

Central-West Orana REZ Access Rights Application Process Guidance Note

This document provides an overview of the information that EnergyCo expects Applicants will need to prepare and provide as part of an Application for Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Access Rights under the Application Process expected to be conducted by EnergyCo.

This information is indicative and subject to change. Final requirements will be outlined in the Access Application Process Guidelines in accordance with the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Regulations and Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme Declaration.

Assessment Criteria and Application documentation

This document summarises the information and supporting documentation that is expected to be required from a Project seeking Central-West Orana REZ Access Rights under the Application Process.

Assessment Criteria

Project and Applicant eligibility are intended to be assessed under criteria similar to the ASL Tender Rules with the expectation for Applications to include:

- details of the Applicant entity;
- details of the ultimate holding company;
- a description of the Project;
- the Project's target Financial Close, Commercial Operation and First Commissioning dates;
- the Project's generation source and capacity;
- confirmation that the project has received SEARs or has lodged a Development Approval application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*; and
- information that demonstrates compliance with each criterion.

Applicants seeking Central-West Orana REZ Access Rights in the Application Process will be required to meet two additional criteria specific to the Central-West Orana REZ project. They are:

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- The Applicant has an existing Hub to Project solution where this is defined as a project identified to be connected to the 330kV network infrastructure in section 3.2.1 of the CWO REZ Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement and any standalone battery energy storage system (BESS) projects that are associated with the projects identified in section 3.2.1 and confirmed with EnergyCo.
- If the Project is a BESS, that it will self-remediate for system strength under the National Electricity Rules (NER)¹.

EnergyCo reserves the right to amend the criteria and required information required in Applications in the Access Process Guidelines.

Applicants will also be required to provide the following information for assessment by EnergyCo.

Commercial Departures

Applicants may advise EnergyCo of any proposed commercial departures to the Access Project Development Agreement (PDA) and/or the Access Payment Deed. The Process Guidelines will provide guidance on the circumstances under which EnergyCo may consider commercial departures proposed by Applicants.

Connection Information

Applicants will be asked to provide information similar to that required under a connection enquiry under the NER, including key project technical characteristics for each Connection Point. Applicants will also be required to provide other technical information including generation traces and, where applicable, traces of how and when a project's battery storage would charge or discharge.

Pathway to Commercial Operation

Applicants will be asked to provide information to evidence its proposed pathway to Commercial Operation, including:

- A project development plan and schedule.
- A financing strategy/plan.
- A plan outlining the Applicant's capacity and capability to provide bonding.
- An outline of the Applicant's progress with equity and debt financiers.
- An outline of the Applicant's track record of raising capital for similar projects.
- An overview of progress towards finalising procurement and construction contracts.
- A project risk register.
- Evidence of progress in securing approvals of land, including evidence of secured land tenure rights.

¹ Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems will not be required to pay the centralised system strength component of the Access Fee.

- The progress towards obtaining planning approvals including (where relevant) the approach for obtaining *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* approvals and biodiversity offsets.
- An overview of existing Foreign Investment Review Board approvals.

Organisational Capacity to Deliver Project

Applicants will be asked to provide the information to demonstrate the Applicant's credentials and capabilities to deliver the Project including:

- a procurement strategy, status for key resources, delivery partners, and advisors;
- an organisational chart, a delivery contract structure and/or a commercial delivery model; and
- financial statements and other financial information.

Community Engagement and Shared Benefits

Applicants will be asked to provide information that demonstrates understanding of the impacts of the Project on the community and the Applicant's approach to minimise and offset any impacts of the project on affected communities. This will include information relating to:

- Details of the key communities impacted by the Applicant's project including directly impacted communities and First Nations groups.
- The Applicant's approach to community consultation and contribution to social acceptance.
- A binding Community Engagement Plan which includes the Applicant's local shared benefit commitments and sets out how the Applicant will respond to the five (5) key focus areas in the REZ Generator Guidelines.

Applicants should refer also to the social licence commitments set out in the PDA including the Community Engagement Plan to be included as Schedule 1 to the PDA.

Regional Economic Development

Applicants will be required to provide an Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan which includes information relating to:

- First Nations participation commitments;
- local supply chain development, investment, innovation and environmentally sustainable procurement; and
- employment and workforce development.

Applicants should refer also to the social licence commitments set out in the PDA including the Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan to be included as Schedule 2 to the PDA.