

## Media Release

18 June, 2025

### Construction ramping up in Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission project is powering into its next phase, with major construction now underway to deliver a clean, reliable and affordable energy future for NSW.

Starting this week, ACERREZ - the network operator appointed by EnergyCo to design, build, and finance the project - will begin works across various sites in the Central West region. This will focus on preparing for transmission lines, upgrading local roads and advancing new infrastructure.

Works will begin on the Barigan Creek Switching Station - a key facility for the Central-West Orana REZ that will connect multiple transmission lines and help manage the efficient flow of electricity across the network.

Construction will also start on an Energy Hub at Merotherie - which will act as a central switchboard to help efficiently gather, manage and distribute renewable electricity from across the REZ.

Work is also ramping up at the temporary workers' accommodation camp and site office on Merotherie Road, providing essential housing and facilities for construction crews. This on-site accommodation supports efficient project delivery while reducing pressure on local housing in nearby communities.

Upgrades to the intersection of the Golden Highway and Merotherie Road are taking place to support the delivery of key equipment to the site.

There are robust environmental safeguards in place to reduce dust, noise and traffic disruptions, such as designated heavy vehicle routes and real-time monitoring to limit local impacts.

Landholders, residents and other stakeholders near construction sites have been notified of these works.

The Central-West Orana REZ is the state's first REZ, and will deliver more reliable, clean and affordable energy to homes and businesses across the state.

The NSW Government is investing \$128 million in communities hosting the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project, through grants for community organisations and Councils, and First Nations groups and projects.

Recipients of the first \$60 million in grants have been awarded funding for 54 local initiatives including critical water infrastructure, training programs, improvements to sports facilities, cultural events and key worker housing.

For detailed construction updates, visit the [ACERREZ website](#).

For more information, contact ACERREZ's Community Information Line 24/7 on 1800 298 379 or email [cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au](mailto:cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au)

#### Quote attributable to Hannah McCaughey, CEO EnergyCo:

"We're entering an important new phase of work to help keep the lights on in NSW, with major construction now underway ahead of schedule on Australia's first declared renewable energy zone.

"We're committed to working with local communities in the Central-West Orana REZ to deliver lasting benefits while building a better energy future together."

**Quote attributable to Steve Masters, CEO ACERZ:**

“This is an important milestone as we deliver the renewable energy infrastructure to power NSW for generations to come.

“ACERZ looks forward to working hand-in-glove with the community as we progress this vital project.”

**Media enquiries:**

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