

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Regional Reference Group

Meeting: Meeting 4
Location: MS Teams (Virtual)
Date and time: Thursday 14 October 2021 – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Host: Energy Corporation of NSW
Chair: Mike Young, Executive Director - Planning & Communities
 Energy Corporation of NSW

Open actions

No.	Issue	Action	Responsible
OO1	Targeted Feedback	EnergyCo to email members with targeted questions list seeking feedback on community benefit sharing initiatives.	EnergyCo
OO2	CWO REZ Transmission Outcomes Report	Transgrid to arrange briefings with Upper Hunter Shire Council and Mid-Western Regional Council to discuss and explain the findings of the Outcomes Report.	Transgrid
OO3	Regional Energy Strategy	EnergyCo to follow up with specific members who may be interested in engagement and participation on the development of the Regional Energy Strategy.	EnergyCo
OO4	Renewable Energy Sector Board research	DPIE to follow-up on status of research reports to support the Renewable Energy Sector Board's work and when these might be publicly released and/or able to be shared with the group.	DPIE
OO5	Future agenda items	Members are invited to suggest any agenda items/matters of specific interest that can be discussed at the next meeting.	All
OO6	Next meeting	Secretariat to circulate a calendar invite for Meeting 5 in early 2022.	EnergyCo

Closed actions

No.	Action	Responsible	Comments/Updates	Status
J1	Sub-working group to be established to explore opportunities for skilled local jobs, workforce development	DPIE	Workshop was held by ISF/UTS on 27 July 2021. An update on	Closed

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	and training pathways for the Central-West Orana REZ		Sector Board was provided in Meeting 4.	
J2	DPIE to provide a thorough overview of the Regional Energy Strategy at a future RRG.	DPIE	EnergyCo provided an overview in Meeting 4.	Closed
J3	DPIE to consult with Councils not in attendance at Meeting 3, on the Central-West Orana REZ declaration process.	DPIE	EnergyCo emailed CWO REZ RRG regarding the draft declaration.	Closed
J4	Meeting 4 to include discussion on current community benefit sharing arrangements and REZ opportunities.	DPIE	EnergyCo discussed benefit sharing in Meeting 4.	Closed
O3	Dubbo Regional Council to share Wellington Social Study	Dubbo Regional Council	The link to the Social Study was shared in Meeting 4:	Closed

Next meeting

Late January or early February 2022 - TBC.

Minutes

No	Description	Speaker
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	Mike Young, Executive Director Planning & Communities
2	Introductions and agenda overview	Mike Young, Executive Director Planning & Communities
3	Central West Orana REZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo gave an update on the CWO REZ draft declaration process and the next steps for considering feedback. • EnergyCo is consulting on the CWO Access Scheme and will consult on the CWO Benefit Sharing Scheme in 2022. • Department of Regional NSW queried how the community and employment components of access fees will interact with existing community contribution/benefit-sharing arrangements. • EnergyCo note that the details of how community and employment funds will be governed is under development and Councils and other stakeholders will be consulted on these arrangements. • EnergyCo is planning future engagement regarding benefit sharing including the structure, potential initiatives, and interactions with existing funding arrangements. • Dubbo Regional Council noted that they have feedback on the prohibition guidelines and advised that will provide further input to EnergyCo. • EnergyCo extended an offer to RRG members to meet in a one on one capacity to discuss any feedback on the prohibition guidelines. 	Mike Young, Executive Director Planning & Communities
4	Central-West Orana Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo recently facilitated two CWO landholder workshops, with approximately 80 attendees spread across the two sessions. • Andrew Dyer, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner provided positive feedback on the landholder workshops facilitated in October and suggested that where possible, future workshops should be held face to face. • The Commissioner also noted that it may be beneficial to hold separate sessions for landholders and neighbours as they have different interests. • Dubbo Regional Council queried how consultation is progressing with NSW Farmers and the Merriwa Cassilis Alliance (MCA), who have 	Andrew Collins, A/Manager Engagement Jamie Fermio, A/Manager Planning & Policy

	<p>expressed strong opinions and concerns about the Central-West Orana REZ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo and Transgrid have been engaging extensively with key agricultural stakeholders, including NSW Farmers and the MCA. • Dubbo Regional Council queried whether there are future plans to extend the community information hub to Wellington. • EnergyCo note that the hub in Dubbo is a pilot project and if successful, there may be further consideration of additional sites around the State in the future, if appropriate. • EnergyCo notes that the Roadmap Virtual Room is now live and can be accessed at https://caportal.com.au/dpe/eir. The Virtual Room provides stakeholders and communities with detailed and up to date information on the Roadmap. 	
5	<p>Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgrid advised that they have continued to refine the study corridor, and progress engagement (landholders and the community) in line with COVID19 restrictions. Transgrid has prepared an Outcomes Report on the investigation of alternative alignments for the CWO REZ Transmission project and this has been provided to MCA. • Transgrid will brief the Upper Hunter Shire Council and Mid-Western Regional Council on the findings of the Outcomes Report. • Transgrid noted that they have introduced a landholder support service facilitated through Assure Programs which offers confidential support including counselling to landholders dealing with transmission infrastructure matters. Link below https://www.Transgrid.com.au/customers-community/how-we-engage/landowner-support-and-advocacy#Support-services-for-landowners 	<p>Sarah O’Grady, Community Engagement Lead, Transgrid</p>
6	<p>REZ Regional Energy Strategy (RES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo introduced the RES which aims to reflect the needs and interests of energy customers and communities in the CWO REZ by identifying specific initiatives which will deliver enhanced energy outcomes across reliability, access and affordability • EnergyCo will follow up with specific members who may be interested in engagement and participation on the development of the Regional Energy Strategy. • Dubbo Regional Council provided positive feedback on the RES, noting that the RES is a progressive initiative and they are eager to be involved in future engagement. • Essential Energy affirmed its support for the social benefits of the RES for the Central-West Orana REZ and expressed its support for being involved in the ongoing development of the RES. 	<p>Jesslyn Ireland, A/Manager Emerging Energy Program</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dubbo Regional Council noted that microgrid initiatives are a potential innovation that could bring real value to the region through the RES. 	
7	<p>Roadmap Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPIE Roadmap advised that the Renewable Energy Sector Board (RESB) is currently preparing a plan for the NSW renewable energy sector, to be submitted to the Minister. Dubbo Regional Council noted that they have previously dealt with similar issues that the RESB is addressing in their recommendations for the NSW renewable energy sector plan, including issues of low unemployment rates and addressing labour shortages. Dubbo Regional Council extended an invitation to consult on this issue with RESB. Mid-Western Regional Council also note that Council is preparing policies and programs to deal with these issues in the region and that there would be value in aligning the work Council and the RESB are undertaking. Mid-Western Regional Council request further information on when the research reports and findings can be shared to support alignment of initiatives and solutions. DPIE will follow-up on status of research reports and liaise with members. DPIE Roadmap advised that the First Nation Guidelines Working Group has been established to support the development of the First Nation Guidelines. 	<p>Nicola Gabay, Senior Policy Officer, Roadmap Taskforce</p> <p>Maggie Bushel, Senior Policy Officer, Roadmap Taskforce</p>
8	<p>Other business and next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting date to be proposed 	<p>Mike Young, Executive Director Planning & Communities</p>

Attendees

Chairperson

- Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities

NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment

Energy Corporation of NSW

- Jamie Fermio, A/Manager Planning & Policy
- Jade Walden, Senior Project & Policy Officer
- Andrew Collins A/Manager Engagement
- Alex Pappas, Senior Project & Policy Officer
- Jesslyn Ireland, A/Manager Program Delivery Emerging Generation
- Maggie Bushel, Senior Policy Officer
- Nicola Gabay, Senior Policy Officer
- Nicola Saltman, Manager Strategic Energy Communications
- Danny Young, Area Manager North West, Crown Lands
- Nicole Brewer, Director, Energy Resource Assessment
- Iwan Davies, Team Leader, Energy Resource Assessment
- Ethan Hyde, Planning Support Officer, Local and Regional Planning
- Tim Collins, Senior Planning Officer

Dubbo Regional Council

- Murray Wood, Chief Executive Officer
- Stephen Wallace, Director Development and Environment
- Josie Howard, Manager Economic Development and Marketing
- Luke Cameron, Specialist Project Officer- Skills and Jobs
- Tim Howlett

Upper Hunter Shire Council

- Paul Jakes, Manager Waste and Sustainability

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

- Hannah McCauley Manager, Planning and Regulation

Mid-Western Regional Council

- Julie Robertson, Director Development
- Brad Cameron

Warrumbungle Shire Council

- Kelly Dewar

Warren Shire Council

- Gary Woodman

Coonamble Shire Council

- Pip Goldsmith, Manager Economic Development & Growth

Transgrid

- Brad Hopwood, Project Director, Central-West Orana REZ
- Sarah O'Grady Community Engagement Lead - Major Projects

Essential Energy

- Chantelle Bramley, General Manager Strategy, Regulation and Corporate Affairs

Department of Regional NSW

- Angela Shepherd, Business Development Manager
- Darren Keegan, RNSW Investment Coordinator, Regional Development

NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Mary Kovac, Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
- Tamara Prentice, Manager Agricultural Landuse Planning

Office of the Hon. Mark Coulton MP

- Michelle Calvery, Electorate Officer

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National Indigenous Australian Agency

- Narelle Cook

Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council

- Tara Stanley

Trangie Local Aboriginal Land Council

- Terrie Milgate

Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner

- Andrew Dyer

Apologies

- Mr Dugald Saunders MP, Member for Dubbo
- Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC
- Cr Grace Toomey, Central Region, NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Cr Karlene Irving, Warren Shire Council