EnergyCo

August 2026

Aerial survey from Muswellbrook to Armidale commencing in September

EnergyCo is planning and designing the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). To inform that work, a helicopter flyover will be undertaken to collect visual reference data from Muswellbrook to Armidale commencing in early September 2026 for up to 10 days.

The flyover will be undertaken in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

Overview

EnergyCo is delivering the New England REZ to provide clean, affordable and reliable energy for everyone in NSW

The New England REZ will provide renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, wind farms and battery energy storage systems as well as transmission lines and energy hubs to connect these projects to electricity consumers.

What are we doing?

To support and inform the planning and design of the New England REZ, a helicopter will fly over the 1km-wide proposed transmission corridor from Muswellbrook to Armidale, to capture aerial video and photos. A map of the project's corridor is available on the engagement portal – www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez

Why are aerial surveys needed?

NSW Government routinely uses aerial surveys, remote sensing, and visual documentation to plan, design, and manage public infrastructure and construction.

Aerial surveys provide our project team with a broad view of the 1km-wide corridor. This work will allow large areas to be assessed safely and efficiently while minimising disturbance to landholders and the surrounding environment.

The footage and imagery collected during the flyover will allow us to:

- better understand the terrain and topological conditions
- identify environmental and land-use features
- review vegetation and access constraints
- support engineering and design development
- inform environmental assessment and planning activities for the environmental impact statement.

Work hours and timing

The helicopter flyover is expected to take place over 10 days, commencing **1 September 2026** between the hours of 9am and 4pm.

As the survey is weather dependent, flight activities may be postponed or undertaken periodically as suitable weather conditions become available.

What will this mean for you?

Residents may notice temporary helicopter noise while the aircraft passes overhead.

The helicopter will be travelling at about 75km per hour and is not expected to remain over any single location for an extended period of time.

There will be no interruption to power supply, road access or property access as part of these activities.

Noise levels from the ground are expected to be around 77 decibels, which is similar to a household vacuum cleaner or light power tools in use nearby.

Managing our impacts

We are committed to minimising disruption to the community, and livestock, wherever possible. Thank you to landholders and community who provided feedback. To help reduce impacts, we will:

- use flight paths to minimise repeated passes where practicable
- undertake work during daytime hours
- comply with all aviation safety and operational requirements
- continue engaging with landholders about upcoming activities.

Safety management

The helicopter will generally operate at approximately 365 metres above ground level.

Flights will be conducted by a licensed aviation contractor in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements and applicable aviation safety regulations.

At the planned operating height, there is no requirement under applicable aviation regulations for EnergyCo to notify individual landholders before the helicopter flies over their property. However, we recognise that residents and landholders may notice the helicopter and want to understand what it is doing. We are therefore providing this notification to give the community advance notice of the planned activity.

Privacy considerations

The aerial footage and imagery captured during the flyover will be used solely for the purposes to support project planning, environmental assessment, engineering investigations and preparation of the EIS.

Is EnergyCo allowed to undertake aerial surveys over private land?

Yes. Aircraft operating in Australian airspace may lawfully fly over private property provided they comply with applicable aviation laws, regulations and approvals.

Are people or private activities being monitored?

No. The survey is focused on capturing broad corridor and landscape information. EnergyCo is not undertaking surveillance of individuals, and the imagery is not being collected for the

purpose of identifying people or monitoring private activities.

Contact us

For more information, you can get in touch with our team by calling **1800 061 114** (toll-free) or by emailing **nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au.**

You can read more about the New England REZ by visiting www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 061 114.**