

Meeting summary

Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee No. 11

Monday, 16 December 2024
9.30am to 10.35am
Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Name	Organisation	Position	Attendance
Steering committee members: Local Government			
Murray Wood	Dubbo Regional Council (DRC)	Chief Executive Officer (Co-Chair SteerCo)	Present
Brad Cam	Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC)	General Manager	Present
Lindsay Mason	Warrumbungle Shire Council (WSC)	General Manager	Present
Greg McDonald	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)	General Manager	Apology
Steven Jennings	DRC	Director, Development and Environment	Present
Lisa Grisinger	DRC	Executive Assistant	Present
Julian Geddes	MWRC	Director, Operations	Present
Mathew Pringle	UHSC	Director, Environmental and Community Services	Present
Steering committee members: NSW Government			
Yvette Lloyd	EnergyCo	Director Regional Coordination (Co-Chair SteerCo)	Present
Christopher Ritchie	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	Director Industry Assessments	Present
Ian Smith	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Executive Director, Office of Regional Economic Development	Present
Angela Shepherd	DPIRD	Deputy Director Regional Development, Office of Regional Economic Development	Present
Kate Meagher	PD	Deputy Secretary, Community and Engagement	Apology
Other			
Gerry Collins	PD	Director Western, Regional Coordination	Present
Dena Jacobs	Infrastructure NSW (INSW)	Executive Director, Strategy Planning and Innovation	Present
Erica Friesz	INSW	Director	Present
Damien Pfeiffer	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	Director, Development Service	Present
Anna Zycki	TfNSW	Regional Director, North	Present
Amer Hussein	EnergyCo	Director, Community and Place CWO	Present
Omair Ali	EnergyCo	Project Manager, REZ Coordination	Present
Azaria Dobson	EnergyCo	Executive Director, Project Interface and Strategic Interface	Apology
Cara Inia	EnergyCo	Director, Project Interface and Strategic Coordination	Apology
Adam Clarke	EnergyCo	Manager, Program Delivery	Present
Shannon Schofield	EnergyCo	Manager, Planning	Present

Agenda items

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Co-Chair
2	Previous Meeting's Actions	Co-Chair
3	Co-Chair Update	Co-Chairs
4	Project Group Updates	Project Group Chairs
5	Central-West Orana REZ Social Services Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) Subgroup	PD
6	Central-West Orana REZ Cumulative Impacts Studies Update	DPHI
7	EnergyCo Program Update	EnergyCo
8	Central-West Orana REZ Project Update	EnergyCo
9	Social Impacts Management Plan	EnergyCo
10	Port to REZ Update	EnergyCo
11	Other Business	Co-Chair
12	Next Meeting & Meeting Close	Co-Chair

Meeting minutes

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Co-Chair	
2	Previous Meeting Actions	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Actions Register for updates
3	Update from Co-Chairs	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannah McCaughey has become the new acting CEO of EnergyCo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive hiring process in progress to appoint permanent CEO CEBP applications under assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful small grants to be announced soon, with larger grants requiring more time for assessment Federal Government's Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) has selected three renewable energy generation projects involved in the Central-West Orana REZ, namely Valley of the Winds Wind Farm, Spicers Creek Wind Farm, and Sandy Creek Solar Farm, to financially support Legacy Infrastructure Fund (LIF) feedback and notification to be released early in the new year Project Group meetings held over the past month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress made on key issues including Environment, Housing and Transport EnergyCo seeking feedback from project group members on the governance and effectiveness of the meetings <p>Action: EnergyCo to release LIF funding feedback and notification when available</p>
4	Project Group Updates	Environmental Project Group Chair Housing & Accommodation Project Group Chair Transport & Logistics Project Group Chair	<p><u>Environmental</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft of DPHI Waste Study is with DPHI for review and comment. Wider project group expecting receipt for review and comment shortly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review comments due back to DPHI by late January/early February NSW Government developing a Waste and Sustainable Materials (WASM) Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide strategy to address Waste production and processing, infrastructure, strategy around circular economy etc. Expected delivery of mid 2025 Key stakeholders to collaborate to ensure alignment between WASM and DPHI Waste Study, Councils' strategies, challenges, opportunities around waste, and EPA work being done on waste strategies in REZ Water and Wastewater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand and supply constraints are being considered in Central-West Orana REZ in DCCEEW Regional Water Availability Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study expected in February 2025

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key priority in this Study is reviewing existing approval pathways for projects for water security and investigating potential pathways to accelerate the process ○ EnergyCo keen to progress & development of business cases for projects relating to water and wastewater in the Central-West Orana REZ ▪ EnergyCo to continue consultation and engagement with Councils to best understand priorities and challenges <p><u>Housing and Accommodation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPHI to release Guidelines for Construction Workers Accommodation and updates to the Housing SEPP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This will form the basis for establishing and seeking approval for TWA for the Central-West Orana REZ works and associated proponents and NO ○ DPHI/EnergyCo to organise a meeting between Councils and DPHI Housing Strategy experts to better understand Guidelines and how to operationalise them ○ Housing & Accommodation strategies of each of the Councils need to align with Guidelines and overall DPHI Housing Strategy • Each Council has developed their own policy position paper for TWA in their LGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is being considered and incorporated into DPHI Housing Strategy • DPHI Housing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Strategy expected to be released for review to Councils in February 2025 ○ Efficiencies to planning pathways and approvals for REZ TWA is a key priority for strategy <p><u>Transport & Logistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TfNSW provide update on Port to REZ Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TfNSW engaging closely with EnergyCo and key stakeholders to understand required upgrades and pinch points ○ Works expected to commence in early 2025 ○ TfNSW is considering assessment of spillover traffic into alternative traffic routes as a result of increased construction traffic during REZ works ○ Councils seeking more visibility around project programs, timeframes, planning and programming of road upgrades in REZ network and alignment with various project timelines
5	Central-West Orana REZ Social Services Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) Subgroup	PD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services in the Central-West Orana REZ to be assessed and delivered upon from a WofG perspective through the established Western RLE Social Services Subgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Action Plan delivered to Councils and EnergyCo in September for Western RLE and Social Services Subgroup ○ Subgroup coordination function being lead by PD ○ Health is a key area of concern that is being discussed in Subgroup
6	Central-West Orana REZ Cumulative Impacts Studies Update	DPHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DPHI Waste Study and Population Study to be sent to Councils and key stakeholders this week • Seeking input, feedback, review comments from key stakeholders early in 2025 • Water Study being undertaken by DCCEEW. Potential for early, high-level advice to be released by DCCEEW for Councils prior to report release (planned for Feb 2025) <p>Action: DPHI and DCCEEW to confirm release of high-level early advice surrounding Water Study for Councils</p>

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
7	EnergyCo Program Update	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EnergyCo are prioritising development of business cases for projects and upgrades for cumulative impact focus areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with all Councils occurred to understand what challenges, opportunities exist to develop scopes for projects for business case development
8	EnergyCo Project Update	EnergyCo	<p><u>Management Plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Consent management plans under development by Network Operator, reviews continuing by Councils and DPHI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Councils and community has been undertaken by NO in developing management plans Social Impacts Management Plan (SIM Plan) – requirement of planning consent conditions is being developed by EnergyCo <p><u>Network Operator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract close anticipated for early 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Operator to lead community-facing role with EnergyCo's to shift into oversight, coordination and issue resolution role <p><u>Property Access and Land Ownership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO developing PAPs to detail how it intend to utilise property acquired from landowners for works <p><u>CFG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Rights to be awarded to successful CFGs in early 2025 Information being sought by EnergyCo from potential CFGs as to their anticipated cumulative impacts based on their project scope of works <p><u>Headroom Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Headroom Assessment released in July/August 2024 and looking to issue final determination early 2025. <p>Action: Communications to be provided for any updates to Headroom Assessment</p> <p><u>Communications Toolkit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and Key Messaging packs issued to Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose is to provide consistent and aligned messaging and responses to common queries regarding the REZ Feedback being sought from Councils <p>Action: Councils to provide feedback on key messaging packs to EnergyCo.</p> <p>Action: DRC and EnergyCo to meet to discuss key messaging packs and applicability to messaging with new Councillors</p> <p>Action: EnergyCo to share slide pack of EnergyCo Project Update</p>
9	Social Impacts Management Plan	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EnergyCo is developing the SIM Plan, a requirement under the planning consent conditions of approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan must be reviewed and approved by DPHI prior to main construction commencement Subject matter expert consultant engaged to develop the Plan Plan details the monitoring and adaptive management of social impacts associated with the Central-West Orana REZ works Phased approach to development of SIM Plan (currently in Phase 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1: Targeted briefings to Councils and key stakeholders to obtain feedback Phase 2: Seek feedback on social impacts and mitigation measures, and identify additional issues and management measures. In the form of briefings, stakeholder workshops/drop in sessions, online surveys) Phase 3: Consolidate feedback on final draft of Plan prior to submission not DPHI (targeted feedback from key stakeholders)

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo intends to hold online interviews with Councils to seek feedback on the Plan development • Cumulative Impacts Studies to feed into and incorporate into SIM Plan where relevant and practical • DRC raised concerns regarding consultation fatigue in feedback, engagement, review required for all plans associated with REZ <p>Action: DRC and EnergyCo to discuss offline structuring engagement and feedback process for SIM Plan to mitigate fatigue ensure effectiveness</p> <p>Action: TfNSW and EnergyCo to meet offline to discuss transport impacts assessment in SIM Plan</p> <p>Action: EnergyCo to share slide pack of SIM Plan update</p>
10	Port to REZ Update	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor Award early in 2025 for Stage 1A (Port of Newcastle to Elong Elong) • Access arrangements being finalised with Port of Newcastle • Negotiations underway with TfNSW for acquisition of several land parcels to facilitate works • REFs have been drafted and finalised for key starting areas of Stage 1A works • Existing renewable energy generation projects in the REZ (non-REZ projects) are being considered as practicable to minimise impacts to their construction traffic movements, and to facilitate their key construction movements
11	Other Business	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPIRD to provide updates in upcoming meetings where applicable on economic opportunities and challenges associated with local content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Value chain map is under development for renewables, regarding local content outcomes for the regions <p>Action: DPIRD to provide updates in SteerCo meetings when available</p>
12	Meeting Close	Co-Chair	Meeting close 10.35am. Next meeting in late February / early March 2025

Acronym Reference List

Term	Definition
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
CEBP	Community Employment Benefits Program
CFG	Candidate Foundation Generators
CI	Cumulative Impacts
CWO	Central-West Orana
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DRC	Dubbo Regional Council
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GM	General Manager
IAPP	Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan
INSW	Infrastructure NSW
LGA	Local Government Area
LIF	Legacy Infrastructure Fund
MWRC	Mid-Western Regional Council
NO	Network Operator
PAP	Property Access Plans
PD	NSW Premier's Department
REACT	Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SIA	Social Impacts Assessment
SteerCo	Steering Committee
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales
ToR	Terms of Reference
TWA	Temporary Workers Accommodation
UHSC	Upper Hunter Shire Council
WofG	Whole of Government
WSC	Warrumbungle Shire Council