

Meeting summary

Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee No. 12

Monday, 17 March 2025
9.30am to 11.30am
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	Apology
Greg McDonald	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)	General Manager	Present
Lisa Grisinger	DRC	Executive Assistant	Apology
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
Clay Preshaw	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	Executive Director Energy & Resource Assessments Industry Assessments	Present
Ian Smith	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Executive Director, Office of Regional Economic Development	Apology
Angela Shepherd	DPIRD	Deputy Director Regional Development, Office of Regional Economic Development	Present
Craig Jenkins	DPIRD	Director, Economic Development Network	Present
Stephen Wills	Premiers Department	Executive Director, Regional Delivery	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 CENTRAL-WEST ORANA	Present
Omar Ali	EnergyCo	Project Manager, REZ Coordination	Present
Azaria Dobson	EnergyCo	Executive Director, Project Interface and Strategic Interface	Present
Cara Inia	EnergyCo	Director, Project Interface and Strategic Coordination	Apology
Alexandra Hall	EnergyCo	Acting Director, Community Benefits and Outcomes	Present
Sonja Malcolm	ACERES	Manager, Workforce Development and Training	Present
Trista Taylor	ACERES	Manager, Aboriginal Participation	Present

Meeting minutes

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Co-Chair	
2	Previous Meetings Actions	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action – Governance Structure to be established for data collection and processing to inform OSOM traffic movements website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport has finalised the engagement of AIMSUN for the analysis and assessment of the OSOM traffic movements along the Port to REZ route → Central-West Orana REZ ○ A scope of works is being developed that will be circulated once finalised • Action – Councils to provide feedback to EnergyCo on key messaging packs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communications and messaging packs have been issued to Councils ○ Further work is being undertaken in conjunction with Councils to prepare, inform and guide responses to more specific and targeted feedback • Action – DPIRD to provide updates in upcoming SteerCo meetings regarding economic opportunities and challenges on local content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Locally, business briefings are being run in the REZ in conjunction with ACERREZ who are running procurement workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefings aimed at informing local businesses about the Project and potential opportunities for services provision ○ Webpage developed by DPIRD for proponents and contractors to understand how they can work in conjunction with DPIRD on local procurement and economic benefits ○ Recent Local Content and Economic Development Subcommittee meeting focused on promoting local content capabilities in the region, in NSW, and nationally <p>Action: EnergyCo to provide update on work being undertaken on targeted messaging to address specific questions relating to the REZ</p>
3	Establishment of Social Services Sub-Group	Gerry Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services Sub-Group has been established under the Western Regional Leadership Executive (RLE). This group is co-chaired by Premier's Department and EnergyCo. • Members include Western NSW Local Health District, Aboriginal Affairs, Police, Communities and Justice (Social Housing) and Education • Detailed strategic priorities are being developed with members including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health services for TWA ○ Local Emergency management planning ○ Monitoring impacts on early education and childcare services ○ Local police resources

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4	Environmental Project Group Update	Environmental Project Group Chair	<p><u>Waste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Waste Cumulative Impacts Study was prepared by DPHI at the end of December 2024 to consider the anticipated generation of waste by quantities and types in the REZ from major projects in the region Councils and EnergyCo have reviewed the study draft and provided comments DPHI seeking to issue an updated version by end of March <p><u>Water and Wastewater</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCCEEW has released the regional water availability and access pathways advice covering potable water, wastewater, recycled water and raw water. Analyses the impact of the increased demand on water in the REZ region as a result of the Central-West Orana REZ projects against current water availability and treatment capability in the region Engagement and consultation was conducted with Councils and Central-West Orana REZ Project team Final endorsement to be sought from the WofG Water Subcommittee <p>Action: Councils to report back on outcomes from meeting discussing approach going forward from DCCEEW water advice</p>
5	Terms of Reference Update	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference (ToR) for Central-West Orana Regional Steering Committee have been updated. Key updates include: Inclusion of Upper Hunter Shire Council in the document Updating and refining project groups list and objectives Rotation of Co-Chairs through heads of member Councils Meeting scheduled between PD, INSW and EnergyCo to discuss PD and INSW roles in Steering Committee going forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes from meeting will feed into a subsequent ToR update INSW noted an update required to Appendix A governance structure diagram – diagram should illustrate a reciprocal flow of information from regional Steering Committee to WofG <p>Action: EnergyCo to input relevant outcomes from meeting with PD and INSW into ToR</p> <p>Action: EnergyCo to update Appendix A governance structure diagram</p>
6	Enabling Infrastructure and Whole of Government Update	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSW update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of funding sources underway to identify funding sources available outside of budget submissions Seeking feedback on a continual basis from Councils as to priority areas in the region, where funding and support can be best utilised to provide benefits to the community and timely delivery of the Roadmap EnergyCo update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current major focus is to obtain updated program and project data from proponents (key details including accommodation plans, project workforce numbers, timeline of worker influx) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being coordinated by EnergyCo and INSW Data is critical to ensuring solutions to cumulative impacts in enabling infrastructure are effective <p>Action: INSW and EnergyCo to provide update on alternative funding sources when available</p>
7	Central-West Orana REZ Project Update	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Proponents going forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with CFGs for the execution of access agreements are in their final stages Plans to increase engagement and coordination with proponents after execution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will include participation in this forum and project groups as required, and other communications and engagement forums in the region

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8	Telecommunications in the Central-West Orana REZ	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback and engagement surrounding CEBP outreach to communities identified Telecommunications in the Central-West Orana REZ region as one of the top priorities for communities for provision of benefits EnergyCo is undertaking work into how best to provide telecommunications uplift in the region Partnership with the NSW Telco Authority and EnergyCo to identify most effective ways to provide uplift Action: EnergyCo to provide updates as available in subsequent meetings
9	Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs)	DPHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits sharing guidelines have been developed by DPHI and should be used by Councils in negotiations with proponents and developers regarding VPA contributions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus is to provide real benefits in the community, and capitalise on legacy projects and achieving tangible outcomes MWRC noted the engagement with Councils on VPAs and benefits sharing did not cover Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects UHSC noted the risk of using VPA and benefits sharing contributions on legacy projects that ultimately cost Councils significantly more in the long term to maintain. Rather projects need to be scrutinised for the long term benefit they can provide MWRC noted concerns around using VPA contributions for enabling infrastructure projects rather than directly for communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSW noted the need for VPA contributions to also fund projects that enable timely delivery of the Roadmap, noting the detrimental impacts to communities DRC noted the need to leverage DA conditions to provide benefits for community from proponents/developers Action: DPHI to meet with Councils and EnergyCo to discuss VPAs and associated strategic outcomes from proponent/project contributions, and cross-Council VPA agreements for projects. Action: DPHI to review Council consultation and engagement surrounding benefits sharing for BESS and respond to MWRC
10	Industry Aboriginal Participation Plan (IAPP) and Training and Skills Management Plan (TSMP)	EnergyCo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACERREZ presentation on IAPP and TSMP, and associated initiatives in the REZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies and actions include industry engagement, supporting capability in the region, and supply chain diversity Multi-varied strategy employed by ACERREZ to engage with local businesses, suppliers, individuals seeking work through the Transmission Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging subcontractors Participating in and organising local workshops, career and employment fairs for local and small businesses, and job seekers Work with local Aboriginal providers Engaging working groups, local community and Aboriginal businesses to develop and deliver cultural workshops and awareness training Conducting recruitment with diversity in mind Delivering programs to support women to enter or return to the workforce Conducting pre-employment programs for underrepresented groups Early outcomes from local industry have been positive, including awarding work to Australian entities, Aboriginal businesses, engagement with local communities, employment of local residents and Aboriginal Peoples, underrepresented groups Action: EnergyCo to circulate slide pack with minutes
11	Other Business	Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPHI resourcing change – Clay Preshaw moving into a new Executive Director role focusing on planning reform. Chris Ritchie to be A/Executive Director of Energy & Resource Assessments
12	Meeting Close	Co-Chair	Meeting close at 11.30am. Next meeting scheduled for June 2025

Acronym Reference List

Term	Definition
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
CEBP	Community Employment Benefits Program
CFG	Candidate Foundation Generators
CI	Cumulative Impacts
CENTRAL-WEST ORANA	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
OSOM	Over Size and Over Mass
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