Field work from Muswellbrook to Armidale from October to December 2026

September 2026

EnergyCo is continuing investigations from Muswellbrook to Armidale, to inform our planning of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

Overview

EnergyCo is delivering the New England REZ to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW.

Delivery of the New England REZ involves building:

- renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, wind farms and battery energy storage systems
- transmission lines and energy hubs to connect these projects to electricity consumers
- road upgrades, including local roads, to help transport large renewable energy equipment from the Port of Newcastle to the New England REZ, as part of the Port to REZ program.

What are we doing?

To support and inform the planning and design of the New England REZ, a program of field investigations has been underway since February 2026. These investigations will continue from October through to December 2026, and include geotechnical investigations, surveys and site inspections.

This also supports the Port to REZ program, which is investigating road upgrades needed to transport large renewable energy equipment safely from the Port of Newcastle to the New England REZ.

Field work will take place from Muswellbrook to Armidale, **including Aberdeen, Rouchel, Gundy, Pages Creek, Barry, Niangala, Walcha, Bendemeer, Moonbi, Uralla and Rocky River.**

Most of these investigations will be carried out in publicly accessible areas, such as road reserves. **Where investigations need to be carried out on private property, we will consult with landowners directly to arrange access.**

Activities may include:

- visual inspections, topographic and cadastral surveys
- location and survey of utilities which may require potholing
- ecological surveys
- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging, involves driving a specialist vehicle on public roads to create a 3D representation of the landscape)
- geotechnical and contamination investigations
- heritage inspections
- noise monitoring
- traffic counting.

More information on these investigations and how they are undertaken can be found at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne, including our field investigations fact sheet.

Work hours and timing

Work will generally take place between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Some work, such as traffic counting and fauna surveys, may take place outside standard hours to ensure we capture all relevant data. These activities are typically low impact.

What will this mean for you?

Work near public roads

You may see workers carrying out investigations in road reserves, but there will be minimal impact to road users.

Traffic counting cameras are used to count passing traffic only. The devices and field view are configured to monitor vehicle movements in the roadway. Facial recognition cannot be obtained from the cameras as they do not record to a high enough resolution.

To protect workers and road users, traffic control measures may be in place for short periods, including at night to minimise impacts on traffic during busier times. These activities will be low impact. Please keep to the speed limits and follow the direction of traffic controllers and signs.

For the latest traffic updates, you can download the Live Traffic NSW app, visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.

Work on private property

We will seek permission before accessing any private property for field investigations. We will work directly with landowners to comply with any biosecurity measures or other special conditions of entry.

Managing our impacts

We aim to manage our work to minimise impacts to the community and the environment. Noise from these activities is expected to be minimal. Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

Contact us

For more information, you can get in touch with our team by calling **1800 061 114** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) or by emailing **nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au**.

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

Stay informed about our work

We share information about our field work activities on our website, through local advertising and regular email updates to registered subscribers.

Visit our website or reach out to our team if you would like to register for email updates. You can unsubscribe at any time.

We welcome feedback on how we keep you informed about our work.