

## Meeting Minutes

### Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee Meeting No. 14

29 October 2025, 1.00pm to 3.20pm,

Council Chambers, Mid-Western Regional Council and Online

Item.	Description	Lead	Points discussed
1	Acknowledgement of Country & Introductions	Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) (Co Chair)	
2	Cumulative impacts studies and enabling infrastructure	EnergyCo	<p>EnergyCo provided a presentation on the Regional Major Infrastructure Studies (formerly known as Cumulative Impact Studies). The presentation was noted.</p> <p><b>Action: EnergyCo to provide Warrumbungle Shire Council with dates of draft study consultations.</b></p> <p><b>Action: EnergyCo to prepare a one-page summary of key study messages for councils.</b></p>
3	Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes	MWRC (Co Chair)	<p>There were no comments on the previous meetings minutes.</p> <p>The meeting minutes (#13) were adopted.</p> <p><b>Action: EnergyCo to publish meeting minutes (#13) on EnergyCo's website.</b></p>
4	Review of Previous Meeting Actions	MWRC (Co Chair)	<p>A copy of the previous meeting's Actions was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Actions Register has been amended with updates and actions provided at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: EnergyCo to circulate updated Actions Register to Committee members.</b></p>
5	Co-Chairs Update	EnergyCo (Co Chair)	<p>The Committee discussed, and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee meetings will be recorded via Microsoft Teams for internal note-taking purposes only.</li> <li>- Committee meeting minutes will be non-annotated minutes.</li> <li>- Committee Terms of Reference, and priority action areas, will require updating after the whole-of-government governance review is complete.</li> </ul>

Item.	Description	Lead	Points discussed
			<p><b>Action: Once WofG governance review is complete, EnergyCo to update Committee Terms of Reference and provide to Committee for its review.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Once WofG governance review is complete, EnergyCo to discuss priority action areas with the Committee.</b></p>
6	Project Groups Update (RLE Social Services Subgroup)	Premiers Department	Premiers Department provided an update on the RLE Social Services Subgroup, including adopted strategic priority actions. The update was noted.
7	Central-West Orana REZ Project Update	EnergyCo	<p>EnergyCo provided an update on the CWO REZ transmission project, including an update on construction; Industry and Aboriginal participation; and the Social Impact Management Plan. The presentation was noted.</p> <p><b>Action: EnergyCo is to provide an update on Essential Energy's application to be part of the broader electricity infrastructure road map at the next meeting.</b></p>
8	CWO Visit Outcomes Report/ WofG Review Update	Premiers Department	Premiers Department provided an update on the CWO Visit Outcomes Report and the WofG review. The update was noted.
9	Transport	Transport for NSW	<p>Transport for NSW (TfNSW) provided an update on transport issues. The update was noted.</p> <p><b>Action: TfNSW to let councils know if they would like 'letters of support' for their federal infrastructure funding application.</b></p> <p><b>Action: TfNSW to provide an update on the Supply Chain and Logistics Report at next Committee meeting.</b></p>
10	CWO REZ Health Services Study	EnergyCo	The update on the CWO REZ Health Services Study by Marathon Health was postponed.
11	Other Business	MWRC (Co Chair)	<p>Dubbo Regional Council, Mid-Western Regional Council and Premiers Department provided updates.</p> <p>Murray Wood has resigned as DRC's Chief Executive Officer. Murray is moving to take on a new role as General Manager at Coffs Harbour City Council. The interim General Manager will be Luke Ryan. On behalf of the Steering Committee, PD acknowledged Murray Wood's significant contribution to the Committee.</p>

Item.	Description	Lead	Points discussed
			<b>Action: DRC to provide Committee an update on the advanced wastewater treatment project with Squadron Energy.</b>
12	Next Meeting		TBC (Late January / Early February 2026)
13	Meeting Close		2.55pm

## Attendance:

Name	Organisation	Position
Julian Geddes (Co Chair)	Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC)	Director Operations / Environmental Project Group Chair
Josie Howard (Co Chair)	EnergyCo	Director, Regional Coordination CWO REZ
Murray Wood	Dubbo Regional Council (DRC)	Chief Executive Officer
Lindsay Mason	Warrumbungle Shire Council (WSC)	General Manager
Mathew Pringle	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)	Director Environmental & Community Services /Transport & Logistics Project Group Chair
Gerry Collins	NSW Premier's Department (PD)	Director, Western Regional Coordination
Lana Hall	PD	Associate Director Infrastructure
Chris Ritchie	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	Director Industry Assessments
Allison Dunsdon	Transport NSW (TfNSW)	Senior Manager, Renewables Transportation
Angela Shepherd	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Deputy Director, Western Regional Development
Alina Azar	MWRC	Director Development
Justin Woodhouse	DPHI	Director Energy & Resources Policy (acting till 12/03/2026)
Simon Mould	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	Water and Energy Coordinator, NSW, Water Strategy, Water Group
Azaria Dobson	EnergyCo	Executive Director Interface & Strategic Coordination
Justin Roach	EnergyCo	Director, Strategic Coordination and Interface
Amer Hussein	EnergyCo	Director, Community and Place CWO REZ
Jane Sayabath	EnergyCo	Associate Director, Council and Interface, Central-West Orana REZ
Catriona Jennings	EnergyCo	Senior Advisor, Regional Coordination CWO REZ

## Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Position
Brad Cam (Co Chair)	MWRC	General Manager
Greg McDonald	UHSC	General Manager
Raghavendra Vasudeva Upadhyaya	UHSC	Director Infrastructure Services,
Steven Jennings	<u>DRC</u>	Director Development and Environment / Housing and Accommodation Project Group Chair
Erin Player	WSC	REZ Coordinator
Craig Jenkins	DPIRD	Director, Economic Development Network
Stephen Guihot	DPIRD	Economic Development Manager, Regional Development & Delivery
Damien Pfeiffer	TfNSW	Director, Development Service
Anna Zycki,	TfNSW	Regional Director (North)
Iwan Davies	DPHI	Director, Energy Assessments
Andrew Jordan	DPHI	Acting Director, Energy and Resources Policy
Erica Friesz*	Infrastructure NSW	Director, Strategy Planning and Innovation,
Dena Jacobs*	Infrastructure NSW	
Clay Preshaw*	DPHI	Executive Director, Energy, Resources and Industry
*No longer attending CWO REZ Regional Steering Committee Meetings		

## Acronym Reference List:

Term	Definition
CEBP	Community Employment Benefits Program
CFG	Candidate Foundation Generator
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
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
INSW	Infrastructure NSW
GM	General Manager
LGA	Local Government Area
MWRC	Mid-Western Regional Council
NO	Network Operator
PD	NSW Premier's Department
P2R	Port to REZ

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
REACT	Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SSD	State Significant Development
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