

Field investigation work update

August 2024

EnergyCo is carrying out field investigations in various locations for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

What are we doing?

Field investigations will take place throughout 2024 in various locations in the project area for the New England REZ network infrastructure project.

This work is necessary to inform our environmental assessment and design for the transmission network and other project infrastructure, including local access roads, ancillary facilities and oversize and over-mass vehicle routes.

Upcoming activities include:

- **ecological surveys** to identify existing animal and plant species and study their habitat, involving observations, cataloguing and gathering samples
- **geotechnical investigations** using a small rig to drill a hole about 10-15cm in diameter to take soil and rock samples, typically completed by about three people for up to two days in each location
- **traffic surveys** to collect data on current traffic volumes, vehicle types, peak traffic times, and travel patterns to inform road design and capacity planning
- **topographic surveys** using handheld, tripod or vehicle-mounted devices to map the natural and man-made features of the area, including the contours, elevations, trees, buildings and utilities

- **boundary surveys** to confirm the legal boundaries of roads and adjacent properties
- **hydrological investigations** to assess drainage patterns, flood risks and water flow
- **Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage surveys** carried out by heritage specialists walking over land and documenting observations
- **utility investigations** to locate and map existing underground and overhead utilities such as water lines, gas lines, electrical cables and telecommunications
- **safety audits** to identify potential risks and hazards to consider in the project design.

Work hours and timing

Field investigation work will generally be carried out between **7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday**.

Some out of hours work will be required for seasonal fauna surveys and we will discuss this with directly with relevant landowners.

What will this mean for you?

We will work directly with impacted landowners to understand expectations and requirements for work on private property. More information about land access for field investigations is provided in our [field investigations fact sheet](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne/project-documents) at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne/project-documents.

Activities on local and state roads may require traffic control, reduced speed limits and temporary lane and shoulder closures for the safety of pedestrians, workers and motorists. Please keep to the speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs.

Contact us

For more information, you can get in touch with our team by calling **1800 061 114** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or by emailing nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au. You can read more about the New England REZ by visiting energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne.

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**.

