

New England REZ generation and storage consultation paper

August 2025

EnergyCo has published a consultation paper outlining approaches under consideration for managing the coordination of renewable energy generation and storage projects for the New England REZ. This includes design features of a potential access scheme, how projects are connected to the electricity grid, and keeping the power system stable. We are seeking feedback to make sure the plan works well for everyone.

Access scheme: managing who connects to the grid

What are the benefits of an access scheme?

Access schemes deliver benefits for generators and the community through limiting oversubscription that leads to inefficient utilisation, affords enhanced protection against congestion and provides greater certainty of connection earlier on in project development. Importantly, the community and employment fees paid by generation and storage projects are designed to ensure that communities hosting the new infrastructure benefit from the energy transition.

What is an access scheme?

An access scheme is how we plan to bring more renewable energy into the grid in a coordinated way. It is a set of rules to manage how renewable energy projects (like wind, solar and storage) connect to an area of the grid to ensure efficient use and avoid overloading.

What's being proposed for the New England REZ?

- **Inside the REZ:** The paper proposes options for including all new power lines and some existing ones in the New England REZ access scheme. Any project wanting to connect to these lines will need an access right, which would be allocated through a competitive tender.
- **Outside the REZ:** The paper proposes options under consideration for including a small number of power lines outside the New England REZ geographical area in the access scheme. Projects wanting to connect in these areas would need EnergyCo's permission.
- **Transitional rules:** Projects already connected to the grid or well-progressed in their connection process won't need an access right or EnergyCo permission to connect. The paper proposes options for how these rules could also apply to projects that are significantly progressed in their development.
- **Curtailment limit:** The paper proposes a limit where, for a given year, up to 5.19% of the forecast total energy generated in the REZ might not be sent out if there's too much power for the lines to carry. This helps projects know how much energy they can typically send out.

Connection assets: how projects connect to the grid

The connection assets model is about how renewable energy and storage projects connect to transmission infrastructure in the REZ. The plan aims to create an efficient layout for new connection lines while reducing impacts on communities and the environment.

Proposed connection asset model for the New England REZ

- EnergyCo will plan the layout and design of connection lines from projects to energy hubs (central points where projects connect to the grid).
- EnergyCo will coordinate the route design, planning and environmental approvals, and acquire easements for these connection assets.
- Projects will pay for and build their own connection lines to the energy hubs, so consumers won't have to cover these costs directly.
- This model would apply to any project with an access right, other than in certain scenarios outlined in the paper.

System strength: keeping the power system stable

System strength helps keep the power system stable to enable a secure and reliable supply of electricity to customers.

Proposed system strength requirements for the New England REZ

Projects with access rights will need to ensure their operations don't impact the stability of the system. Projects can do this in two ways:

- through the design and operation of their own project equipment (e.g. by installing a battery that provides system strength)
- by contracting with someone else to provide system strength for them.

Why EnergyCo is seeking feedback

We are seeking early feedback as we progress the design approach to coordinating the network, generator and storage infrastructure.

Questions, including options, are outlined in the paper. Feedback from stakeholders and communities will inform the next stages of detailed design.

Next steps

Webinar

We will host a public webinar on Tuesday 26 August 2025.

This will provide stakeholders with an overview of the paper and key design questions, and provide an opportunity to participate in a Q&A.

[Register](#) to attend the webinar.

Submissions

EnergyCo is seeking writing submissions on the consultation paper.

Submissions can be made to newengland.access@energyco.nsw.gov.au, include “Your Name – Draft New England REZ Generation and Storage Consultation Paper” in the subject line.

Submissions are due by Friday 12 September 2025.

Contact

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