

Meeting summary

Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee (SteerCo)

Wednesday, 27 September 2023

Online and in person at Executive Meeting Room, Dubbo Regional Council, Corner Church and Darling Streets, Dubbo

Attendance

| Category | Attendees |
|--|---|
| Steering committee members | <p>Local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murray Wood, Chief Executive Officer, Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) (MW) • Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) (BC) • Roger Bailey, General Manager, Warrumbungle Shire Council (WSC) (RB) <p>NSW Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities, EnergyCo (MY) • Christopher Swann, CWO Project Director, EnergyCo (CS) • Clay Preshaw, Executive Director Energy & Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) (CP) |
| EnergyCo representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cara Inia, CWO Director Community and Place, EnergyCo (CI) • Brian Cullinane, CWO Planning & Environment Lead, EnergyCo (BC) • Rennee Ridley, CWO Director Community & Place, EnergyCo (RR) • Adam Clarke, Manager Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (AC) • Thomas Watt, Director of Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (TW) |
| Other local and NSW government representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Cutler, Director Housing Supply Policy, DPE (DC) • Garry Hopkins, Director Western, DPE (GH) • Gerry Collins, Director Orana Far West, Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) (GC) • Lisa Grisinger, Executive Assistant, DRC (LG) • Gena Molloy, Economic Development Manager, Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) (GM) |
| Apologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary Development and Assessment, DPE (DG) – delegated to CP |

| Category | Attendees |
|----------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriet Whyte, Executive Director Regional Development, DRNSW (HW) – delegated to GC • Julian Geddes, Director Operations, MWRC (JG) |

Project groups

| Group | Chair |
|--|---|
| Transport and logistics | Adam Clarke |
| Economic participation and development | Thomas Watt |
| Housing and accommodation | Dan Cutler (co-chair) Garry Hopkins (co-chair) |
| Environmental delivery coordination | Julian Geddes |
| Social services | Gerry Collins |

Agenda items

| Item | Details | Responsibility |
|------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | EnergyCo update | MY |
| 2 | Project group updates | Project group chairs |
| 3 | General business | MW |
| 4 | Central-West Orana REZ transmission project | BC |

Meeting minutes

| Item. | Description | Lead | Updates |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 1 | EnergyCo update | MY/CS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MY provided an update on EnergyCo's approach to REZ coordination, including that BC has been appointed as Director to ensure the work is appropriately resourced. EnergyCo is procuring resources to support the delivery of project group action plans. • MY introduced RR as the new Director of the CWO Community and Place team. • MY informed SteerCo that the Minister will be attending the next SteerCo meeting on 20 October. MY asked project group leads to attend and present draft action plans. • CS provided an update on the Central-West Orana REZ as a whole including recent engagement activities. • CS informed SteerCo that EnergyCo's commitment deed with ACERREZ, who is the first ranked Network Operator proponent for the Central-West Orana REZ, is progressing and expected to be signed in late 2023. • EnergyCo has launched the pre-tender stage for access rights for generators and carried out consultation with generation and storage proponents. This has included a series of interactive workshops ahead of the first tender launch in October 2023. • CS highlighted the importance of REZ-wide coordination with the development of the new transmission infrastructure and stated that this will remain an ongoing priority for EnergyCo. |
| 2 | Project group updates All groups are working towards preparing a draft action plan for review and endorsement by SteerCo. | | |
| 2.1 | Social services | GC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC provided an update on the social services project group. One meeting has been held by the group to date. The group identified key factors to inform the development of a draft action plan including existing workforce data, health needs assessment and learnings from other large scale infrastructure projects. |
| 2.2 | Housing and accommodation | GH/DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GH and DC provided an update on the housing and accommodation project group. Two meetings have been held by the group to date. An early draft action plan has been prepared which identifies constraints and opportunities for potential initiatives. The group has identified the need for coordinated data to understand the workforce composition. |

| Item. | Description | Lead | Updates |
|-------|--|------|--|
| 2.3 | Transport and logistics | AC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC provided an update on the transport and logistics project group. One meeting has been held by the group to date. The group has identified a number of areas for delivering potential benefits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — use and condition of alternative local roads — construction traffic — areas to be upgraded outside road reserve — road safety opportunities — communication with the community during construction period and coordination across projects. The group identified the need to access to baseline data and information to better understand the context in the region and develop initiatives. |
| 2.4 | Environmental delivery coordination | AC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC provided an update on the environmental delivery coordination project group. One meeting has been held by the group to date. The group is investigating data sets, waste generation and opportunities for end-of-life solar panel recycling. |
| 2.5 | Economic development and participation | TW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TW provided an update on the economic development and participation project group. One meeting has been held by the group to date. The draft action plan currently proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — a skills and training strategy — initiatives to remove barriers to First Nations people — employment opportunities targeted at youth and women — ways to connect suppliers and proponents — initiatives to engage closely with First Nations businesses The group is discussing how they will interface with the Jobs Advocate skills and training working group. |
| 3 | General business | MW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project groups expressed the need for up to date and consistent data across the REZ and the importance of EnergyCo's role in REZ coordination to support development of action plans. ACTION: Monthly check-ins to be set up between project group chairs and Director of REZ Coordination. SteerCo and project group leads agreed that leads will share minutes from future group meetings. ACTION: Project groups to share meeting minutes with SteerCo. SteerCo agreed to share meeting summaries on EnergyCo's website. ACTION: Publish SteerCo meeting summary on EnergyCo's REZ Coordination webpage. |

| Item. | Description | Lead | Updates |
|-------|---|------|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SteerCo discussed how project groups will engage with generators for coordination. ACTION: EnergyCo to determine process for project groups to engage with generators. Next SteerCo meeting scheduled for Friday 20 October 10:30am – 12:30pm. The Minister is planned to attend this meeting. ACTION: Project group draft action plans due Tuesday 16 October. Project group leads to present draft action plans at next SteerCo meeting. |
| 4 | Central-West Orana REZ transmission project | BC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC provided an overview of the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public exhibition. The EIS is to be exhibited for public consultation by the NSW Department of Planning from 28 September until Wednesday 8 November. EnergyCo has offered EIS briefings to council staff and councillors. |

Project group actions

| No. | Action | Status |
|-----|--|--|
| 1 | Monthly check-ins with project group chairs and Director of REZ Coordination | Project group chairs to set up meeting |
| 2 | Project groups to share meeting minutes with SteerCo | In progress |
| 3 | EnergyCo to determine process for project groups to engage with generators | In progress |
| 4 | Project group draft action plans due Tuesday 16 October | Complete |
| 5 | Project groups to present to SteerCo at the next meeting 20 October | Pending next meeting |

Steering committee actions

| No. | Action | Status |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 1 | Publish meeting summary on REZ Coordination webpage at energyco.nsw.gov.au/community/coordinating-delivery-renewable-energy-zones | Complete |
| 2 | Meeting to be arranged between DRC MWRC EnergyCo and DPE GIS staff on data collection and sharing | In progress |

Next meeting

Date: 20 October

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Online and at Girinyalanha Room, Dubbo Regional Council, Corner of Church and Darling Streets, Dubbo