> </ul>	Chair	5 minutes
Introduction of New HCCRRG Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muswellbrook Mayor Cr Jeff Drayton</li> <li>Amanda Wetzel (Newcastle LGA) – Urban and Regional Planning and Community Engagement specialist</li> </ul>	Chair	5 minutes
Communications and Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Updates – monthly</li> <li>Media Monitoring</li> <li>Other ?</li> </ul>	Katie Brassil - Secretariat	5 minutes
Regional Coordination Team's Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darren Clarke</li> </ul>	Emily Davies O'Sullivan	5 minutes

Item	Lead	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emily Davies O'Sullivan</li> <li>Sam Harding</li> </ul>		
<b>Project updates</b>		
Waratah Super Battery – Award Recognition	Emily Davies O'Sullivan	2 minutes
Newcastle Logistics Precinct (Intertrade) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping report submitted</li> </ul>	Lemuel Yeung Design Project Manager	5 minutes
Hunter Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ausgrid (network operator)</li> </ul>	Ausgrid Amanda Stephinson Jason Wall	5 minutes

Online	In person	Apology	Name	Represents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Pynsent (BP)	Independent Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Moore (SM)	Mayor Singleton Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Watton (DW)	Mayor Cessnock City Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adam Schultz (AS)	Mayor Lake Macquarie City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Sullivan (JFS)	Singleton community
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Crosdale (DC)	Lake Macquarie community
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Craig Anderson (CA)	Regional Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samantha Martin-Williams (SMW)	Regional Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Towney (NT)	Regional Aboriginal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeffrey Drayton (JD)	Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Amanda Wetzel (AW)</b>	<b>Newcastle Community</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Katie Brassil (KB)	RRG Secretariat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emily Davies O'Sullivan (EDOS)	RRG Secretariat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sam Harding	RRG Secretariat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darren Clarke	RRG Secretariat

## Visitors

	NAME	POSITION
Online	Carolyn McCallig (CM)	HTP Environment and Planning Lead
In Person	Rodney Groves (RG)	HTP Community Team
Online	Lemuel Yeung (LY)	Design Project Manager
In Person	Kirsten Lees (KL)	Manager Project Comms and Engagement
Online	Alex Hall (AH)	Director, Community Benefits & Outcomes
In Person	Amanda Stephinson	Ausgrid
In Person	Jason Wall (JW)	Ausgrid
Online	Dayne Harris	Lake Macquarie City Council
Online	Dimitri Perdikaris	Strategic Delivery Manager

The Chair welcomed members and visitors in attendance both in person and virtually.

RG delivered an acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies as per the above.

## REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE:

EDOS spoke to recent changes and suggestions.

RRG endorsed the revised Terms of Reference.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW HCCRRG MEMBERS:

The Chair welcomed Jeffrey Drayton and Amanda Wetzel to the RRG.

The Chair informed the RRG that Nathan Towney has stood down from the group. The RRG acknowledged his contribution.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES:

KB spoke to existing HTP monthly update and suggested this be pulled into a single document for all projects.

PO – asked if a point of contact for each project could be included in the report.

SMW – highlighted the importance of making the report meaningful and reflects the objectives in the Terms of Reference.

AW - Asked about the possibility for updates on non-development projects. Specifically anything in the social benefits and outcomes policy space that would be advantageous for the RRG to understand.

#### WARATAH SUPER BATTERY:

EDOS advised the RRG that the Waratah Super Battery project won Best Public Sector Energy Transition Initiative award at the Smart Energy Excellence Awards held in April 2025.

#### NEWCASTLE LOGISTICS PRECINCT:

Presented by Lemuel Yeung, Design Project Manager

PO – Queried about construction of the project.

LY – A market process will be undertaken to understand capability and appetite, and this will inform packaging options.

CA – Raised that the site has been flagged to be used by The Port of Newcastle over the years.

LY – Discussions with Port of Newcastle are continuing.

AW – Acknowledged the significance of the Intertrade site to the socio-economic and industrial history of the community and asked how this dimension would be factored into the project planning.

#### ACTION:

SMW – Requested that the scoping report and community engagement plan be circulated to the RRG.

## HUNTER TRANSMISSION PROJECT:

Presented by Carolyn McCallig, HTP Planning and Environment Lead

SM – Raised her desire to see worker accommodation camps to be reused for future projects.

JD – Agreed with SM and wanted to better understand what benefits there are for the communities near the worker camps.

DW and AS – Also agreed about the legacy opportunities of worker accommodation camps.

CM – Workers would have the opportunity to utilise local amenities.

SM – Would like to see the worker camps built to a standard that could support over 55s or emergency accommodation.

CM – Will make a note to circle back to Council.

PO – Questioned why a HTP webinar on social and economic assessment outcomes had not been scheduled.

CM – advised it was the final technical reports to be completed, and a webinar would be scheduled soon.

### ACTION:

EnergyCo to provide Councils a more comprehensive briefing on the proposed on the worker accommodation sites.

## HUNTER CENTRAL COAST RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE:

Presented by Jason Wall, Ausgrid

JW – Ausgrid holding a meet and greet with their contractors and procurement teams in Singleton on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

### ACTION:

Details of Singleton event to be shared. - [https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/hccrez/events\\_list](https://yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/hccrez/events_list)

JFS – Highlighted there is a broad program of community events happening for each of the projects and if they are all captured somewhere.

**ACTION:**

Upcoming engagements to be captured in monthly update so that these can be planned for/ attended by relevant RRG members.

**ACTION:**

KL and EDOS – Yes and can be included in the monthly report.

Item	Lead	Time
<b>Business and Industry Forum</b>		
<p>SMM – Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• introduce HCCRRG members</li><li>• outline objectives of the session</li></ul> <p>Business and Industry Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who we are and who we represent</li></ul> <p>(5 minutes each)</p> <p>Discussion facilitated by SMW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the opportunities and challenges for EnergyCo's projects in the region?</li><li>• Which of EnergyCo's projects are most relevant / important to you?</li><li>• What does buy and employee locally look like for you?</li><li>• How should the region benefit from EnergyCo's activities?</li><li>• If you could deliver one key message to EnergyCo what would it be?</li></ul>	<p>Facilitator</p> <p>Samantha Martin-Williams (SMW)</p>	<p>55 Minutes</p>

Item	Lead	Time
Wrap up and close of session	Chair	3 Minutes

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## Visitors

	NAME	POSITION
In Person	Bob Hawes (BH)	CEO Business Hunter
In Person	Ivan Waterfield (IW)	CEO HunterNet
In Person	Peter Morrissey	Industry Advisor HunterNet
In Person	Boris Novak	Industry Advisor HunterNet

In Person	Tim Browne (TB)	CEO Dantia
In Person	Alice Thompson (AT)	CEO Committee for the Hunter
In Person	Rodney Groves (RG)	HTP Community Team
In Person	Kirsten Lees	Manager Project Comms and Engagement
Online	Alex Hall (AH)	Director, Community Benefits & Outcomes
Online	Dayne Harris	Lake Macquarie City Council

SMW – Welcomed the Business and Industry visitors.

SMW – Asked the group about what the opportunities and challenges for EnergyCo's projects in the region?

Key themes discussed – Information sharing, providing more opportunities for small businesses, big opportunity for local businesses to be involved, build up next generation of workers, take a more portfolio view of requirements rather than individual projects, important to understand what can be done and what is possible, both in the short and long term.

JFS - Enquired if an analysis of existing HV Businesses had been undertaken to look at what local services (supply, maintenance, and engineering) need to be regionally maintained during the transition (away from coal and associated generators) to support the projects that will be delivered in the region.

AH – EnergyCo is looking to develop a portal with ICN to overcome constraints of smaller businesses and increase their visibility.

AT – Businesses would benefit from being across the pipeline of works so they can prepare before work package goes out for tender on ICN.

AH – Flagged that DPIRD has established programs around capability building and provides an opportunity to educate local businesses in the Hunter.

EDOS – EnergyCo are working with other stakeholders to look at getting some additional information on the job opportunities and pathways resultant from the Energy Transition

IW – Keen to understand the alignment across the different projects as well as DPIRD and ICN.

SMW - Asked the group what their key message is for EnergyCo to takeaway.

- There is a need for clear messaging and a portfolio approach to communicate the opportunity to ensure proactive facilitation for local businesses to be able to participate.



- There is a need for large work packages to be disaggregated and clear articulation about the scale and scope.
- The importance of not underestimating the amount of time and effort to get information out to local businesses.
- Transmission of information – given there is an unequal level of understanding, the aggregation of information to connect with small and larger businesses is necessary.
- The co-design and delivery of meaningful and enduring community benefits (both hard and soft infrastructure) is a regional priority – a close working relationship with EnergyCo will be fundamental.

BN- Suggested mandated Structured Engagement Forums. This could be that EnergyCo contractually require its head contractors for both transmission line and substation packages to participate in regular, formal dialogue forums facilitated by New.E and HunterNet. Ideally these forums commence prior to final contract award.

SMW wrapped up the discussion with a commitment toward ongoing dialogue and engagement and the importance of regional cooperation.

CLOSE AND WRAP UP:

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion and reaffirmed the RRG's commitment to positive and constructive engagement and consultation with business and industry in the region. There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:06pm.