

New England REZ network infrastructure project

Project update | October 2025

EnergyCo is delivering the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for homes and businesses across NSW.

From the Project Director

For the past few years, we have been planning the corridor for new transmission lines that will connect the New England REZ to the grid, eventually delivering up to 8 gigawatts of energy we need to keep the lights on in NSW.

To date, we've carried out technical and environmental assessments and listened carefully to community feedback to make sure the transmission corridor is the best we can make it. We've made adjustments over time to help improve outcomes for landowners, the community and the environment as new information becomes available.

Having used this local knowledge to further develop our design, we are updating part of the corridor between Muswellbrook and the central south hub near Walcha.

We have identified a new study area that will allow for safer and more efficient construction and reduced environmental and road impacts. It avoids key aerial firefighting zones around Chaffey Dam and Lake Glenbawn, consistent with our commitment to not impact aerial firefighting operations.

We understand landowners and community members will have questions. Our team is on the ground speaking with affected landowners. We are very keen to hear local views to help us refine the new study area.

As we have done to date, we will work with landowners to better understand existing land uses to minimise our impacts. We have released a wide corridor, around 3km wide, which will be refined to a 1km wide corridor early next year. Ultimately, the easement would be narrowed to 140m wide (generally 70m for each line).

Over the coming weeks, we will hold drop-in information sessions so you can speak with our team and share feedback. You can find the details in this update.

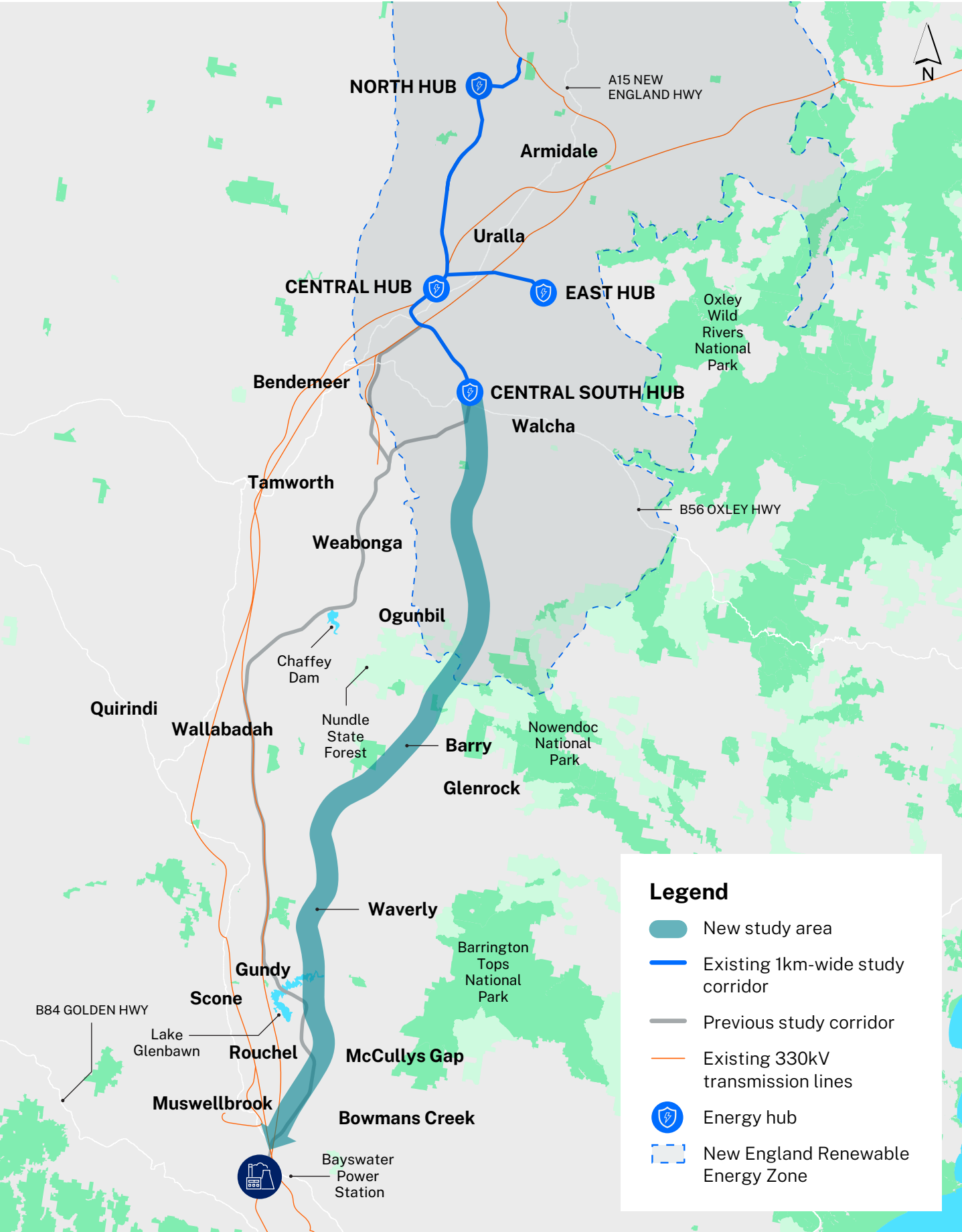
Local people who live and work in the region know what is best for their community. Your knowledge and perspectives are helping us understand what matters most and are playing a valuable role in shaping how the REZ moves forward.

Thank you for your continued insights as we plan this important project.

Doug Parris
Project Director of the New England REZ



New England REZ project map



We're making some important updates to the corridor

Route selection is a complex and lengthy process for a project of this size. A key part of this process is the ongoing review of the design as we carry out field investigations, design assessments and consultation.

We've recently completed more detailed technical work to develop the project for planning approvals. This has highlighted that the previous corridor impacts aerial firefighting and has complex terrain that would affect construction and safety. As a result, we are amending part of the corridor between Muswellbrook and the central south hub near Walcha.

We have identified a new study area through this section which will allow for safer and more efficient construction, reduced construction, environmental and road impacts and ensures aerial firefighting operations are not impacted.



The new study area is better for bushfire management

Through consultation to date we've heard this is a key concern for local communities. Moving part of the corridor will mean we will have no impact on aerial firefighting operations out of Chaffey Dam near Tamworth or Lake Glenbawn near Muswellbrook.

The new study area is more accessible and crosses fewer areas of high bushfire prone land.



The project will be safer and easier to build

Building in a more accessible area helps reduce the overall project footprint and amount of disturbance to the local area. It has less steep, more accessible terrain which makes it safer and easier to build the transmission lines.

Building in the new study area requires less earthworks and excavation to construct the transmission tower foundations and the access tracks to get to the towers.

Less earthworks means fewer trucks on local roads.

Less private land will be impacted by access tracks as the new study area is more accessible from the existing local road network.

Less work will need to be carried out using heavy-lift helicopters – reducing noise impacts on surrounding areas.



Working with landowners is our top priority

At 3km, the study area is intentionally wide so we can refine to a 1km-wide corridor through consultation and assessments. We will refine the study area in the coming months as we take into account local feedback and complete further assessments.

We are talking directly with landowners in the new study area so we can better understand existing land uses and business operations. Through this engagement, we are looking to identify locations for the transmission lines that will minimise impacts as much as possible.



Have your say to help shape the corridor

As well as engaging directly with landowners, we are inviting feedback from the wider community. We want to hear your views on potential opportunities and constraints within the new study area. All comments received will be considered as we refine to a 1km-wide corridor.

We will hold information sessions in the region so you can speak with our team, ask questions and share your views. Details about upcoming sessions are included in this update.

You can send your feedback by email to nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au. Alternatively, give our team a call on 1800 061 114 (toll free). We can make arrangements to receive your feedback in person or via post.

After the engagement period, we will publish a feedback report outlining the key topics raised by the community and EnergyCo's responses. We will share the report with the community once finalised.



EnergyCo pop up stall at the Aberdeen Highland Games



Existing 330kV transmission line near Timbumbur



Squadron Energy worker

What does this mean for the project timeline?

The development program for the project will be revised to make sure we can complete robust assessments, including preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for planning approvals.

Extending the development timeline allows more time for consultation and environmental and technical assessments to make sure the project delivers the best long-term outcomes for local communities and NSW energy consumers.

The environmental impact statement is now expected to go on public exhibition in the second half of 2026.

An updated project development timeline is included on page 6 of this update.

View the study area using our interactive online map

View the new study area in detail on our interactive map at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne-rez-map.

The interactive map also includes key features of the New England REZ such as proposed energy hub locations, the location of generator projects in the REZ, the existing high voltage network and land boundaries.



Scan the QR code to view the interactive map.



Next steps

EnergyCo is on the ground talking to the community and will be holding information sessions over the coming months.

We will carry out a range of assessments between now and the end of the year to refine the new study area including technical work, field studies and engagement with landowners, the community and other key stakeholders.

What about areas where the corridor is confirmed?

We are continuing work to refine the 1km-wide corridor in areas outside the new study area, including the transmission line corridors north of the energy hubs.

We understand landowners would like certainty on the final locations of transmission easements and we are working to confirm this as quickly as we can.

Where appropriate, we will work with landowners to bring forward the formal acquisition process if this is their preference.



Armidale community engagement session

Speak to our team

In addition to our direct engagement with landowners, we are holding a series of information sessions at local venues so you can speak with our team, ask questions and share your feedback. You can drop in anytime during the sessions.

Our project team representatives will be available to chat with you about the new study area as it relates to your property or home and to hear your feedback.

Walcha

Tuesday 28 October, 10am - 2pm
Tuesday 11 November, 3pm - 7pm, Walcha Veterinary Supplies, 6 Aberbaldie Road, Walcha

Muswellbrook

Wednesday 29 October, 3pm - 7pm, Muswellbrook Library, 126 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook

Scone

Thursday 30 October, 3pm - 7pm, Scone Motor Inn, 55 Kelly Street, Scone

Tamworth

Monday 3 November, 3pm - 7pm, Tamworth Community Event Centre, 3 Darling Street, Tamworth

Nundle

Tuesday 4 November, 3pm - 7pm, Nundle Memorial Hall, 101 Jenkins Street, Nundle

Gundy

Wednesday 5 November, 3pm - 7pm, Gundy Soldiers' Memorial Hall, 10-12 Duke Street, Gundy

Uralla

Monday 10 November, 3pm - 7pm, Uralla Courthouse, corner of Maitland and Hill Streets, Uralla

Armidale

Wednesday 12 November, 3pm - 7pm, Armidale Town Hall, 127 Rusden Street, Armidale

Guyra

Thursday 13 November, 5pm - 8pm, Guyra Bowling and Recreation Centre, 192 Bradley Street, Guyra





Armidale



Artist's impression of an energy hub



Muswellbrook

Project development timeline



Energy hub update

We appreciate there is strong interest from the community in the energy hub sites, including where they will be located, what they will look like and how much infrastructure they will include.

We have been progressing technical assessments and consulting with industry to confirm the expected layout and technical arrangements of the energy hubs, as well as the transmission lines that will connect to the hubs. We are engaging with landowners and carrying out field investigations to inform our work.

As a first priority, we are talking to landowners who are proposed to host the energy hub sites and connecting lines. We expect to update the wider community in the coming months, including neighbouring properties near the hub sites.

Central hub

Based on expected generation demand in the area, we know that the central hub will be the largest and most important in the REZ network. It will play a critical role in transferring bulk power from the REZ to the grid and will cover a larger footprint than the other hubs. The hub will also be the main connection point to the existing high voltage network operated by Transgrid.

North, east and central south hubs

We are continuing to review the scale, timing and staging of the north, east and central south hubs as we understand more about prospective projects in and around each hub. They will each play an important role in consolidating generator connection lines in the surrounding areas.

In May 2025, we announced the relocation of the north hub to reduce impacts to private landowners and the Boorolong community.

EnergyCo and Origin Energy worked together to relocate the north hub from privately owned farms to 'Warrane', Origin-owned land northwest of Armidale and the site of the proposed Northern Tablelands Wind Farm.

As a result of the north hub relocation, there are some adjustments to the transmission line corridors connecting to the hub. The changes are now available to view on our interactive map at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne-rez-map.

Detailed assessments of the energy hub sites will be included in the environmental impact statement in the second half of 2026.



Solar project in the New England REZ



Wind project operated by Squadron Energy

Register for email updates

If you would like to receive the latest project updates direct to your inbox, please scan the QR code to subscribe for our project e-newsletter.

You can also get in touch with our team to register your details.



Scan the QR code to register for project updates.

About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

EnergyCo is working closely with communities, investors and industry to deliver the state's first five REZs.

For more information about EnergyCo, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/about-energyco.

Contact us

For more information, please visit our website or get in touch with our team.



nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au



1800 061 114 (toll free)



energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne



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