

## Central-West Orana REZ Community Reference Group

**Held on:** 23 July 2024 – 10:00am to 1:00pm  
**Location:** Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo  
**Chaired by:** Lisa Andrews (Independent Chair)

### Attended

Category	Attendees
Independent Chair	Lisa Andrews (LA)
EnergyCo representatives	Ash Albury, Executive Director Planning and Communities (AA) Jane Sayabath, CWO Community and Council Interface Manager (JS) Amer Hussein, CWO Director Community and Place (AH) John Fisher, CWO Post Approvals Lead (JF)
LGA Delegates	Councillor Kathy Rindfleish, Warrumbungle Shire Council (KR) <i>online</i> Councillor Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council <i>left at 12.35pm</i> Councillor Katie Dicker – Mid Western Regional Council (KD) <i>online</i>
Government	Tony Fuller, Aboriginal Affairs Department delegate (TF) <i>left at 12.09pm</i>
Community representatives	Colin Kilby (CK) <i>online from 10.43am</i> Jock Rice-Ward (JRW)
Stakeholder groups	Tim Booth – Mudgee Region Tourism (TB) Neville Mattick, RE-Alliance (NM) David Thorne, NSW Farmers (Mudgee) (DT) <i>arrived at 11.01am</i> Beverley Smiles, Central West Environment Council (BS) David Walker, Burrendong Botanic Garden & Arboretum (DW)
ACERREZ Representatives	Trevor Armstrong – CEO Miranda Wood – Director of Communications Kee Li – Communications and Stakeholder Manager Grant Andersen – Project Director Sharon Labi, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs <i>online</i>

## Apologies

Category	Invitee
<b>Stakeholder groups</b>	Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group & Watershed Landcare Aleshia Lonsdale, Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council
<b>Invited guests</b>	Jane Hegarty, Cassilis District Development Group Jillian Kirwan Lee, Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal Kylie Manson, Warrabinga Wiradjuri #7 Native Title Claimants

## Agenda

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Acknowledgement of Country	LA
2	Welcome and introductions	LA
3	Apologies	LA
4	Governance/Declarations	LA
5	Business arising	LA
6	Correspondence	LA
7	EnergyCo – Project Update	JF/AA
8	ACEREZ – Introductions and Update	TA/GA
9	General Business	All
10	Next meeting	LA

## Meeting minutes

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Acknowledgement of Country	LA	
2	Welcome and housekeeping	LA	Meeting opened at 10:29 am
3	Apologies	LA	As listed.
4	Business arising from last meeting  (Meeting held 26 March 2024, with minutes finalised on 2 May 2024)	LA	<p>Closed actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide detail on Department of Planning Land Acquisition Review and Just Terms Act</li> <li>• Invite ACEREZ to next meeting to present</li> <li>• Provide information on where the construction work force will be coming from</li> </ul>
5	Declarations	LA	
6	Correspondence report	LA	As per meeting notice and final agenda sent 19 July 2024.
7	EnergyCo presentation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approvals and Conditions of Consent</li> <li>• Community and Employment Benefit Program</li> <li>• Industry Forums</li> </ul>
7.1	EIS, approvals and conditions of consent	JF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toby Hobbs (Vantage Environmental Management) approved as the environmental representative for the CWO REZ project planning determination by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.</li> <li>• Update on the traffic conditions, specific transport routes, intersection upgrades. Management Plans to be staged.</li> <li>• Five conditions that require visual impacts to be addressed. Properties identified in the consent can contact EnergyCo for up to two years following operation to mitigate any unacceptable visual impacts.</li> </ul>

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EnergyCo advised that 11 properties have been identified as having high impact and will need to screen. EnergyCo will work with its neighbours to address concerns and are currently developing policy. No financial compensation will be available.</li> <li>Three proposed Workforce Accommodation Camps, as per the EIS: Neeleys Lane, Elong Elong and Merotherie. Stakeholder notifications occurring over the next three to six months to meet conditions of consent.</li> <li>EnergyCo have two years to complete the Biodiversity Offsets and Federal Government approvals. Aim to have biodiversity stewardships in place within 18 months. Commonwealth approvals under review. Draft set of conditions expected in the next week as a statutory requirement.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: JF to advise CRG through Chair, when Federal approval has been granted.</b></p>
7.2	Community Employment Benefit Program (CEBP)	AH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EnergyCo provided overview and update on the grant writing workshops proposed for the <u>CEBP</u>.</li> <li>Minister's announcement of the \$128M benefit for communities with the initial \$70M allocated via four funding opportunities. Closing date for applications is 9 September 2024.</li> <li>Noted that a recycling process would be followed if there are unspent funds, all money would be allocated over 30 years.</li> <li>Request for written confirmation of verbal assurance that an application from the Wollar Progress Association would be considered for the Small Community Grant Fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: AA to take on notice and update BS.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rylstone and Kandos (not identified in the REZ) Business Chambers would like to be included in the grants process.</li> <li>Recent upgrade at Gulgong linked to call drop-outs. EnergyCo noted that the remainder of the \$70M has been allocated for telecommunications and health services.</li> </ul>
7.3	Industry Forums	AH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EnergyCo representatives will be holding <u>Industry forums</u> for businesses and Aboriginal Groups. Forums held in Wellington, Dubbo, Mudgee, Dunedoo, Coolah and Cassilis.</li> </ul>
8	ACEREZ Presentation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Overview of the transmission project</li> <li>Update on project activities</li> <li>Landowner Engagement and access planning</li> <li>Workforce accommodation sites</li> </ul>

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry engagement in Central-West Orana</li> </ul>
8.1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and Construction team are currently undertaking the necessary early activities and confirmed that landowner access planning is being managed by EnergyCo to transition to ACEREZ.</li> <li>Update on the proposed workforce accommodation in Merotherie and Neeleys Lane. ACE REZ investigating water supply options, geotechnical bore holes have been carried out, awaiting results.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Agenda item for next meeting – potential water supply for Merotherie Accommodation Camp.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety concerns raised about the quality of roads around the Merotherie Camp (approximately 16 acres). A Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the LGAs as the local road authority to be prepared.</li> <li>On site 24/7 paramedics likely to be provided by contractor, local paramedics encouraged to contact the contractor.</li> <li>The consent conditions require the camp to be returned to its original landform after the construction of the transmission project. However, there may be opportunities to retain some or all for future use. To be considered at end of the construction phase.</li> <li>Reporting requirements will be placed on the ACEREZ website when it is live.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Link to website once live, to be provided to CRG members.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around origin of workers. Dubbo Regional Council don't want local workers taken away from local businesses. Prefer that employees come from outside the LGA.</li> <li>EnergyCo will consider establishing an office in Mudgee. It is proposed that back-training will be provided for farm workers.</li> </ul>
8	General Business	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website will be updated to include the membership of the second term CRG (names and email addresses)</li> </ul>
9	Next Meeting	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings continue to be held alternately between Dubbo and Mudgee.</li> <li>Tuesday, 15 October 2024 in Mudgee. 10am morning tea 10.30am to 1pm.</li> </ul>
10	Meeting close	LA	Meeting closed at 12:37 pm

## Actions

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Comments / updates	Status
1	Investigate into Microwave sites and fire safety parameters.	JF	ASAP	Carried over from previous meeting	To be actioned
2	Advise when Federal approval of the project is granted	JF	When granted		To be actioned
3	Provide written confirmation that Wollar Progress Association are able to apply for small grant funding	AA	ASAP		To be actioned
4	Provide information on water supply for Merotherie Accommodation Camp	GA	Next meeting		To be actioned
5	Link to ACEREZ website to be provided, once live, with reporting requirements	GA	When available		To be actioned