

Media Release

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Regional reference group to help influence Hunter Transmission Project

EnergyCo has launched a regional reference group (RRG) to help inform the planning and design of the Hunter Transmission Project (HTP), which is one of the State's most critical energy projects.

The reference group will play a significant role in facilitating discussions between EnergyCo and the Hunter region community on the new transmission line, which is needed to transport clean energy from the Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

The reference group consists of an independent chairperson (former Cessnock Mayor and Hunter Joint Organisation Chair Bob Pynsent) and 9 members including:

- 3 council representatives from the relevant local government areas, one each from Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Singleton Councils
- 3 regional representatives from the business, Aboriginal and environment sectors
- 3 community representatives, one from each of the relevant local government areas (as above).

The reference group will provide a platform for discussions on crucial aspects of the HTP including the project design, community views, minimising impacts on landholders and the environment, and maximising benefits for the Hunter community.

The HTP is a multi-billion-dollar investment that will help provide energy security in NSW for generations to come. It is crucial for the electricity needs of the State.

The project involves construction of a new above-ground 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line spanning 115 kilometres from Bayswater to Eraring. Early engagement for the HTP continues ahead of an extensive approval pathway during 2024/2025.

For a full list of the regional reference group members, visit the EnergyCo website: <https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/hunter-transmission-project/working-community>

Quote attributable to James Hay, EnergyCo Chief Executive:

"Forming the regional reference group demonstrates our commitment to genuine community engagement. By incorporating local perspectives, we want to make sure the Hunter Transmission Project is developed with care and input from the Hunter region community.

"The regional reference group will serve as a valuable platform for collaborative decision-making about the HTP, which is a vital once-in-a-generation electricity infrastructure project with many benefits to the Hunter region. The benefits include clean and reliable electricity, community development through local projects and employment opportunities for the Hunter community. "

Quote attributable to Bob Pynsent:

"The Hunter region has always been crucial for our State's energy security. The Hunter Transmission Project builds on this history and will leverage our region's strengths. It means more local jobs and investment for our communities as we repower our energy system.

"I look forward to working with the other reference group members and the broader Hunter community to ensure the best outcomes for our region."

ENDS

MEDIA: James Martin | 0457571148 | media@energyco.nsw.gov.au