

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

September 2022 Project Update



EnergyCo is delivering the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW. The REZ will initially unlock at least three gigawatts of new transmission capacity from solar, wind and storage projects within the next decade, which is enough to power 1.4 million homes.

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Clean, affordable and reliable
energy for NSW

3GW

At least **3 gigawatts** of new
transmission capacity



\$10 billion of new investment
to the region

Scoping report submitted for the REZ transmission project

The REZ transmission project has reached a major milestone in the planning process with a scoping report recently submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment. The report is available to view online on the NSW Planning Portal.

The scoping report supports EnergyCo's request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) which will outline the requirements that must be addressed in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Feedback received from the community has been used to inform the scoping report.

What's in the scoping report?

The scoping report includes:

- a description of the objectives and need for the REZ transmission project
- an overview of the options considered in the development of the transmission corridor
- the key features of the project, including a refined study corridor
- a preliminary assessment of environmental matters that will be assessed in the EIS
- an overview of how issues raised in consultation carried out to date have been addressed and planned future consultation
- an overview of construction activities required to build the transmission network.

Environmental matters

The scoping report identifies the potential environmental, social and economic considerations and cumulative impacts that may arise from the construction and operation of the REZ transmission project. These include:

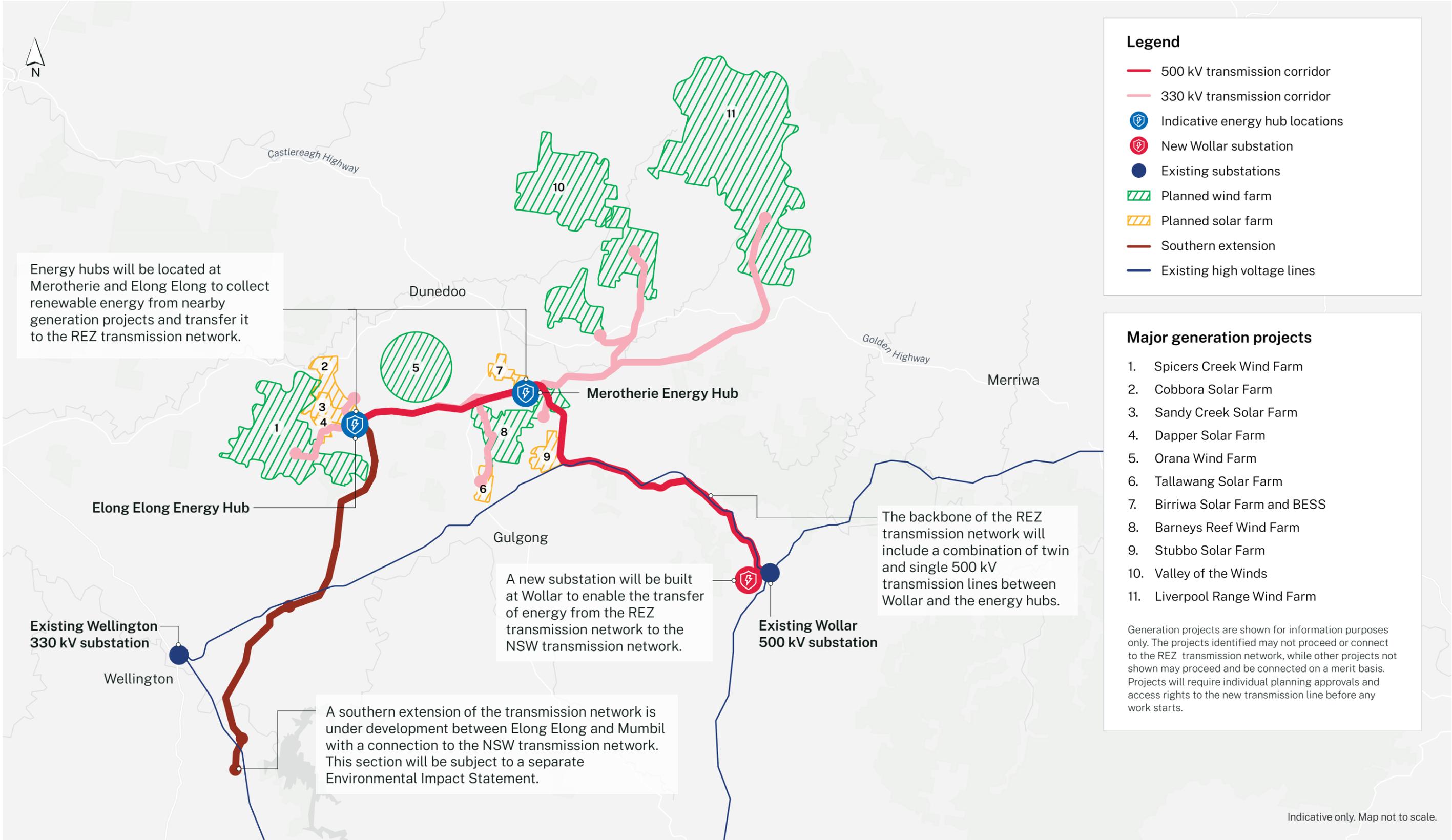
- agricultural land and activities
- social and economic impacts
- cumulative impacts
- visual amenity and landscape character
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage
- land use and property
- biodiversity
- hazards and risks
- noise and vibration
- traffic, transport and access
- waste management and resource use.

Other factors with low potential impacts include groundwater, hydrology, flooding and water quality, soils and contamination and air quality.

Detailed assessments of the potential impacts will be included in the EIS which will be displayed for public exhibition in mid-2023.



REZ transmission project



Working with the community

EnergyCo is proactively investigating how we can manage cumulative impacts during the construction and operation of the REZ, as well as provide lasting benefits to the local communities which will host renewable energy infrastructure.

Initiatives under development by EnergyCo across the REZs include:

- NSW transmission guidelines which would provide a robust framework for the planning and development of new transmission infrastructure and provide certainty for landowners, communities and project proponents
- Draft guidelines on orders prohibiting connection to the REZ network where community support hasn't been established
- A regional energy strategy outlining community energy schemes and other initiatives
- Guidelines to ensure First Nations people are engaged and benefit from the REZ
- Opportunities to bring forward the delivery of community benefit sharing initiatives in advance of access fees being collected from generators.

In addition, EnergyCo is carrying out a range of studies which will inform how we coordinate impacts within the Central-West Orana REZ. We are seeking input from local councils, key stakeholders and subject matter experts to ensure the studies result in meaningful outcomes and recommendations. The findings will inform how we deliver workforce accommodation, road upgrades, workforce training, improved mobile connectivity and other key programs and initiatives. The studies are expected to be completed in late 2022 with the aim of coordinating project activities in the REZ to minimise cumulative impacts. We will notify the community once they are available to view.

We are planning to carry out further engagement with the community in early 2023 to inform these various initiatives. To stay informed, please contact us to register your details.

Landowner benefit payments

EnergyCo recognises the need to ensure landowners are paid fairly for hosting new transmission infrastructure for the Central-West Orana REZ. To help provide long term benefits to landowners for hosting transmission line easements, we are planning to provide supplementary payments in addition to the compensation payable under NSW legislation. For further details, please visit our website to view our fact sheet about land acquisition for transmission easements.



Meet the project team

We will be holding community information sessions in September 2022 so you can find out more information about the scoping report and learn about the refined study corridor for the REZ transmission project. The sessions are an opportunity to meet the project team, ask questions and provide feedback.

No formal presentation will be given, so you can drop in any time during the sessions.

Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club

73 Arthur Street, Wellington NSW 2820
Monday 19 September, 3-5pm

Dunedoo Jubilee Memorial Hall

154 Bolaro Street, Dunedoo NSW 2844
Tuesday 20 September, 10am-12pm and 3-5pm

Coolah Youth and Community Centre

10-12 Binnia Street, Coolah NSW 2843
Wednesday 21 September, 10am-12pm and 3-5pm

A previous version of this update advised that sessions would take place in Gulgong on Thursday 22 September. Due to the Australian Government's announcement that a public holiday will be held on this date, these sessions have been cancelled. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. An information session will now be held in Gulgong as follows:

Gulgong Memorial Hall

112 Herbert Street, Gulgong NSW 2852
Friday 23 September, 9am-12:30pm



Next steps

From late 2022, EnergyCo will start preparing the EIS for the REZ transmission project which is planned for public exhibition in mid-2023. Field work is being carried out to inform the EIS and will continue through to next year.

We will continue to provide regular updates to the community as the project progresses and further information becomes available.

About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. EnergyCo will work closely with communities, investors and industry to deliver the state's first five REZs. For more information about EnergyCo, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/about-energyco.



Register for updates

Do you want to stay up to date on our latest news and announcements? Please contact us on the details below to register your details.



Dedicated funding for community benefits



More than **3,900 jobs** in peak construction



Construction of the REZ transmission network to begin by late 2024

Contact us

For more information about the Central-West Orana REZ project, you can visit our website or contact the project team:

✉ cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au

☎ 1800 032 101 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

🌐 energyco.nsw.gov.au

🗣️ 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 032 101**.

