Meeting minutes

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA REZ COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Held on: 5/5/2026 – 10.30am to 1pm

At: Country Universities Centre, 70 Court Street, Mudgee

Chaired by: Lisa Andrews

Attendees:

Independent Chair	Lisa Andrews (Chair)
EnergyCo representatives	Amer Hussein, Director, Community and Place (AH) Alicia Rados, Associate Director Community and Place (AR) Rebecca Williams, Community Engagement Manager (RW) Joanna Yang, Program Delivery Manager (JY) *online* Catriona Jennings, Snr Advisor Regional Coordination (CJ) *online*
LGA delegates	Councillor Katie Dicker, Mid-Western Regional Council (KD) Councillor Kathy Rindfleish, Mayor of Warrumbungle Shire Council (KR) Councillor Josh Black, Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council (JB) *online* Councillor Pat Ryan, Deputy Mayor of Upper Hunter Shire Council (PR)
Government/MPs	Jane Diffey, Snr Electorate Officer Dugald Saunders' Office (Member for Dubbo) (JD) *online* Mel Manchee, Snr Electorate Officer Roy Butler's Office (Member for Barwon) (MM)
Community representatives	Neville Mattick, Community representative (NM) Colin Kilby, Community representative (CK)
Stakeholder groups	Beverley Smiles, Central West Environment Council (BS) Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group & Watershed Landcare (RH) Jane Hegarty, Cassilis District Development Group (JH) Aleshia Lonsdale, Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council (AL) Kylie Manson, Warrabinga Wiradjuri #7 Native Title Claimants (KM) Mark Squires, RE-Alliance (MS) *online* David Thorne, NSW Farmers Mudgee branch (DT)
ACJV representatives	Kee Li, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (KL) Steven Bowman, Community Place Manager (SB) *online* Richard McGloin, Project Construction Manager (RM) Sonja Malcolm, Workforce Development and Training Manager (SM) *online* Nick Francesconi, Environmental Advisor (NF) *online* Fredrico Lima, Construction Manager (FL) *online* Luke Corinth, Community Place Manager (LC) *online*
Network Operator representatives	Steve Masters, CEO (SM) *online* Miranda Wood, Director Communications & Stakeholder Engagement (MW) *online* Sharon Labi, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs (SL) Andrew Booth, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor · (AB) *online*

Apologies	Tony Fuller, (Aboriginal Affairs Department)

AGENDA

1	Acknowledgement of Country	AL
2	Welcome and introductions	Chair
3	Apologies	Chair
4	Governance/declarations	Chair / All
5	Business arising	Chair
6	Correspondence	Chair
7.0	ACEREZ CEO acknowledgement	SM
7.1	ACEREZ – Project update	
7.2	ACEREZ – Project construction	RM/FL
7.3	ACEREZ – Community engagement	KL
7.4	ACEREZ – Industry & Aboriginal participation	SM
8.0	EnergyCo update	
8.1	EnergyCo's Telecommunications Uplift Program	CM/KC
8.2	EnergyCo – Port to REZ	AR
8.3	EnergyCo – Community engagement update and expression of thanks	AR
9	General business	All
10	Next meeting	Chair

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MEETING MINUTES

1	Acknowledgement of Country	LA	Acknowledgement of Country by AL, Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council
2	Welcome and introductions	Chair	Meeting opened at 10.30am
3	Apologies	Chair	Tony Fuller
4	Business arising from last meeting (17/2/2026) Minutes finalised on 12/3/2026	Chair	

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Comments / updates	Status
1	Slide outlining timeline of management plans to be included in future CRG presentations	KL	Ongoing	Table 1 (p.5) of the project's Planning Approval outlines the required management plans (http://shorturl.at/0tK8S). Management plans are updated annually or as required. Feedback has been used to improve the project website, making management plans easier to locate, with their publication dates in the titles (https://shorturl.at/WgEYk).	Completed*
2	Advise on clearing works on Birriwa Bus Route	AR	Next Meeting	Vegetation clearing is required for the transmission project where the transmission line corridor crosses Birriwa Bus Route South. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has assessed this clearing and the protocols outlined in the Construction Biodiversity Management Plan will be followed.	Completed.* 2/3/26
3	Update map of transmission line access tracks construction to show how many towers there will be, location and truck load movements	TS	Next Meeting	Information included in Project on 5/5/26. Link to Map to be provided in these minutes.	Completed

4	Update on EnergyCo's community grants program to be provided	AR	When available		Held over
5	Slide explaining EWON's Annual Report & reporting of EnergyCo complaints	AR	Next CRG	This CRG's presentation.	Completed. Slide 54.
6	Send current CRG's Terms of Reference to members for review	LA	Following meeting	ToR sent to members. Responses received and report provided to ACEREZ.	Completed.
7	DCCEEW potable water in Gilgandra	AR	Next CRG	The Regional Major Infrastructure Study considered Gilgandra water treatment plant as a potential supply option, but analysis suggested that it was unlikely to be suitable for providing any significant volume of water to support development. This was due to the distance between Gilgandra and most renewable energy projects and capacity limitations at the plant. Capacity limitations included existing seasonal water demand at or near plant capacity in summer months and concerns around impacts to level of service for existing users.*	Completed.

***ACTION ITEM 1 –** BS sought clarification on the response. Stating that her ongoing request has been for an update on the current status of the Management Plans. Spreadsheet requested on all Management Plans associated with the approval and relevant conditions of consent, i.e. if they have been approved, are they with the Department, who is responsible (EC or ACEREZ). **Action.**

***ACTION ITEM 2 & 7 –** AR advised that these responses were emailed to the Chair on 2/3/26, however, were not included in the agenda. Chair to rectify. CK commented on Action Item 7 that Gilgandra Council does not agree with the study. It had approved a 500-bed temporary workforce accommodation facility at its aero park estate (yet to be taken up for development). AR confirmed the information contained in the study.

JH commented on the 'preferred traffic route for the northern end of Cassilis' contained in the previous minutes (page 6) stating that the advice that the transport strategies are still being finalised is incorrect. Stating that she was advised at another meeting that the route has been approved. Can this be confirmed?

			JH also raised the previous advice from EC that OSOM movements would not travel during school hours. Advising that Squadron Energy (for its Uungula Wind Farm project) have stated that its OSOM deliveries will be leaving Denman at 7am and have a break at Cassilis at 9am. JH raised concern that children will be on the sides of the road waiting for school buses during this time and buses/cars will be travelling to school/work. Also, that the community need to be made aware of schedules to assist with managing their commuting time to work/appointments. AR advised that she would follow this up with Squadron Energy and ask them to contact JH. **Action.**
5	Declarations	Chair	No changes to declarations.
6	Correspondence report	Chair	As per the meeting notice, final agenda sent 17/4/2026.
6.1	ACEREZ CEO acknowledgement		Steve Masters (CEO) joined the meeting online at this time to thank all CRG members for their participation and contribution in Term 2 of this CRG, acknowledging those that have also been members since the CRG began four years ago.

7.0	ACEREZ construction update	RM	• Presentation included:
			  ○ Indicative construction timeline
			  ○ Key project milestone – first transmission tower, explaining how it was built, including a time-lapse video and what comes next
			  ○ Construction activities – Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation and Sandy Lane Energy Hub (work in February, March & April)
			  ○ Construction activities – Barigan Creek (work in February, March & April)
			  ○ Construction activities – Elong Elong (work in February, March & April)
			  ○ Construction activities – transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane towards Cassilis
			  ○ Construction activities – transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek
			  ○ Merotherie Road upgrade including Leo Nott Bridge replacement
			  ○ Upcoming road upgrades (Ulan Road and Golden Highway intersection update + Blue Springs Road and Golden Highway intersection upgrade)
			  ○ Three-month lookahead – May to July 2026 (project wide, energy hubs, 330kV switching stations, transmission line)
			Questions & Responses:
			DT asked where the location of the first tower was, stating that he had seen components on the ground. RM advised (SP1) Merothorie Rd to Barigan Creek alignment.
			BS asked how long it takes to assemble a tower. FL advised approximately 6 days for lifting tower components.

			DT asked how long after the concrete pour would the tower be erected. FL advised approximately 72 hours, following testing on whether the concrete had cured 70%. JH asked how many crews would be required to build the 270 towers. FL stated that 3 crews were currently working with 3 more crews due to start, so it could be 6 crews working simultaneously. BS enquired about the program for erection. FL explained, referring to the map. BS asked about the double lines and whether they would be strung at the same time. Confirmed, yes. BS stated that it would be helpful to see a final layout map that shows where all the towers are located. Referred to map on website: https://www.acerez.com.au/resources, under post-approval document library. For ease, link would be shared. BS commented on the cumulative impacts of traffic movements on the community of the Wollar Village, especially by the trucks from the Bylong Gravel, asking if ACEREZ will still be procuring product for its project from this facility. RM advised possibly if product is needed and Bylong Gravel suits its needs then they would be engaged to supply the aggregate. BS advised that there are other projects using gravel and would like to know what the tonnage is allowed under the site's regional license, where it is going and who is maintaining the road.

7.1	Community engagement update	KL	• Presentation included:
			  ○ Hosting five ACEREZ Community Grants Program information sessions.
			  ○ Sponsoring and attending events, including the Dunedoo Show, Gulgong Show, Mudgee Show and a drop-in session in Cassilis using the Community Information Van.
			  ○ Upcoming events (Wellington Show, Dubbo Show, Henry Lawson Heritage Festival, Art Unlimited Exhibition & Leadville Community Markets).
			  ○ Update on the ACEREZ Community Grants Program Round 1.
			  ○ ACEREZ School Education Program (The REZource Force).
			Questions were asked throughout the presentation, including:
			DT enquired if ACEREZ was going to attend the Mudgee Field Days. KL responded, yes in July. ACEREZ is continuing its presence at local shows.
			KR asked the total monetary amount of applications received for the grants program. KL advised applications are still being assessed, however, he was pleased with the number of applications received from Dunedoo and surrounding areas.

7.2	Industry & Aboriginal participation	SM	• Presentation included: ○ Statistical information on the workforce profile, including Aboriginal participation

- Headcount, full-time equivalents, gender ratio, targets against project workforce and reporting number of placements.
- Local workforce and supplies (local employment outcomes via LGAs)
- Training and local engagement (including Dunedoo Try-a-Trade day)
- Quarterly events & engagement (Try-a-Trade day at Mudgee High School, NASCA's Western Young Women Academies Career Expo & RDA Orana Youth Forum 2026).
- Guyulgang Futures program (upcoming participant and host employer information sessions at Dubbo Western Plains Cultural Centre & Wellington Senior Citizens Centre)

Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation:

JH enquired whether there was much turnover with staff. SM responded that movements are fairly stable. JH raised concern that apprentices employed would lose their jobs when no longer required and therefore will be unable to finish their apprenticeships. SM advised that ACEREZ had completed research for programs in delivery, there were a significant number of businesses advertising for apprentices. SM confirmed training providers and apprenticeship organisations support apprentices to find employment as well. Given the demand, SM was confident apprentices will retain jobs or be able to move to another employer in the region.

PR asked, given the low number of the suppliers coming from UHSC, what can be done to improve these numbers. SM advised that ICN packages have been sent to all LGAs and business chambers with links to encourage local businesses to get involved.

	LUNCH BREAK		**Members broke for lunch at 11.50am. Meeting recommenced at 12.14pm.**
8	EnergyCo update 8.1 – Telecommunications Uplift Program	JY/CJ	• Provided a "Commercial in Confidence" presentation/program overview on EnergyCo's proposed Telecommunications Uplift Program including three proposed sub streams: Connectivity Uplift Program, Smart Farming Program and LEO Satellite Program. • Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation. • Discussions on working with NSW Telco providers, NM commented that new services are emerging through Amazon to supersede SkyMuster. Options currently being considered, such as NBN, Wireless Towers, Fibre to Node or Fibre to Premises. DT asked how people could inform providers of suggested locations. JY provided details of landholders providing access to their property, access to existing infrastructure, etc. **Action: DT to provide location of existing infrastructure/telephone exchange to AR.**

8.2	Port to REZ	AR	• Presented a progress update:
			  ○ 3 upgrades complete
			  ○ 10 upgrades to be completed soon
			  ○ Remaining 6 upgrades and 6 pullover bays to be completed in late 2026
			  ○ Completion of P2R sites (Mayfield West & Mt Thorley)
			  ○ P2R sites nearing completion (9 locations)
			  ○ P2R sites to be completed in Q3/Q4 2026 (6 pullover bays)
			Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.
			JH raised concerns with the cumulative impacts from the OSOMs and the need for planning movements in a safe manner. AR advised that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are currently looking at this. Update to be provided at the next CRG meeting. **Action: Provide update at next meeting.**
			Discussions on the location of layover areas adjacent to landholders. Property owners understand the need for the layovers, but some have concerns whether the appropriateness of locations, length and visibility impacts have been considered. AR advised that conversations are continuing with landholders to obtain the best outcome.

8.3	Newcastle Logistics Precinct	AR	• Presented on EnergyCo's proposed development of the Newcastle Logistics Precinct, located next to the Port of Newcastle. • Construction of up to 25ha of hardstand and internal roads to assist with loading and storage of renewable energy equipment. • Scoping Report (lodged March 2025); exhibition expected mid-2026 and construction scheduled for 2027.

8.4	Community engagement update	AR	• Advised of regular interface, reporting and engagement with EWON & Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.
			• Social Impact Management (SIM) Plan:
			  ○ Quarterly Reporting
			  ○ Community Attitudes Annual Sentiment Survey now open
			• AR thanked members for their commitment to their communities and ongoing working relationships.
			• AH advised that EnergyCo is currently reviewing the Terms of Reference for this CRG, including remuneration request.

9	General business	LA	• JH requested that a future meeting be held at the Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation site. **Action.** • DT enquired about the fixed camera at the railway crossing at Barneys Reef. RM explained that it takes photos of traffic movements to assist in identifying workers/sub-contractors using this crossing, which is not the approved route. DT asked what happens with the photographs. **Action: RM took on notice.** • BS spoke of the Traffic Management Strategy on the website, which does not include the movements to the east of Wollar. Stating that the damage to the road is significant between Wollar and the Bylong Quarry. Motorists have to drive in the middle of the road, which is a huge safety issue. The Progress Association has taken photos and written to the Roads Minister, MWRC requesting action. Wanting to know who is responsible. JH commented that the main issue that the community is upset about is transport. **Action: AR to provide a copy of the approved transport routes for Wollar.** • LA advised that following the review of the existing Terms of Reference for this CRG, a report has been submitted to ACEREZ/EnergyCo for their consideration. LA advised that advertising for EOI for the next Term of the CRG (2026-2028) should commence next week. Noting that the term may extend past 2028 to marry up with the completion of construction of the project. All existing members will be invited to re-apply. **Action: LA to send revised ToR to CRG members with recruitment information.** • LA thanked all members for their commitment representing their communities during this term.
10	Next meeting		• TBC
11	Meeting close	LA	• Meeting closed at 1.15 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Comments / updates	Status
1	Spreadsheet outlining current status of all project approval Management Plans	KL	Before next meeting	All Management Plans have been approved. No further update will be provided as all required Management Plans are approved and published on https://www.acerez.com.au/resources, under *Post-approval document library*.	Closed
2	Follow-up with Squadron Energy about the timing of its OSOM to Uungula Wind Farm	AR	Completed during meeting		Closed
3	Provide location of potential telecommunications tower	DT	Next Meeting		
4	Planning of OSOM by Transport for NSW	AR	Next Meeting		
5	Hold future CRG meeting at the Merotherie Accommodation Camp	KL	When possible		
6	Provide approved transport route for Wollar area	AR	Next Meeting		

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Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Reference Group

5 May 2026
Country Universities Centre, Mudgee & Online

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Acknowledgement of Country

Agenda

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1. Welcome and introduction
2. Acknowledgment of CRG members
3. ACEREZ project update
    - Project construction – Tung Pham/Pablo Alvarez
    - Community engagement – Kee Li
    - Industry and Aboriginal participation – Sonja Malcolm/Trista Taylor

Lunch break

4. EnergyCo update
    - Port to REZ – Liz Sacco
    - Community engagement update – Alicia Rados
5. General business
    - CRG new term and application process

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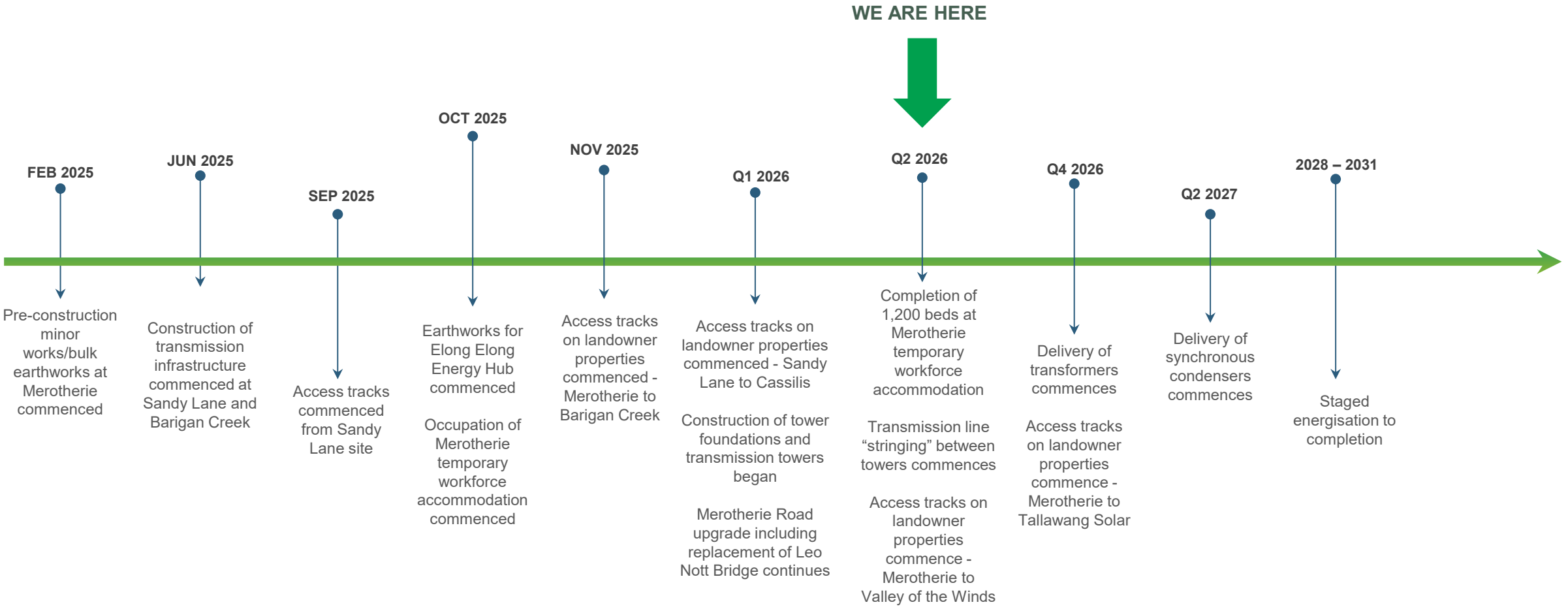
ACEREZ project update

Indicative construction timeline



Key project milestone – first transmission tower

A major construction milestone was achieved with the successful completion of the project's first transmission tower, erected near the Sandy Lane Energy Hub. This is a landmark moment for the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project, representing the progression from earthworks and foundation preparation to above-ground infrastructure.

How the tower was built

The tower was constructed using a detailed pre-assembly and crane-lifting process:

- The tower was pre-assembled in 19 separate sections on the ground before being erected
- Each section was fabricated from structural steel components
- Once assembled, each section was sequentially lifted into position by crane
- Weighing in at around 55 tonnes, the 70m structure comprises 2,862 steel components held together by more than 6,250 bolts

The project's first 500kV transmission tower, erected near the Sandy Lane Energy Hub (March 2026)

Key project milestone – first transmission tower

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Time-lapse video of first tower erection

Key project milestone – first transmission tower

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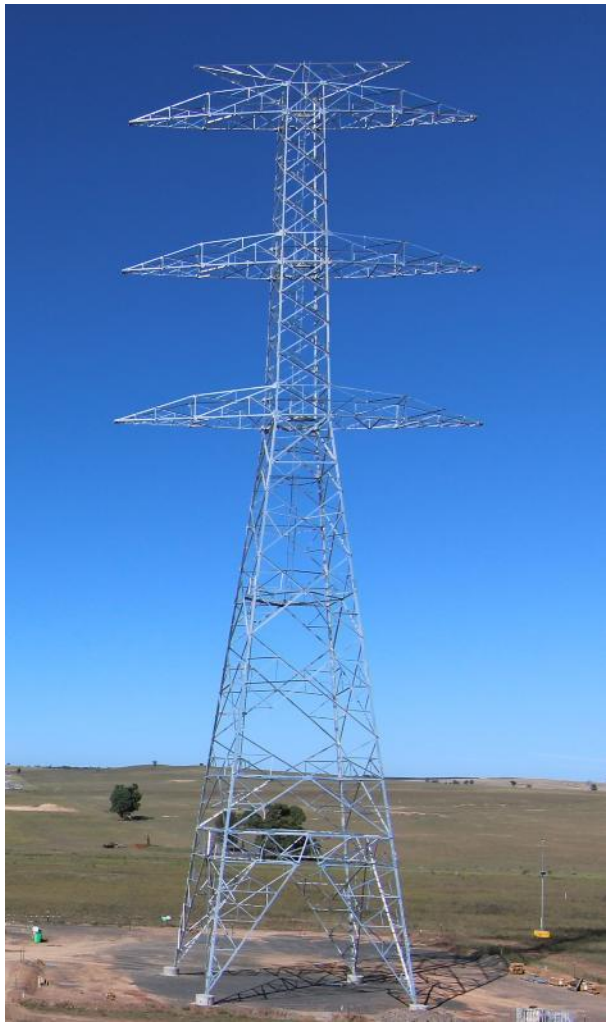
What comes next

Completion of the first 500kV tower marks the start of the tower erection phase across the transmission line alignment. Ongoing and upcoming tower-related works include:

- Continuing piling of tower foundations along the alignment, including ground investigations where required
- Continuing construction of access tracks and tower pads, including vegetation clearing, on agreed private properties along the alignment
- Pre-assembly and erection of additional transmission towers progressively along the route
- Utilities relocation and protection works alongside tower construction
- Ongoing liaison with landowners prior to any work commencing on their property



The first 500kV transmission tower was completed near the Sandy Lane Energy Hub (March 2026)

Construction activities – Merotherie and Sandy Lane

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Work in February, March & April:

- Delivery of machinery, equipment, materials and temporary accommodation units
- Installation of accommodation units, associated facilities and site utilities
- Water treatment plant commissioned and operational
- Construction of internal roads, laydown area, plant workshop and access gates
- Bulk earthworks to prepare the energy hub site for construction
- Piling of foundations for energy hub infrastructure and transmission towers
- Ground and utilities investigations
- Completion of the first two 500kV gantry towers standing 30m tall and weighing 10 tonnes each

Sandy Lane Energy Hub site

Construction activities – Merotherie and Sandy Lane

Temporary workforce accommodation

- Project workers continue to use the temporary workforce accommodation in Merotherie as the remaining facilities at the site are completed
- The permanent kitchen, dining hall, reception and gym facilities are now open
- The temporary workforce accommodation is expected to have capacity for up to 1,200 workers by end of Q2 to support construction of the energy hubs, transmission lines and related infrastructure

Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation

Construction activities – Barigan Creek

Work in February, March & April included:

- Delivery of machinery, equipment and materials for piling scope and substation components
- Piling foundations for switching station infrastructure
- Establishment of the laydown area and installation of dome shelters
- Construction of drainage, internal roads and hardstands

Barigan Creek Switching Station site

Construction activities – Elong Elong

Work in February, March & April included:

- Installation and commissioning of temporary site offices
- Bulk earthworks continued to prepare the site for energy hub infrastructure construction
- Completion of temporary laydown areas for storage of construction materials and machinery
- Temporary relocation and protection of existing transmission lines and supports

Elong Elong Energy Hub site

Construction activities – transmission line

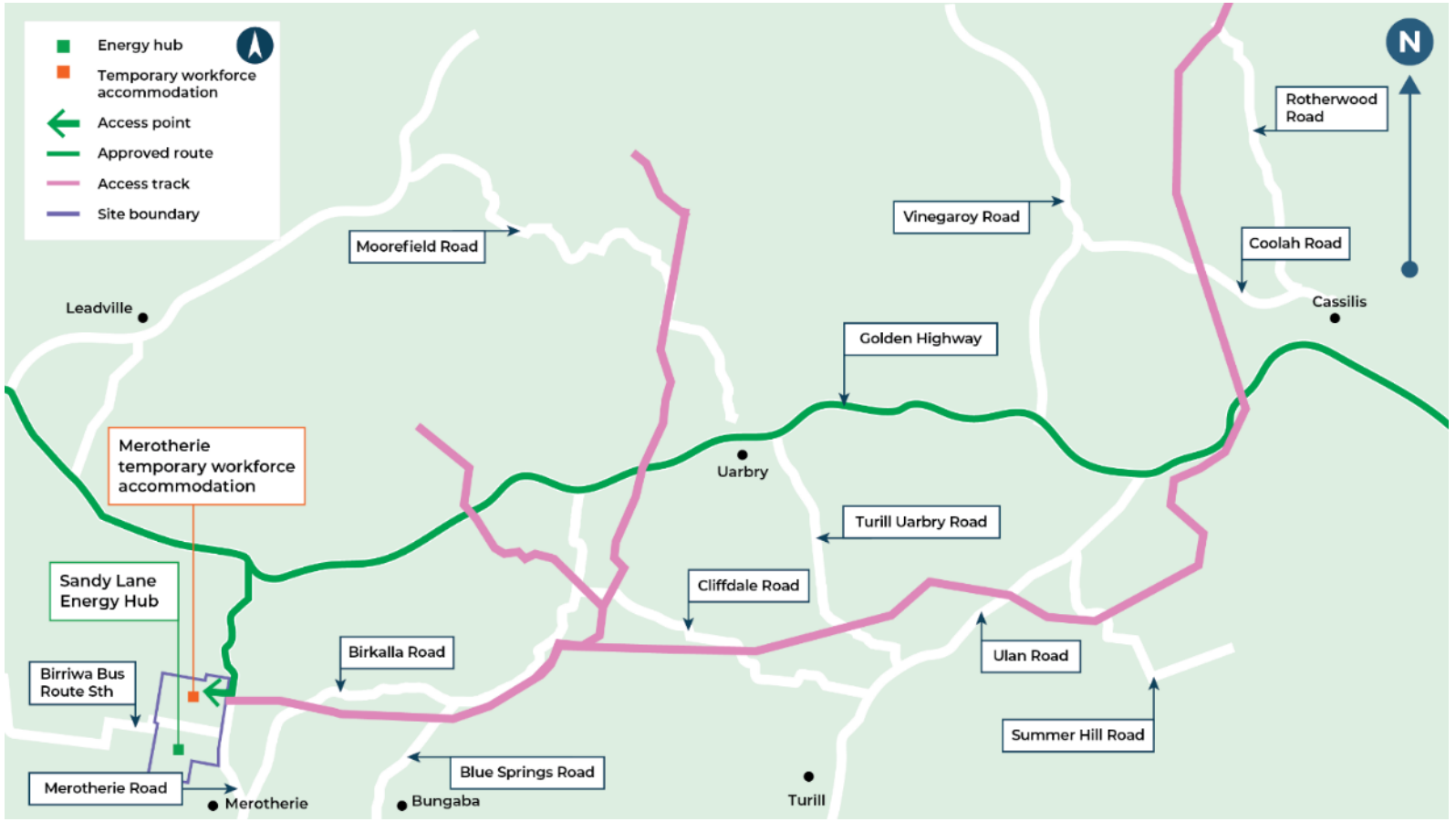
Transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane towards Cassilis

Work continues from Sandy Lane Energy Hub towards Cassilis.

There are approximately 270 transmission towers within this alignment.

Work within the alignment includes:

- Survey works
- Fencing and gate alterations
- Vegetation clearing
- Land cut and fill operations
- Bulk earthworks
- Construction of access tracks
- Excavation of tower foundations
- Tower ground earthing installation

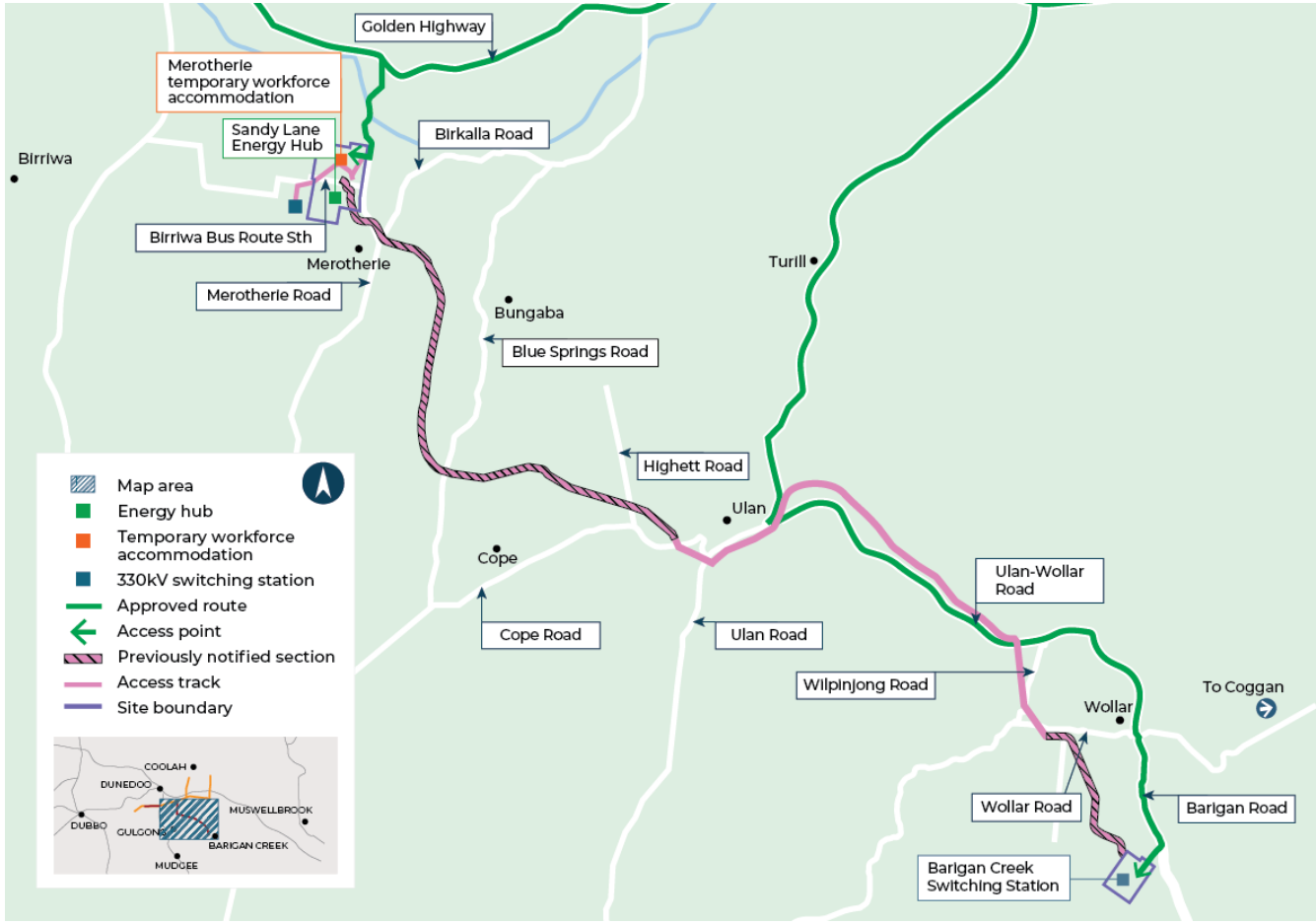


Work area map

Construction activities – transmission line

Transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek

- ACEREZ is continuing to establish access tracks from Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek Switching Station within the easement on private properties to prepare for the construction of foundations and the erection of transmission towers
- There are approximately 260 transmission towers within this alignment. Maximum vehicle movement allowed per day along transmission lines is 342 in accordance with the project's EIS
- We will continue to notify the community as work progresses to further sections within the easement alignment



Work area map

Merotherie Road upgrade

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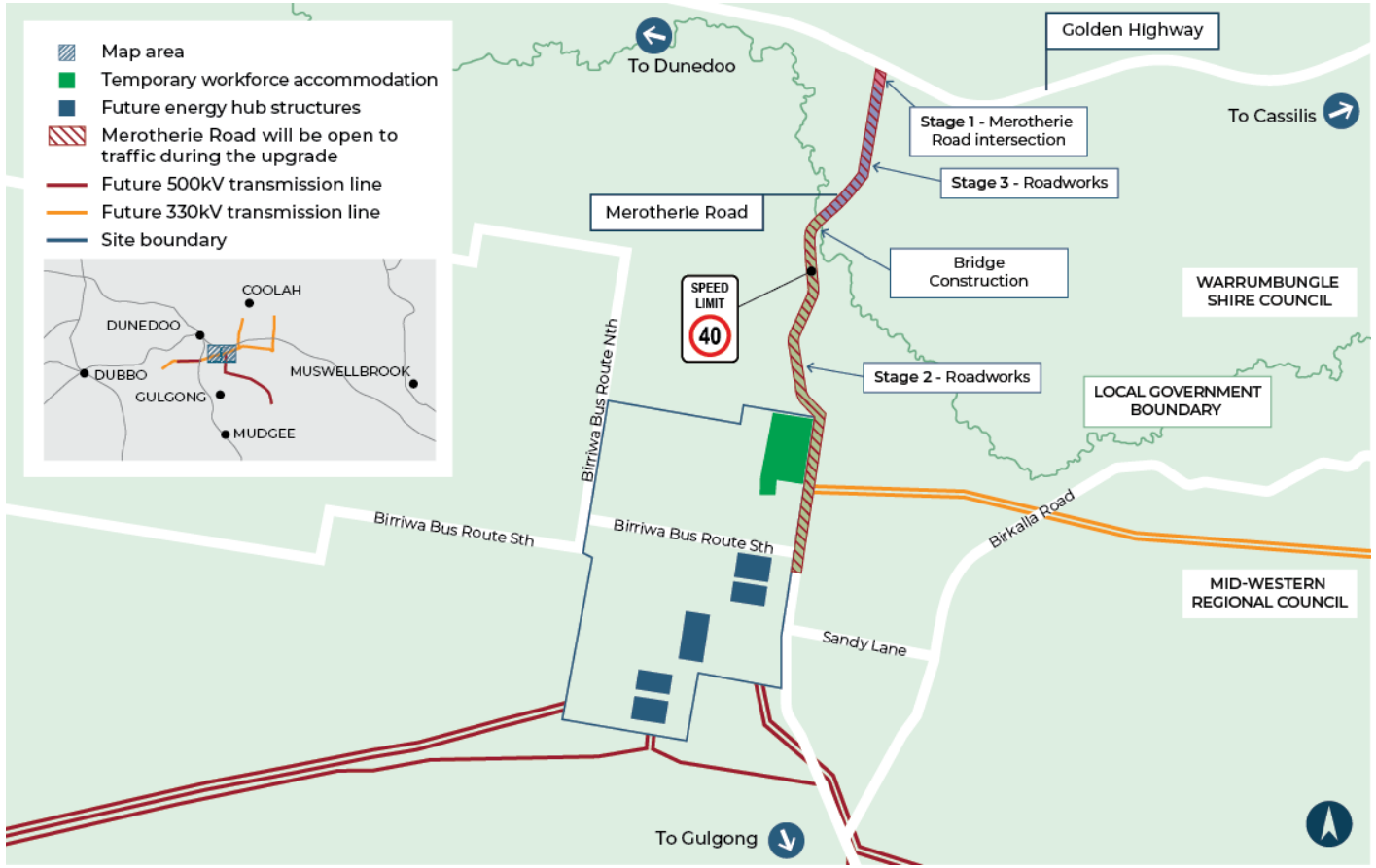
- Work continues on the upgrade of Merotherie Road from the intersection with Golden Highway to approximately 300 metres south of Birriwa Bus Route South
- The upgrade will create a sealed, two-lane road, and includes construction of the new Leo Nott Bridge over the Talbragar River
- The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 (weather and site conditions permitting)
- Merotherie Road remains open throughout with stop-go traffic control in place

What to expect:

- Temporary stop-go traffic control
- Reduced speed limit of 40km/h around the construction site
- Oversized plant and machinery within the construction site
- Water spray trucks will be used to reduce dust
- All relevant environmental controls will be in place during the work
- Access to Merotherie Road will be maintained at all times
- Safe access for cyclists will be maintained



Work area map

Merotherie Road upgrade

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Leo Nott Bridge

- The new Leo Nott Bridge is a single-span structure that reduces the risk of debris becoming trapped during a flood
- Environmental measures, including appropriate erosion and sediment controls, are in place and maintained throughout construction
- A soil conservationist has been engaged by the project to regularly inspect and review controls, while the work is also inspected monthly by the independent Environmental Representative

Leo Nott Bridge construction site

Upcoming road upgrades

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- ❑ **Ulan Road and Golden Highway intersection upgrade (WAD2)**
- ❑ **Blue Springs Roads and Golden Highway intersection upgrade (WAD2)**

Work is expected to commence in Q3 2026 (subject to approval) and will include new road surface, turning allowances, line marking and drainage.

ACEREZ will inform the community before starting the roadworks via:

- Community notifications
- Radio announcements, newspaper notices and Variable Message Signs (VMS)
- Face-to-face engagement with neighbouring landowners

Three-month lookahead – May to July 2026

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Project Wide

- Completion of 1,200 beds and the associated infrastructure at Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation
- Continuing work on Merotherie Road upgrade and the Leo Nott Bridge replacement
- Commencement of road upgrades on the Ulan Road intersection and Blue Springs Road intersection, including new access gates (subject to approval)

Energy Hubs

- Continuing earthworks to prepare for construction at the Sandy Lane and Elong Elong Energy Hubs
- Continuing piling of foundations at Sandy Lane Energy Hub and Barigan Creek Switching Station
- Pre-assembly and construction of steel gantries at Sandy Lane and Barigan Creek

330kV Switching Stations

- Ongoing earthworks (including clearing on private land) to prepare for construction of the Birriwa, Uarbry East, Sandy Creek and Cobbora Switching Stations
- Preparation for the installation of site utilities, offices, prefabricated buildings, casting for foundation works and slabs

Transmission Lines

- Continuing transmission tower pre-assembly and construction
- Continuing construction of tower foundations between Merotherie and Barigan Creek
- Commencement of access tracks from Merotherie to Cassilis and Elong Elong
- Commencement of access tracks, including vegetation clearing, between Merotherie and Valley of the Winds

Community engagement

ACEREZ is proud to be involved in the community, hosting five ACEREZ Community Grants Program information sessions in February, and sponsoring and attending a range of events including the Dunedoo Show, Gulgong Show, Mudgee Show and a drop-in session at Erika's Bread Bar in Cassilis.

Upcoming community events:

Date	Event	Location
16 May	Wellington Show	Showground Rd, Wellington
22-24 May	Dubbo Show	Dubbo Showground
6 June	Henry Lawson Heritage Festival	Main St, Gulgong
20-21 & 27-28 June	Art Unlimited Exhibition	Dunedoo
21 June	Leadville Community Markets	Leadville Community Hall

Community Information Van in Cassilis

ACEREZ Community Grants Program Round 1

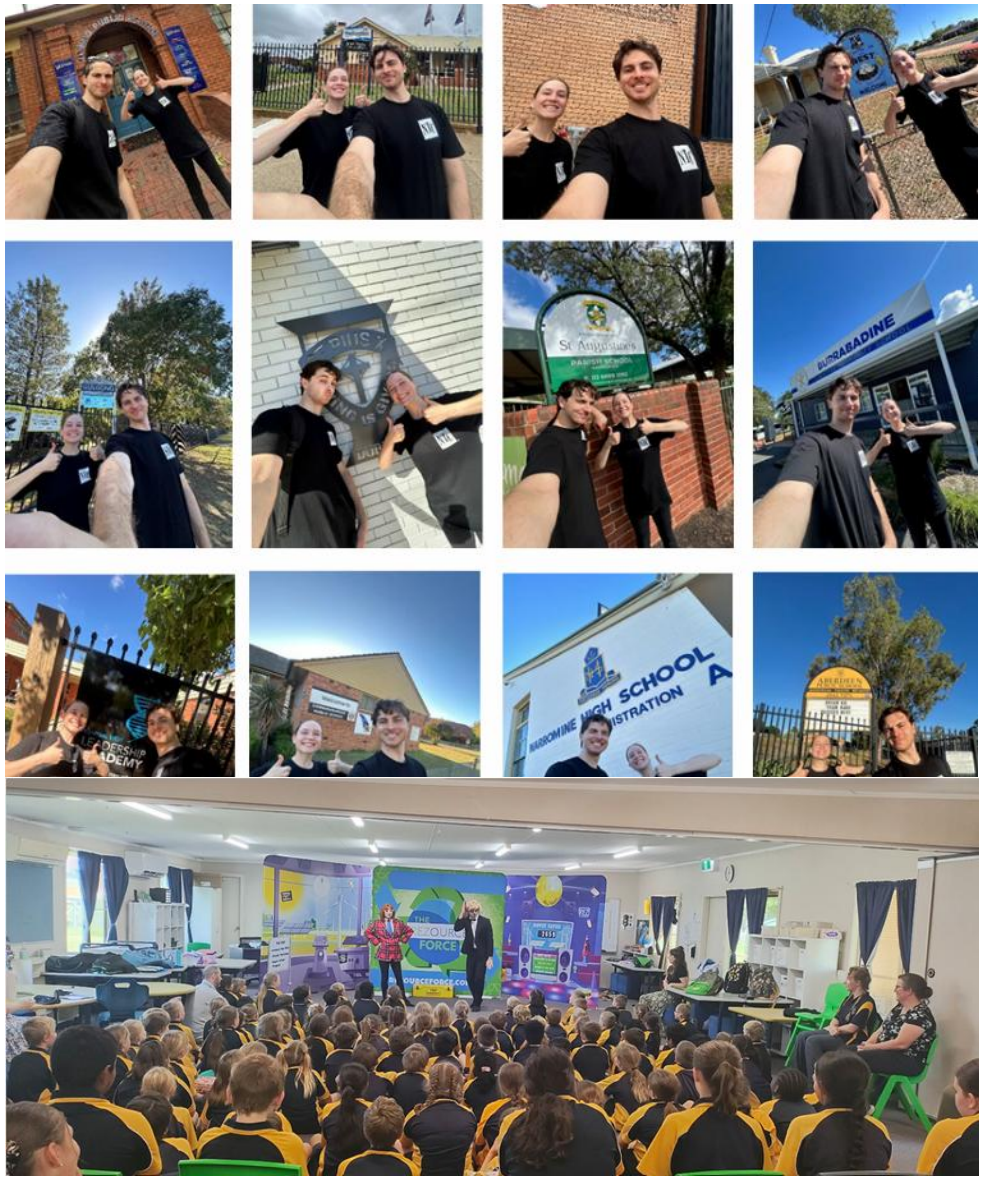
Applications for Round 1 of the ACEREZ Community Grants Program are now closed.

- Round 1 applications closed on 17 April, with some impressive applications received
- 55 community members or organisations were supported throughout the application process by the ACEREZ free grant writing service
- The free grant writing service received positive feedback as the first of its kind in the region, providing accessible, tailored assistance that has enhanced the quality and quantity of grant applications received from the community
- ACEREZ is assessing all eligible applications and will inform successful applicants in June 2026

ACEREZ School Education Program

Term 1 2026

- Our education program – The REZource Force – toured 13 Central-West Orana schools during the first term of the year
- 93% of teachers rated the overall educational value of the program
- 93% of teachers rated the ability of live theatre to increase students' capacity for retaining educational content
- 88% of teachers reported using the educational website (www.rezourceforce.com.au)
- 100% of teachers reported wanting the program to return to their schools



Industry and Aboriginal participation – Workforce profile

Project workforce				Gender ratio			
Headcount	1769	Full time equivalent (FTE)	844		Women 15%	Men 83%	Prefer not to say 2%

Targets against Project Workforce (FTE)	Target	Performance	FTE Number
Learning Workers A worker with or without qualifications, who needs to gain qualifications or skills to meet the needs of the infrastructure project	43%	55%	462
Young People < 25	8%	8%	68
Underrepresented Groups A demographic group that is not proportionately represented in various industries or fields	15%	47.5%	401
2% Aboriginal FTE employment opportunities	2%	4.2%	35

Targets against Trades Workforce (FTE)	Target	Performance	FTE Number
Trades workforce on site	NA	NA	29
Apprentices	25%	53%	15
Women	2%	7%	2

Reporting number of placements	
Trainees	5
Graduates	24
Work experience placements	5

Industry and Aboriginal participation – Local workforce and suppliers

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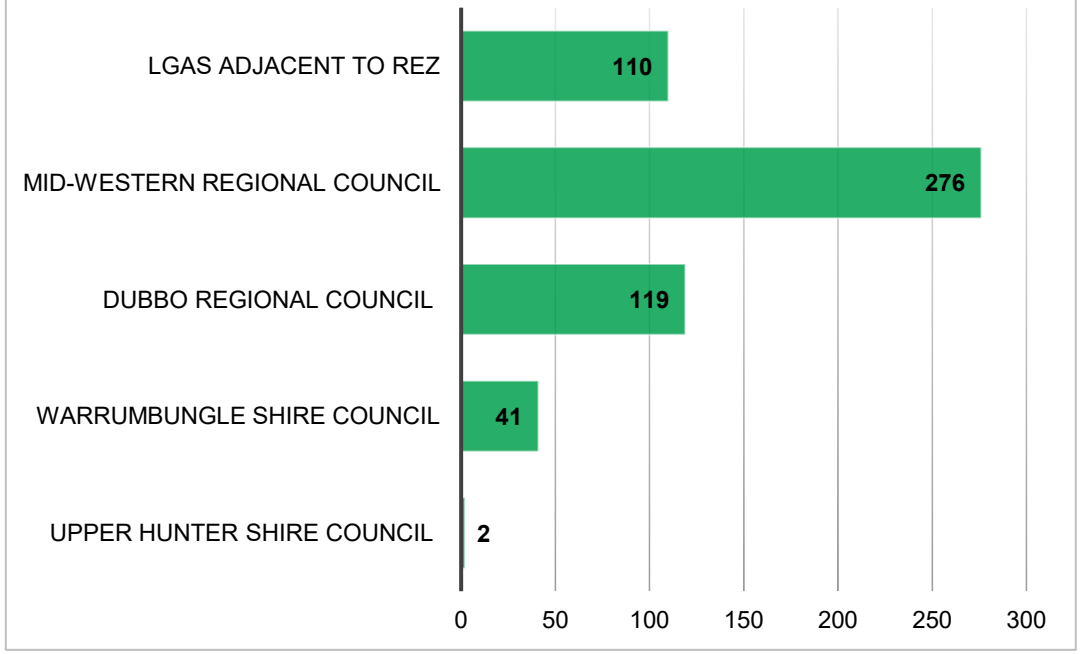
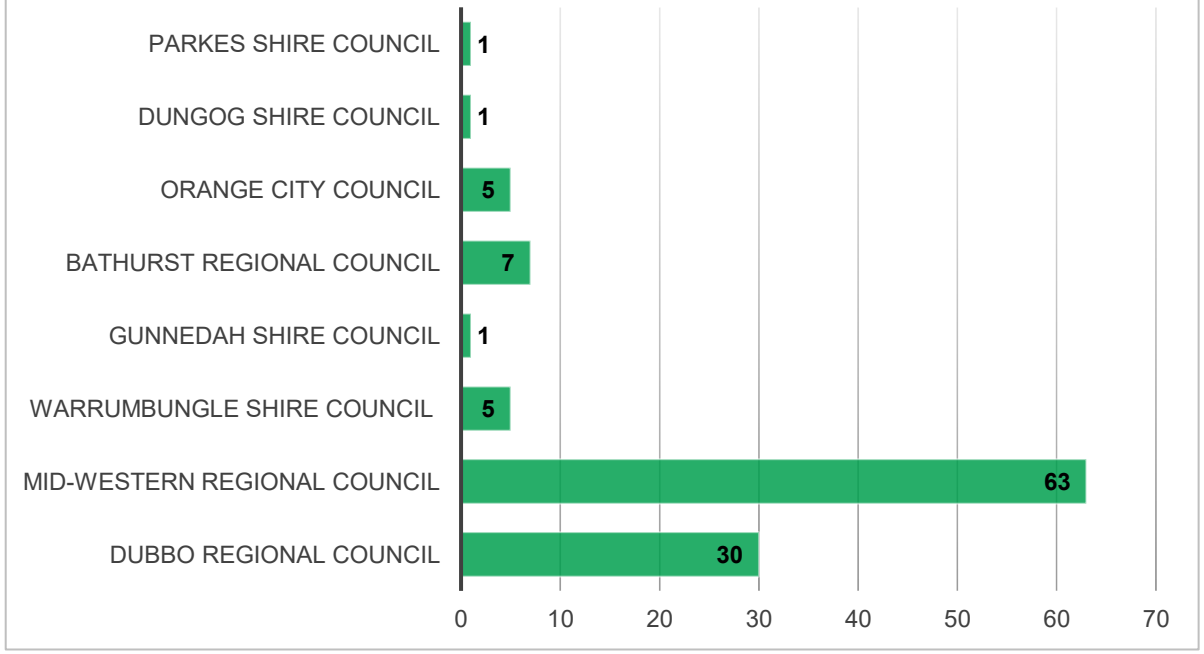
Reporting % against Project Workforce headcount

Local employment outcomes (percentage of the workforce who are local to the REZ and adjacent LGAs)	31%	548

Local Workforce



Local Suppliers



Data sourced March 2026 reporting period

Industry and Aboriginal participation – Training and local engagement

Training

- 519 locals have now completed workplace training programs, up from previous quarters. Training has covered project inductions, cultural awareness, first aid, safety and mobile plant operations, rural fire services bushfire awareness training, and chain of responsibility training.

Dunedoo Try-a-Trade day

- On 24 March 2026 ACEREZ participated in the Dunedoo Try-a-Trade day, attended by about 90 students from Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran Central Schools
- Mia, a sustainability graduate, and Amy, a plant operator, spoke about their different pathways into the industry via a graduate program and a traineeship
- Hosted by Dunedoo Central School, the day also featured an ACEREZ competition involving students building an electrical circuit to power a light and launch a fan

Industry and Aboriginal participation – Training and local engagement

Quarterly events and engagement

ACEREZ will be attending the following events to increase awareness of the types of roles and career opportunities on the project:

- **19 May**: Mudgee Try-A-Trade Day, Mudgee High School
- **23 June**: NASCA's Western Young Women Academies Career Expo
- **Q3 2026**: RDA Orana Youth Forum 2026

Guyulgang Futures program

Guyulgang Futures (Strong Futures)

Aunty Iris, a Traditional Owner and Elder of the Wiradjuri Nation who is fluent in language, supported the naming of this program. Guyulgang means to be “very strong” or “enduring”.

The Guyulgang Futures Program aims to create sustainable employment pathways for Aboriginal peoples, women and job seekers in the Wellington and Dubbo regions.

Delivered in partnership with Skillset, Yilabara and Orange College, the program addresses local workforce shortages in residential construction trades.

Guyulgang Futures delivers more than training; the program weaves in technical skills with communication, team building, mental health awareness and life-work skills, all delivered in a culturally safe and supported environment.

Guyulgang Futures program

ACEREZ
the future of renewable energy

Participant and host employer information sessions can be booked via Eventbrite here: Guyulgang Futures by ACEREZ | Eventbrite, or via the QR code.

Location: Dubbo Western Plains Cultural Centre

Session for program participants

- Monday 11 May
- 10am to 12.30pm

Session for host employers

- Monday 11 May
- 4pm to 5.30pm

Location: Wellington Senior Citizens Centre

Session for program participants

- Wednesday 13 May
- 10am to 12.30pm

Session for host employers

- Wednesday 13 May
- 4pm to 5.30pm

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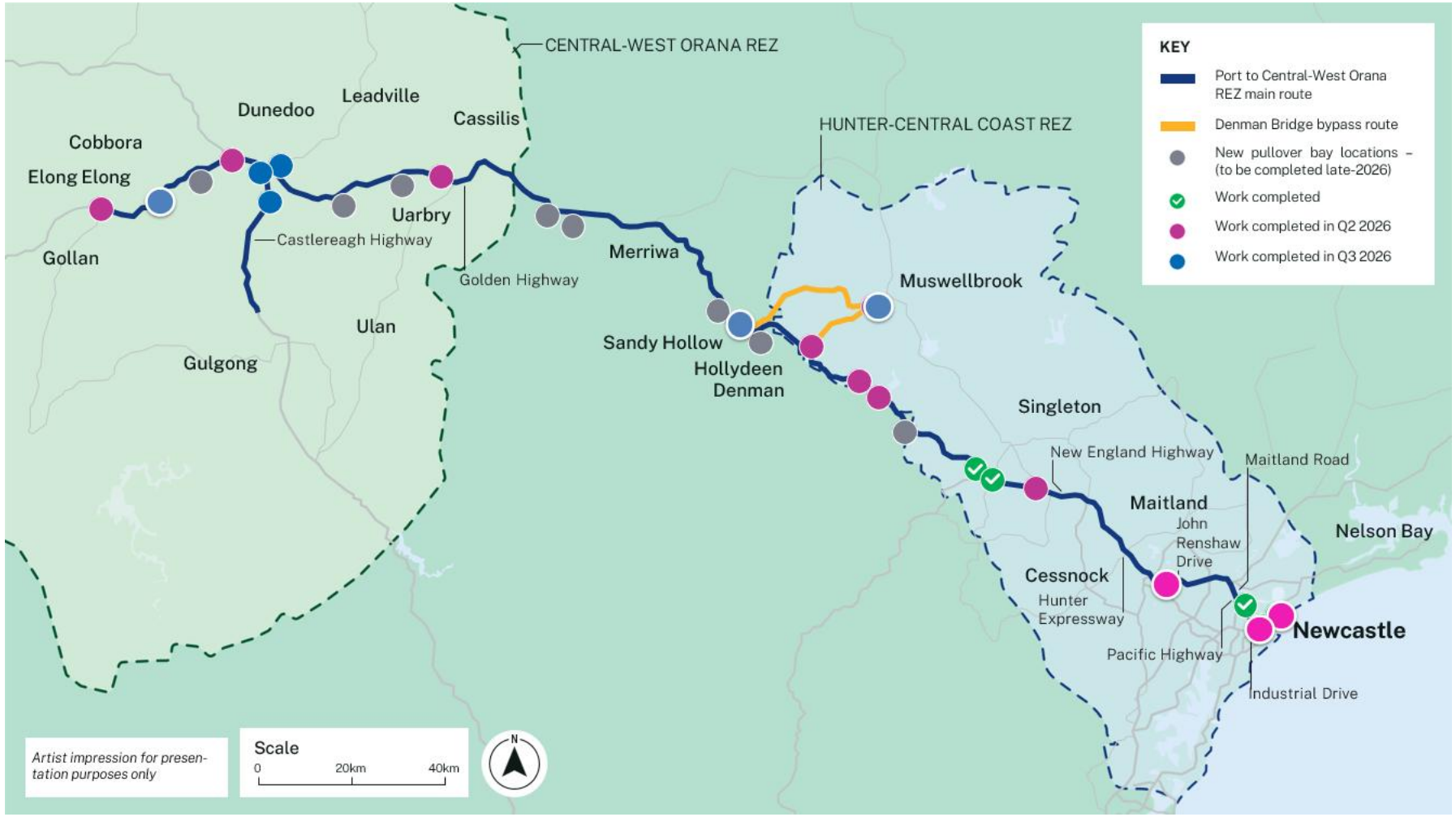
the future of renewable energy
Questions

EnergyCo CRG Update May 2026

Elisabeth Sacco, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Port to REZ Project Update

Port to REZ – Progress Update



- 3 upgrades complete
- 10 upgrades to be completed soon
- Remaining 6 upgrades and 6 pullover bays to be completed in late 2026
- View all upgrades on our interactive map

P2R sites complete

- Industrial Drive/Pacific Highway, Mayfield West
- Golden Highway (Mitchell Line of Road)/Putty Road, Mt Thorley
- Jerrys Plains Road/Putty Road, Mt Thorley

Left: Lonsdale Street, Jerrys Plain,- work nearing completion

P2R sites nearing completion

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo)

- Quayside Close/Selwyn Street, Mayfield North
- Industrial Drive/Selwyn Street/George Street, Mayfield North
- John Renshaw Drive onto Hunter Expressway eastbound exit ramp, Buchannan
- New England Highway/Mitchell Line of Road (Golden Highway), Whittingham
- Golden Highway/Londsdale Street/Pringle Street, Jerrys Plains (two upgrades at this location)
- Jerrys Plains Road (Golden Highway)/Denman Road, Denman
- Golden Highway and Vinegaroy Road, Cassilis
- Golden Highway and Saxa Road, Elong Elong
- Golden Highway and Bolaro Street, Dunedoo

Left: Vinegaroy Road/Golden Highway, Cassilis

P2R sites to be completed Q3/Q4 2026

- Denman Road/Bengalla Road, Muswellbrook
- Wybong Road and Golden Highway, Sandy Hollow
- Golden Highway/Black Stump Way, Leadville
- Barneys Reef Road and Castlereagh Highway, Birriwa
- Golden Highway/Castlereagh Highway, Dunedoo
- Golden Highway and Spring Ridge Road, Cobbora
- 6 pullover bays

Left: Barneys Reef Road/Golden Highway, Birriwa

Elisabeth Sacco, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Newcastle Logistics Precinct Project Update

Newcastle Logistics Precinct

- EnergyCo will develop the Newcastle Logistics Precinct, located next to the Port of Newcastle, to expand portside storage for vital equipment needed to build renewable energy projects
- Construction of up to 25Ha hardstand and internal roads for the unloading, loading and storage of materials and equipment for renewable energy developments
- Scoping report lodged in March 2025
- EIS exhibit scheduled for mid-2026
- Construction scheduled to start in 2027 with operations starting from 2028

NSW GOVERNMENT

Alicia Rados, Associate Director Community and Place

Community Engagement Update

Community Engagement Update

Reporting and engagement

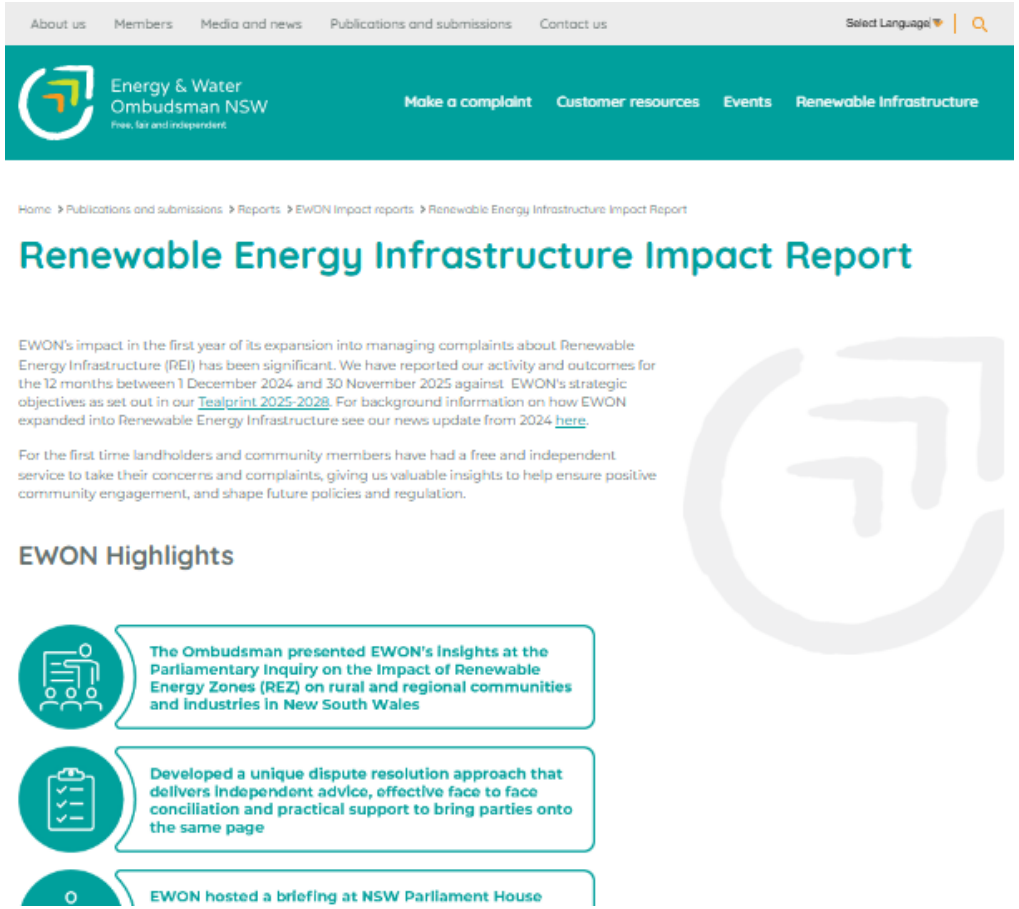
- EWON
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner

Social Impact Management (SIM) Plan

- Quarterly Reporting – 14 May 2026
- Community Attitudes Annual Sentiment Survey

Quarterly Pulse Survey

- Starting June 2026



Renewable Energy Infrastructure Impact Report - Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW