

## Media Release

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

### PORT PARTNERSHIP TO POWER CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) and the Port of Newcastle have finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to identify opportunities to support renewable energy industries in NSW.

EnergyCo Acting Chief Executive Chloe Hicks said the Port of Newcastle will be key to importing wind blades, towers and related equipment that are critical for the delivery of NSW's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

"This partnership has the potential to transform the Hunter region, contribute to our net zero emissions goals and secure the energy needed to create a green hydrogen industry in NSW," Ms Hicks said.

"Combined with our initiatives to support local content and employment opportunities, this is important to ensuring enabling infrastructure is in place prior to construction of major generation and transmission projects across the State.

"The collaboration supports investigating the import, storage and transport of components essential to large scale clean energy production in NSW's REZs, including in the Central-West Orana, New England and Hunter-Central Coast regions."

Collaboration between EnergyCo, the Port of Newcastle and other key regional stakeholders will support local job growth and maximise opportunities for locally produced goods and services as we transition to a clean energy future.

Port of Newcastle CEO Craig Carmody said as part of the agreement, port capacity and infrastructure requirements will be assessed to support both onshore and offshore renewable energy industries.

"This kind of collaboration allows for connections to be forged from the outset between the State's renewable energy projects, clean energy production projects and the Port's biggest assets, its deepwater channel and existing global partnerships," Mr Carmody said.

Importantly, EnergyCo is committed to maximising opportunities for NSW communities and businesses including through local content and employment requirements on REZ Network Operators, in line with the Renewable Energy Sector Board Plan.

EnergyCo has also identified the Port of Newcastle as a potential key enabling location for the import, construction and operation of future offshore renewable energy developments, such as offshore wind.

The MOU supports today's announcement by the Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, declaring the State's first offshore renewable energy area, located in Australian Commonwealth waters near the Hunter region.

EnergyCo will continue to look at ways to promote the efficient development and construction of REZs and priority transmission infrastructure to strengthen the State's energy resilience.