



Hunter Central Coast Regional Reference Group

5 May 2025

Acknowledgement of Country



Energy Corporation of New South Wales acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and show our respect for Elders past and present through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Agenda

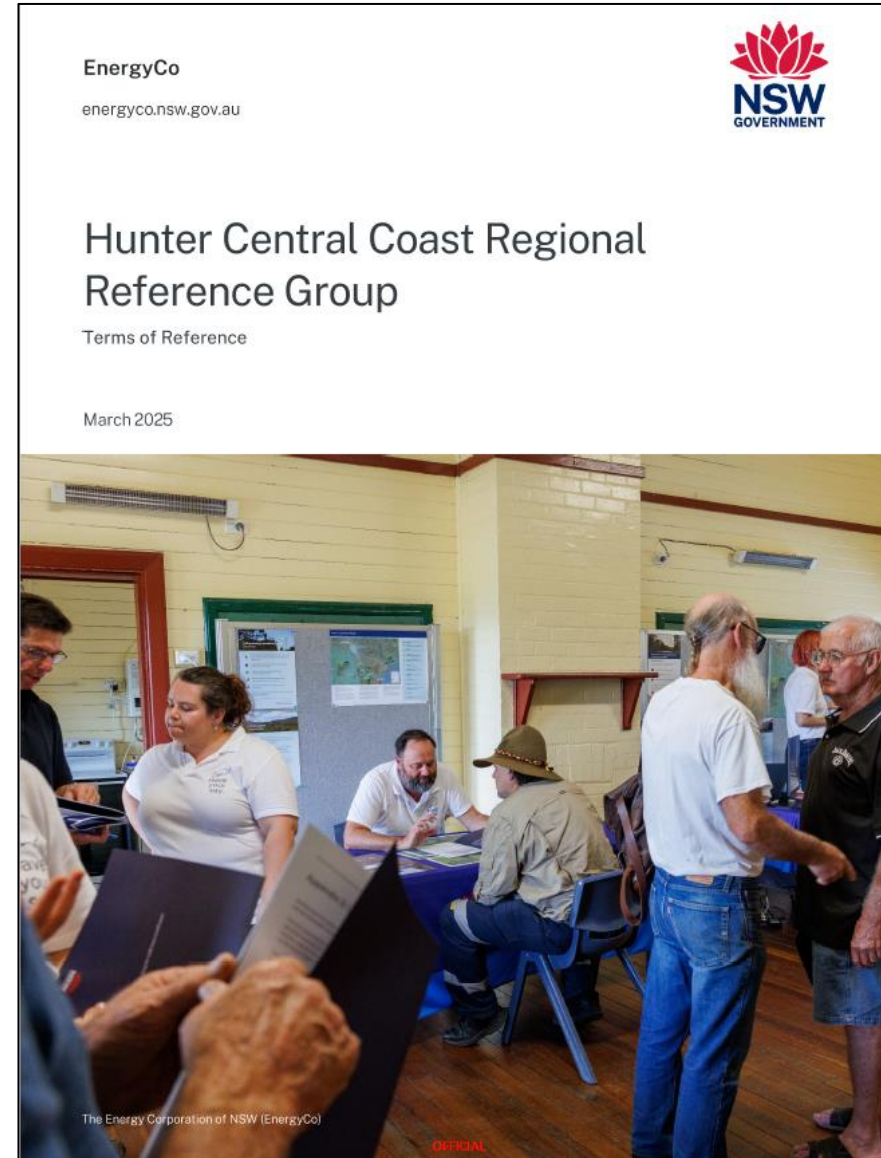
Item	Lead	Time
Welcome	Chair	1 minute
Acknowledgment of Country	Rodney Groves HTP First Nations Lead	2 minutes
Revised Terms of Reference Discussion and adoption	Chair	5 minutes
Introduction of new HCCR RG Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muswellbrook Mayor Cr Jeff Drayton • Amanda Wetzel (Newcastle LGA) – Social Licence/ Impact Specialist 	Chair	5 minutes
Communications and Updates	Katie Brassil -Secretariat	5 minutes
Regional Coordination Team's role	Emily Davies O'Sullivan	5 minutes
Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waratah Super Battery - award recognition • Newcastle Logistics Project (Intertrade site) • Hunter Transmission Project • Port to REZ • HCC REZ 	Secretariat Lemuel Yeung Carolyn McCallig Liz Sacco Amanda Stephinson, Jason Wall	25 minutes

Agenda

Item	Lead	Time
Business and Industry Forum		
Forum to hear from Regional Business and Industry Organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Hunter • HunterNet • Dantia • Committee for the Hunter 	Samantha Martin-Williams Regional Business and Industry Representatives	60 minutes
General Business: Hunter First Benefit Sharing – August meeting Meeting schedule for 2025: 4 August – TBC – Singleton City Council 3 November – TBC – Lake Macquarie City Council Note: Meetings to be held first Monday of the month from 10am – 12noon	Chair	5 minutes

Revised Terms of Reference

Discussion and adoption



Introduction of new HCCRRG Members



- Muswellbrook Mayor Cr Jeff Drayton
- Amanda Wetzel (Newcastle LGA) – Social Licence/Impact Specialist

Communications and Updates



- Project updates – monthly
- Media monitoring
- Other ?

Regional Coordination Team's Role



Regional Coordination Team

- Darren Clark
- Emily Davies O'Sullivan
- Sam Harding



Project updates

Waratah Super Battery – Award recognition

Secretariat

Waratah Super Batter wins at the Smart Energy Excellence Awards

- The 2025 Smart Energy Excellence Awards were held in April 2025.
- The Waratah Super Battery won the Best Public Sector Energy Transition Initiative award.
- The Waratah Super Battery is critical for NSW's future energy security and involves one of the largest and most powerful utility scale batteries in the world.
- The Waratah Super Battery Project is on track to go into operation later this year.

Winner

Best Public Sector Energy
Transition Initiative



EnergyCo



Smart Energy
Excellence
Awards 2025

Newcastle Logistics Precinct

Lemuel Yeung – Design Project Manager

Overview



Port of Newcastle

- A key logistics hub for renewable development projects and will be critical to the success of NSW's energy transition.
- Strategic geographic location, portside capabilities and connection to the State road network and OSOM transport routes.

Newcastle Logistics Precinct

- Critical enabling component that complements Port to REZ
- Provides additional portside storage to accommodate the large number of renewable energy components arriving at the Port of Newcastle.
- Provides long-term and broad benefits for port users and other industries.
- Creates opportunities for local business, suppliers and workforces

Newcastle Logistics Precinct - Intertrade Site



Key Features

- 52-hectare government owned site
- Construction of hardstand area and internal access roads
- Operation of mobile equipment
- Bridging structures over existing stormwater channels for access and egress
- Associated stormwater drainage to manage stormwater flows and water quality across
- Utility adjustments, staff amenities, carpark and other ancillary infrastructure to facilitate operation of the project

Timeframes

- **March 2025** – Scoping report submitted
- **Late 2025** – EIS public exhibition for stakeholder & community feedback and submissions
- **Mid 2026** - DPHI assesses the Project, and the Minister makes a determination.
- **Late 2026:** If approved, construction of the Project commences

EnergyCo & Network Operator

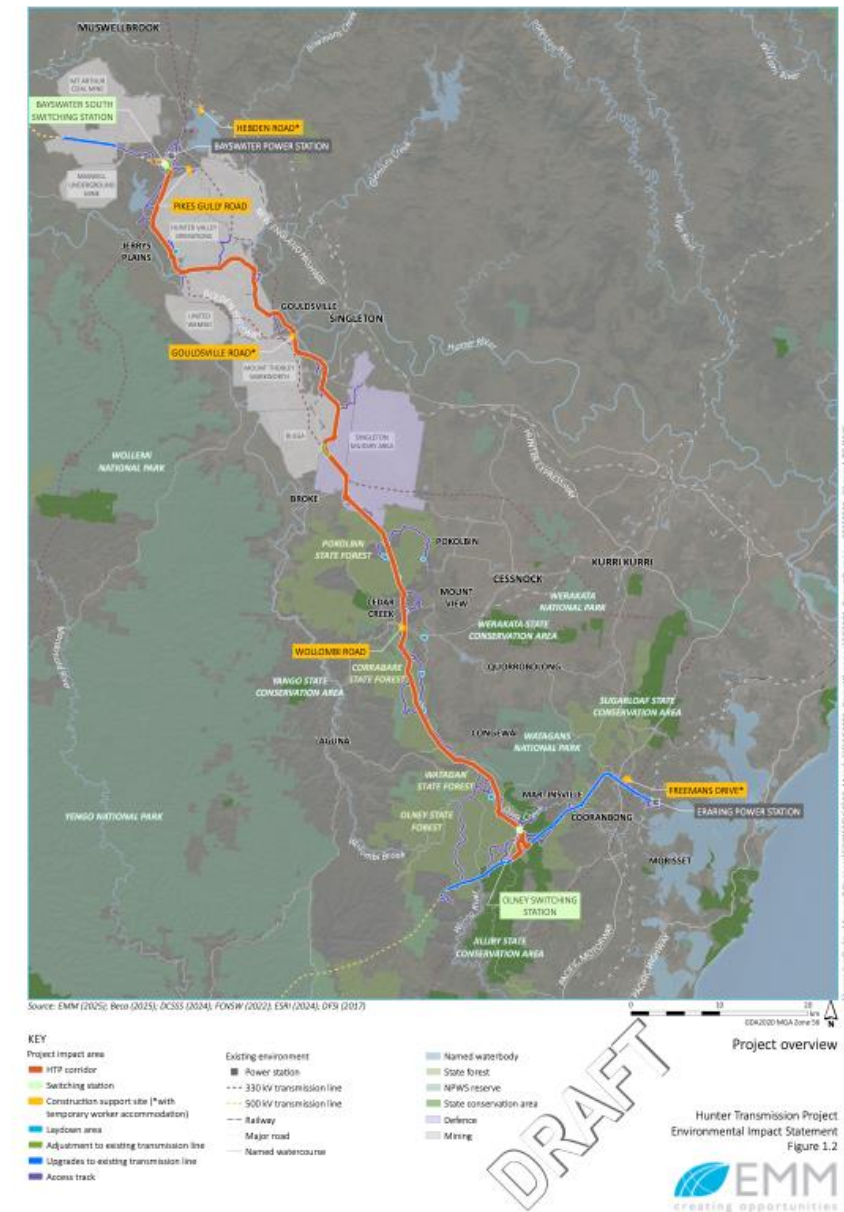
Questions & comments

Hunter Transmission Project

Carolyn McCallig – HTP Planning and Environment Lead

The project:

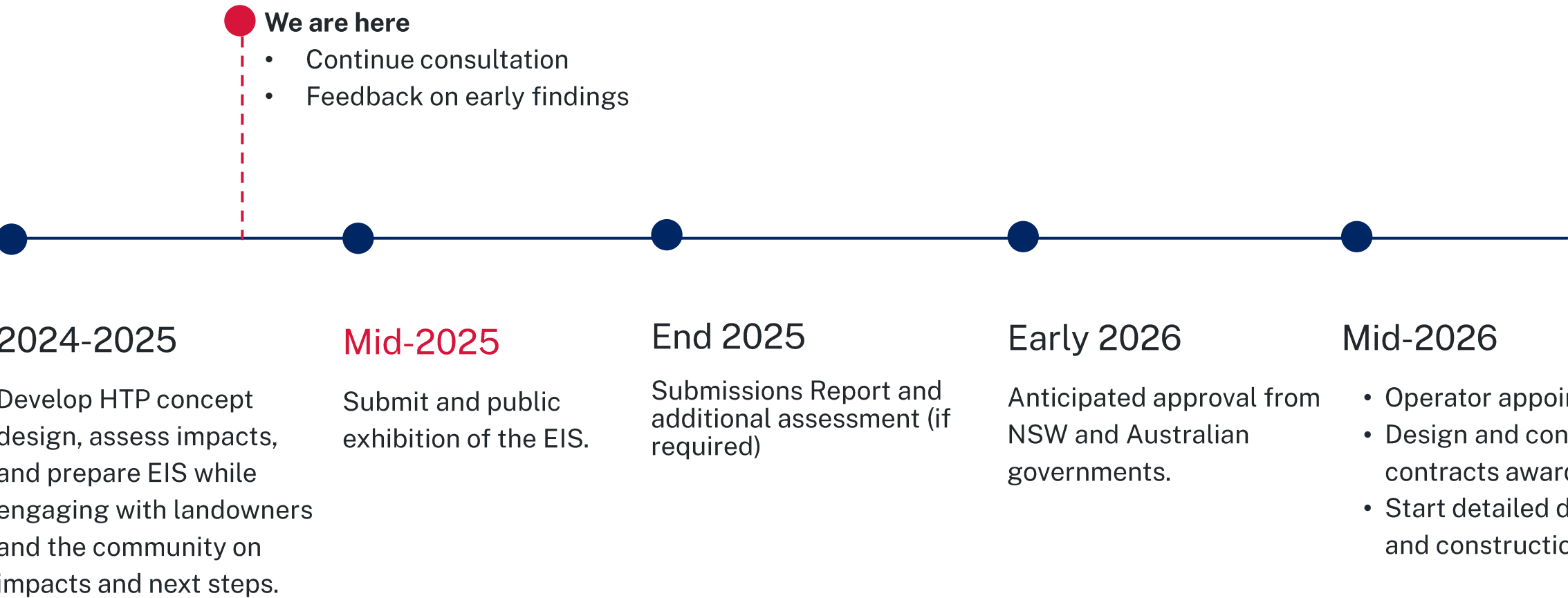
- > 110km of transmission line
- > 2 new switching stations (Bayswater and Olney)
- > Upgrade to Bayswater and Eraring substations
- > 5 construction support sites
- > 3 temporary worker accommodation facilities
- > New and upgraded access tracks
- > Upgrade to existing 500kV lines



EIS key issues

- High biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage values in central and southern portions of project
- Potential visual impacts at an assessed moderate level impact, in central area of project
- Traffic and transport impacts during construction with heavy vehicles using routes across the 5 LGAs – some upgrade/improvement works are required to mitigate impacts
- Temporary construction noise impacts predicted associated with construction support site operation, laydown areas, road traffic noise and road construction works
- Social impact assessment has identified concerns in relation to construction activities and impacts to amenity and safety, biodiversity and heritage, visual impacts and EMF/telecommunications disruptions

HTP Timeline



Hunter Wildlife Rescue Update



- Ongoing engagement with the HTP
- Emailed the HTP Community inbox in February 2025 seeking involvement in field surveys.
- Attended a community drop-in information session in Cessnock on the 25th of March.
- Attended an online briefing for peak environmental groups to receive an updated briefing on the project, the current status of the EIS and some of the early findings from the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report currently being completed.
- Will be advised of upcoming field survey opportunities and invited to participate.

Port to REZ

Dimitri Perdikaris – Strategic Delivery Manager

Port to REZ

Road upgrades between the Port of Newcastle and Elong Elong

Hunter Central Coast Regional Reference Group

5 May 2025



We're supporting the delivery of enabling infrastructure needed to build REZs

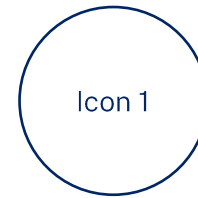


We're working with Transport for NSW to upgrade state roads to support the safe and efficient transport of large and heavy renewable energy components to renewable energy zones.

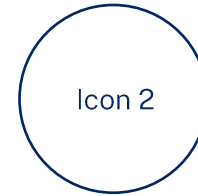
Road upgrades are just one part of our broader program connecting the Port of Newcastle to renewable energy zones across the state, enabling renewable energy projects to be built efficiently and with greatest value for communities.

Our Port to REZ program also includes work to ensure there is adequate portside capacity and infrastructure to meet storage and logistic requirements.

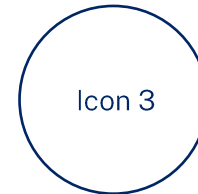
Our work will:



Improve pinch points and intersections along the OSOM route from Port to REZ

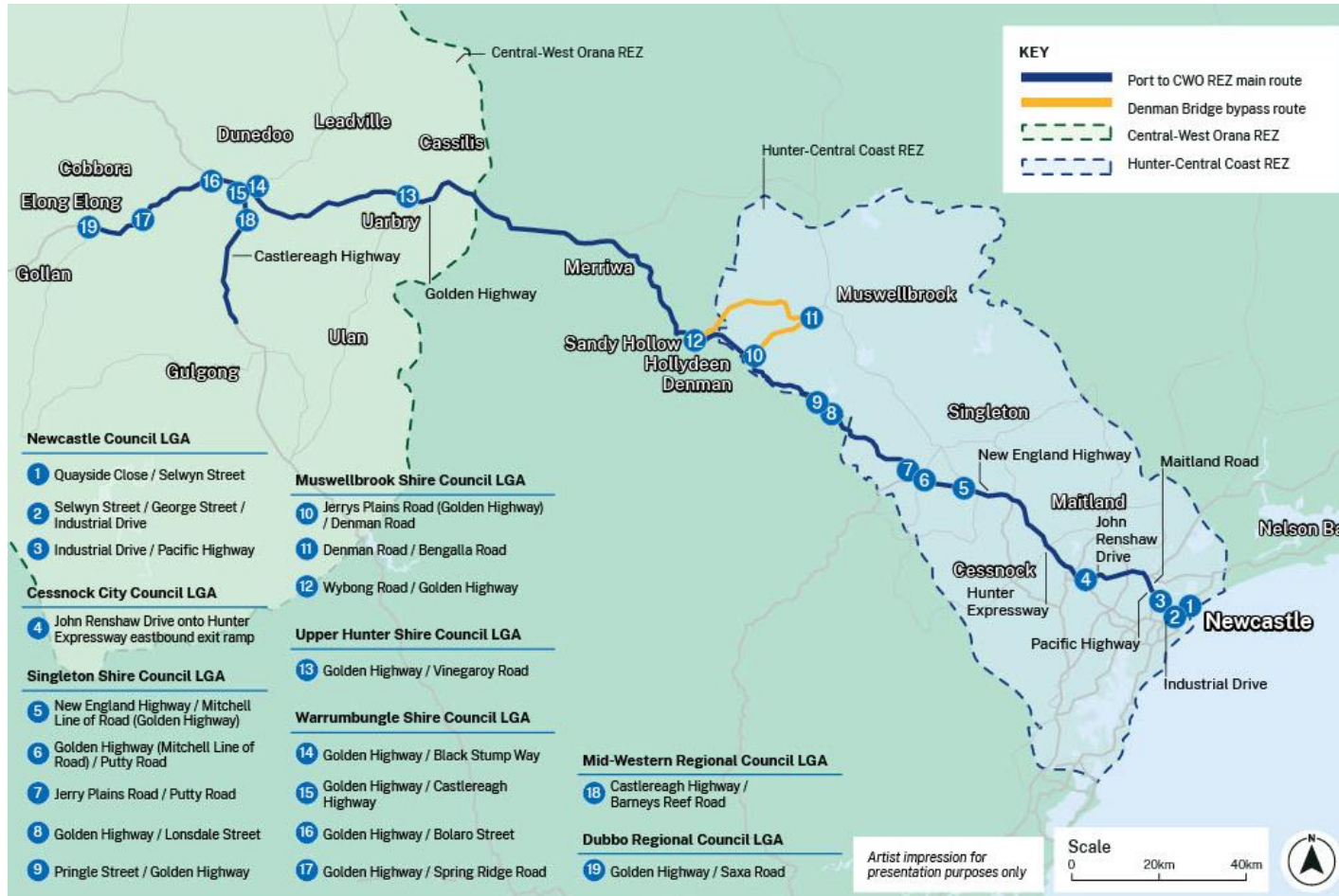


Improve portside storage and logistics to enable the construction of renewable energy zones



Focus on reducing impacts on regional communities in and around renewable energy zones

The first stage of road upgrades occurs between the Port of Newcastle and Elong Elong



Overview:

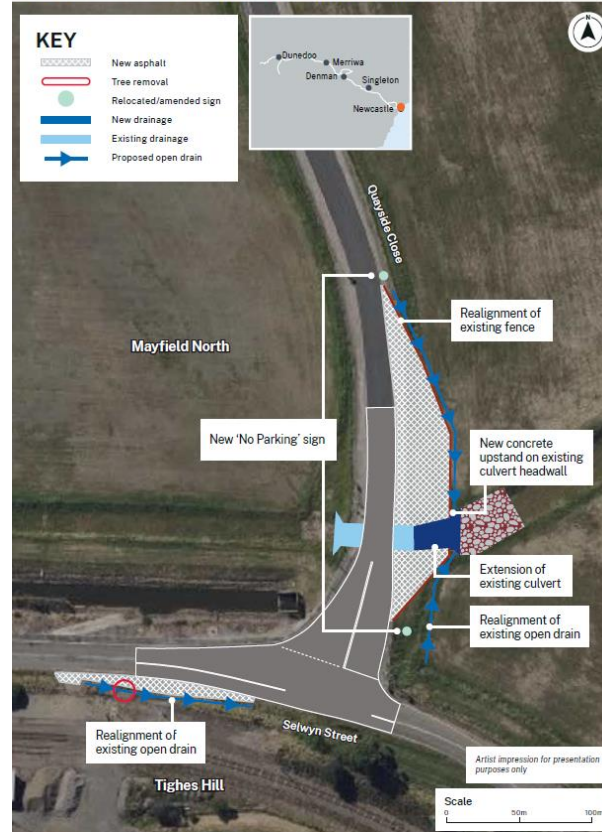
- The first stage of work passes through 8 local government areas
- BMD was appointed in April 2025
- Early work and site compound set up has started
- Work will begin at key locations, prioritised to align with generators schedules
- 12-month construction program, however, most intersections will be complete by late 2025.

Mayfield North (Site 1 and 2)

Selwyn Street/George Street/Industrial Drive, Mayfield North



Quayside Close/Selwyn Street, Mayfield North



Jerrys Plains and Sandy Hollow (Site 8 and 9)

Golden Highway/Lonsdale Street and Pringle Street, Jerrys Plains



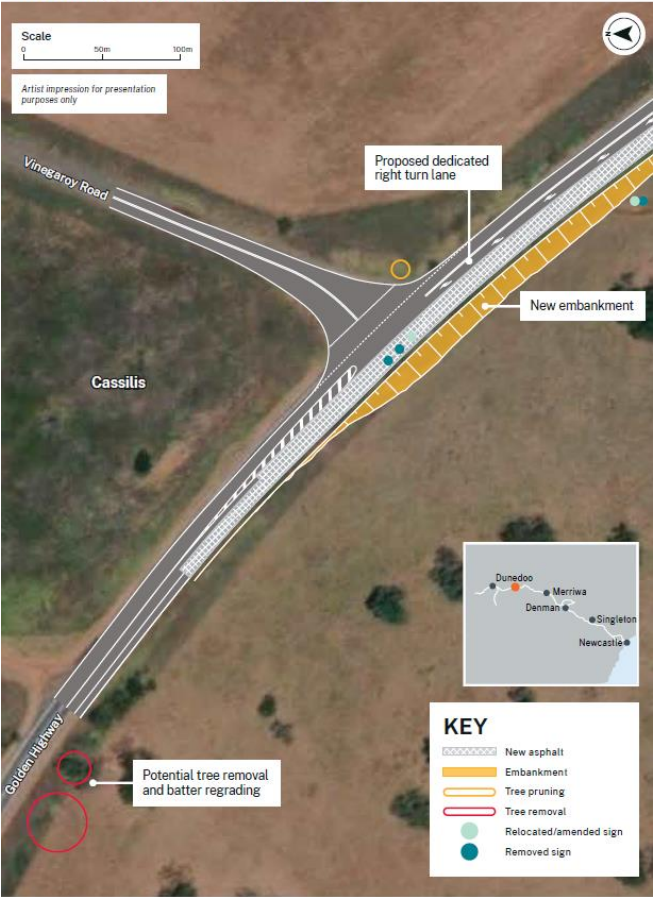
Wybong Road/Golden Highway, Sandy Hollow



Cassilis (Site 13)

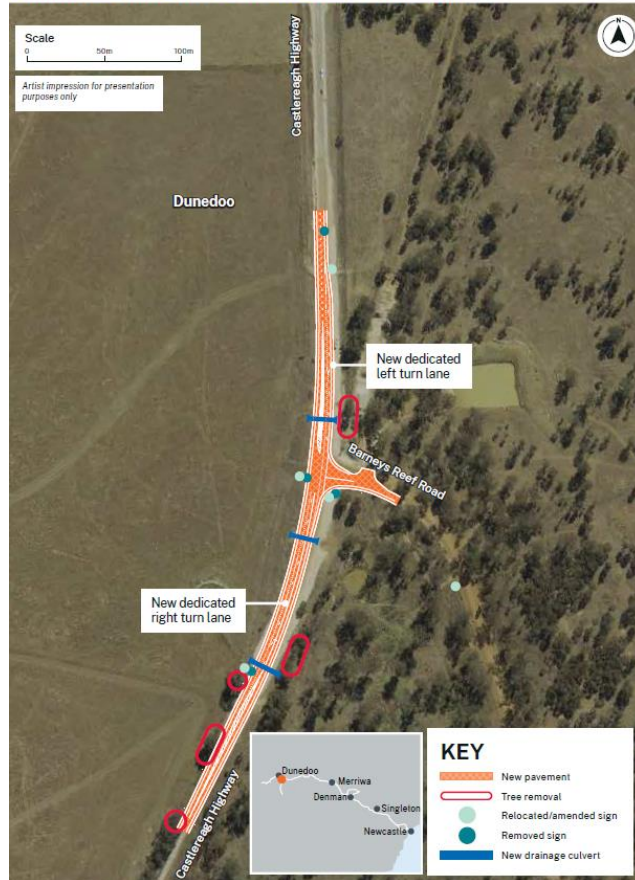


Golden Highway/Vinegaroy Road, Cassilis



Birriwa (Site 18)

Castlereagh Highway/Barneys Reef Road, Birriwa



Hunter Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

Amanda Stephinson, Jason Wall - Ausgrid

Hunter-Central Coast REZ Network Infrastructure

5 May 2025



LEGEND

Facilities

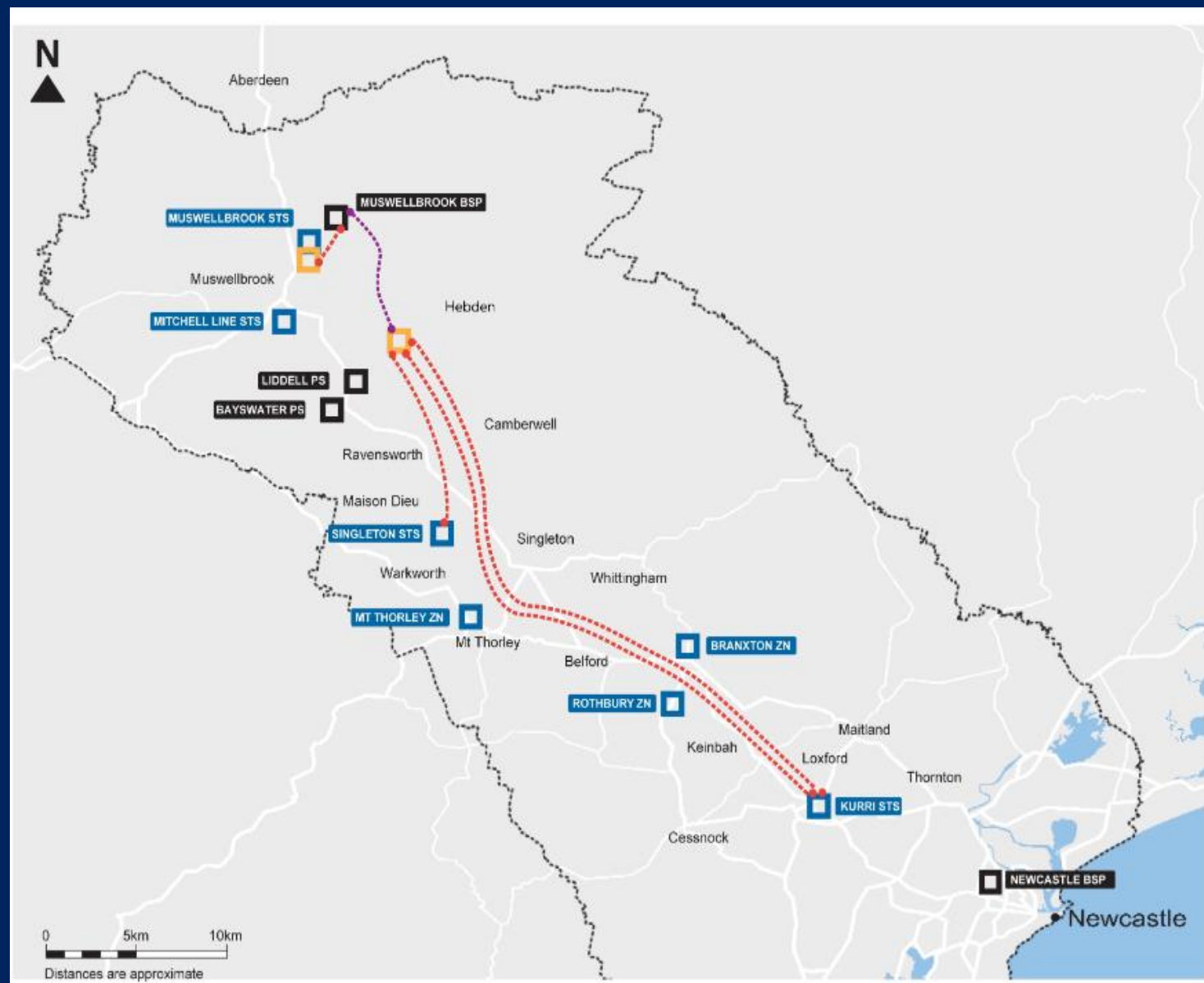
- Existing Ausgrid Substation
- Proposed New Substation
- Existing Transgrid Substation or AGL Powerstation

Connections

- Proposed power line corridor to be rebuilt
- Proposed communications cable to be installed within power line corridor

Boundaries

- HCC REZ Boundary



This map has spatial representations of the proposed electrical connections. These do not represent specific line easements.

What is proposed for the network infrastructure?

The Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure at a glance:



1GW

intended
network
capacity



85km

upgrade of existing
sub-transmission
power lines



2

new energy
hubs
(substations)



2

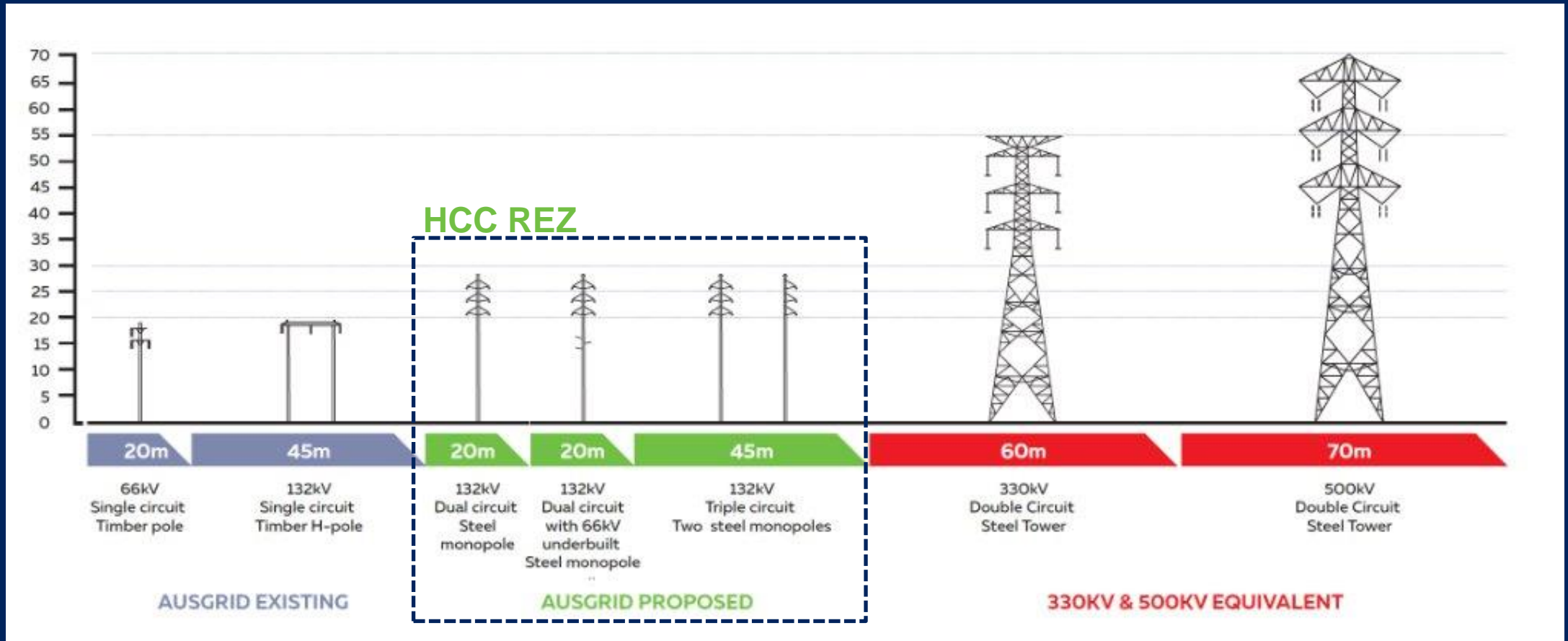
upgrades to
existing energy
hubs (substations)



18km

new underground
optic fibre
communications cable

Proposed sub-transmission construction



Example of photomontage



Local Benefits

Employment and business opportunities

The project will direct an estimated total of \$3.9 billion of investment into the Hunter-Central Coast region through the network infrastructure and associated generation and storage projects by 2030.

Approximately 140 jobs are estimated to be created during the construction period including engineers, electricians and labourers. It will further support a total 1,000 indirect jobs in the region during the peak of construction.

Land impacts

In addition to the economic and employment opportunities created for the local community, the nature of the project, being predominantly upgrades to the existing distribution network, minimises community and environmental impacts. For example:

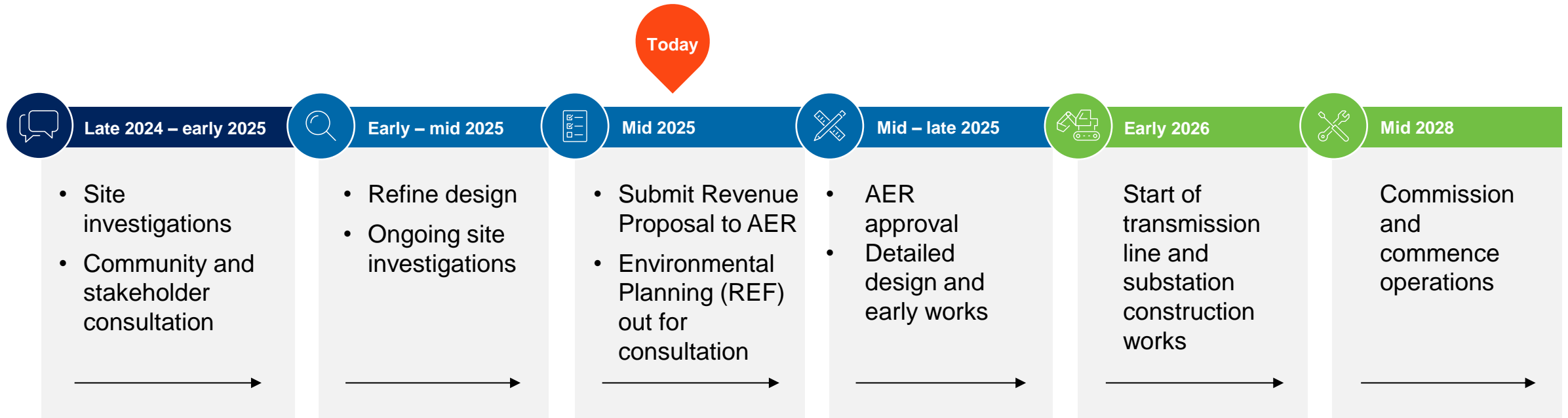
- The upgrades will be mostly on Ausgrid's existing land, minimising the need for land acquisitions. The new switching station at the north-eastern bank of Lake Liddell (Antiene switching station) will be on Crown Land.
- We are using poles not lattice towers that would be needed for a new higher voltage transmission project.

Aboriginal Participation

Ausgrid has also made commitments to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with business and employment opportunities. This includes:

- ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gain at least 1.5 percent of business and employment opportunities
- connecting local Indigenous businesses with opportunities through the Hunter-Central Coast First Nations Working Group, briefing organisations such as the Industry Capability Network and Supply Nation, and leveraging partnerships with groups such as Giidjaa Industries (which connects skilled Indigenous personnel with companies) and the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (which lists prequalified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses).

Activity timeline – Ausgrid



Upcoming REF engagement

We will be hosting information sessions throughout the REF period. Community members are invited to attend the sessions below to learn more about the project.

Webinars

Monday 19 May 2025

6.30pm - 7:15pm - [Register here to attend.](#)

Tuesday 20 May 2025

12.30pm - 1:15pm - [Register here to attend.](#)

In the webinar sessions in February, questions were asked of the project team. Responses to those questions are available [here](#).

Drop in sessions

Thursday 15 May 2025

Singleton Library, between 4pm - 6pm

Wednesday 21 May 2025

Muswellbrook Library, between 4pm - 6pm

Thursday 22 May 2025

Branxton Community Hall, between 4pm - 6pm

Sunday 25 May 2025

Valley Markets Townhead Park Singleton, between 9am - 1pm

Contact the HCC REZ project team



1800 955 635

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm



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Ausgrid HCC REZ

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