

Transporting energy equipment to the New England REZ

New England Renewable Energy Zone

April 2025

EnergyCo is delivering the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) network infrastructure project to provide a clean, affordable and reliable power supply for energy consumers across NSW.

EnergyCo and Transport for NSW are working together to investigate upgrades to road intersections and pinch-points to allow large components to be moved safely across the road network to renewable energy projects.

The first stage being delivered includes 19 intersection upgrades between the Port of Newcastle and the Central West Orana REZ. EnergyCo is now planning the road upgrades required to unlock access to the New England REZ.

Overview

Delivery of the New England REZ involves:

- Building renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, wind farms and battery energy storage systems
- Building transmission lines and energy hubs to connect these projects to electricity consumers.

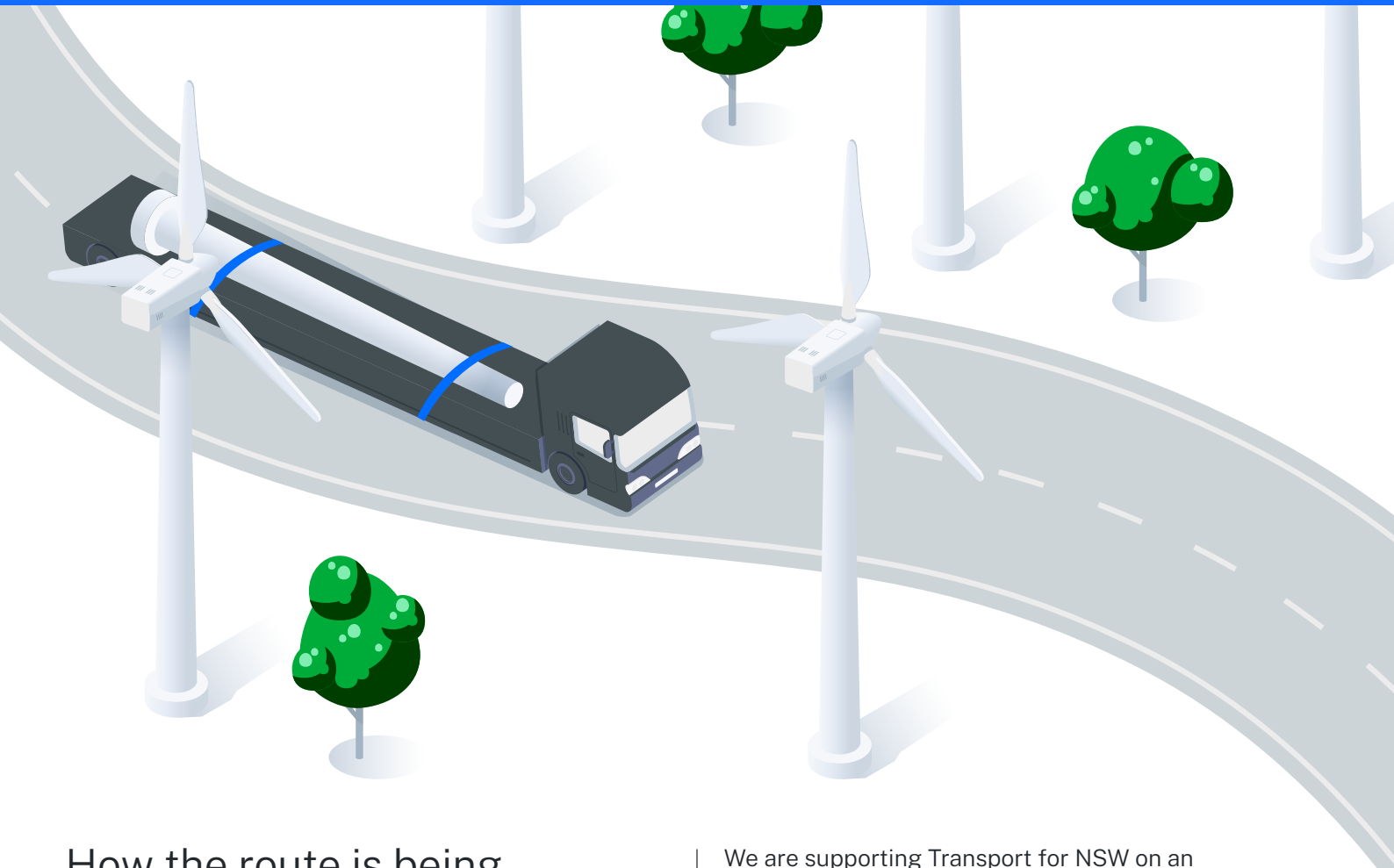
This requires the transportation of large components such as wind turbine blades and electrical transformers using oversize and over-mass (OSOM) vehicles.

EnergyCo, as the infrastructure planner, is planning the delivery of road upgrades in collaboration with Transport for NSW to enable OSOM deliveries to take place safely and with minimal disruption for communities and road users.

An OSOM route from the Port of Newcastle to Muswellbrook will operate as a common route for New England and Central-West Orana renewable energy projects and OSOM vehicles will follow the Hunter Expressway and Golden Highway to Denman.

OSOM vehicles travelling to the Central-West Orana REZ will continue via a Denman Bridge bypass to Elong-Elong. Upgrades along this route will be delivered in 2025 and can be viewed on the project website at energyco.nsw.gov.au.

OSOM vehicles travelling to the New England REZ will detour Muswellbrook and rejoin the New England Highway before continuing north towards the New England REZ.



How the route is being developed

Since early 2024, EnergyCo and Transport for NSW have been investigating the most suitable, low-impact OSOM route to unlock access from Muswellbrook to the New England REZ.

The route will include sections of the New England Highway and Oxley Highway, as well as some local roads.

We are working closely with local councils to understand road use and to seek feedback on route design options.

The design will consider options that minimise traffic impacts to Tamworth, Uralla, Walcha and Armidale town centres.

Coordinating OSOM deliveries

We understand that coordinating the timing and frequency of OSOM deliveries is critical to minimising disruption for road users and communities.

We are working closely with renewable energy project developers to coordinate the volume and frequency of OSOM vehicle movements during construction.

We are supporting Transport for NSW on an operational strategy which explains how this work will be coordinated and traffic impacts managed. This will consider local and regional road use. The strategy is being developed by Transport for NSW and will be shared with the community once the route is confirmed.

This project will:



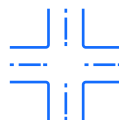
Reduce the impact on road users by building pullover bays and coordinating the timing of deliveries



Enable the safe delivery of large components essential to construct and operate renewable energy projects in the REZ



Be carried out in a well-planned and holistic manner to optimise efficiency and coordination



Improve pinch points and intersections along the OSOM route

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is the timing for OSOM vehicle movements?

Transportation of large renewable energy equipment will increase progressively along the OSOM route as construction begins in the REZ.

Construction of major solar, wind and storage projects with planned connections to the REZ network will start once projects are approved.

There are also several renewable energy projects that are planned to be delivered ahead of the New England REZ, meaning OSOM movements for those projects would start earlier. At this stage, we expect those to start in late 2026.

We are working closely with renewable energy project developers to coordinate the volume and frequency of OSOM vehicle movements during construction. We will keep the community updated as planning progresses and further details are finalised.

Q. How big are OSOM vehicles?

OSOM deliveries will use road freight vehicles and specialised trailers that can be between 30 and 100 metres long, depending on the equipment being transported.

These vehicles will be operated by transport specialists with significant experience in transporting OSOM loads.

Q. How big are the wind turbine blades?

Wind turbine blades vary in length with some exceeding 85 metres.

Q. Will local roads also be upgraded?

Yes. Since early 2024, EnergyCo and Transport for NSW have been investigating the most suitable, low impact OSOM route to unlock access from Muswellbrook to the New England REZ. The route will include sections of the New England Highway and Oxley Highway, as well as some local roads.

Individual renewable energy project developers will plan and manage OSOM vehicle movements for their respective projects, including upgrading local roads and connections between the OSOM route and their respective sites. The community will be invited to provide feedback as part of this process.

Additional frequently asked questions are available at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne



Oversize and over-mass vehicle



Status and next steps

From April 2025, field work will be carried out in the Tamworth area to inform route planning and any required road upgrades in the area. This will include environmental assessments, geotechnical and survey work.

Route planning and investigation work will continue through 2025 and 2026. For details about upcoming investigation work and community engagement activities, visit the New England REZ website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne.

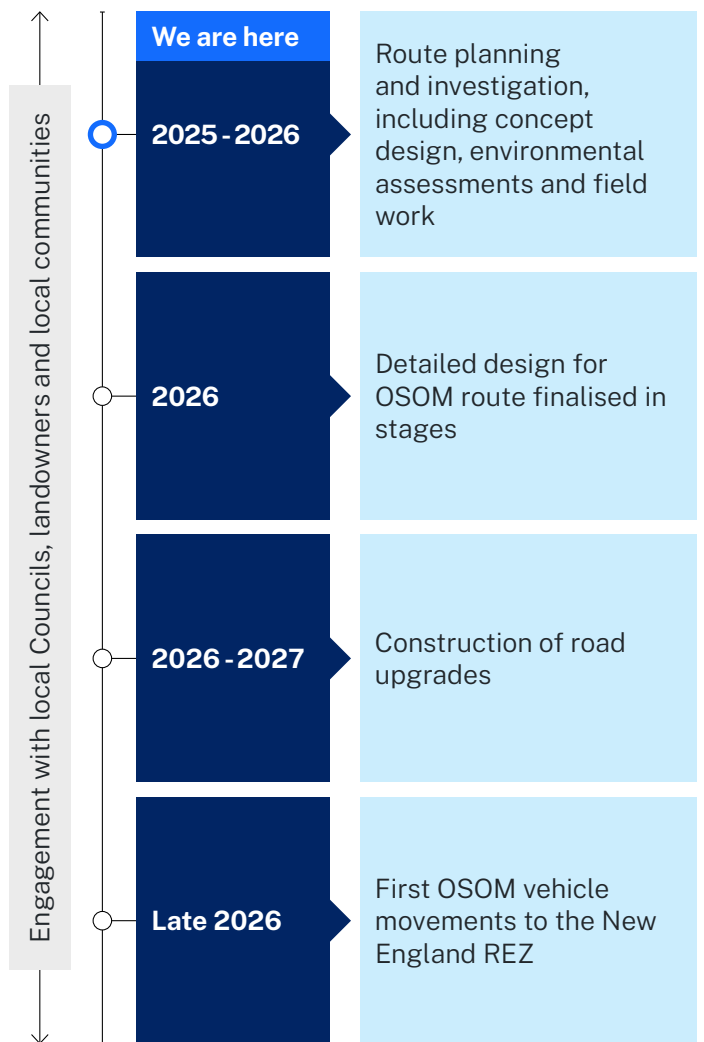
Road upgrades to unlock access to the New England REZ will be subject to a separate planning approval process to the New England REZ network infrastructure project. Subject to approvals, the program of road upgrades is expected to begin in 2026 and will be staged, starting in Muswellbrook and heading north.

Upgrades being delivered along the common route from Port of Newcastle to Muswellbrook will be delivered in 2025, and will include pavement widening, intersection upgrades and utility adjustments. Updates for this work can be found at energyco.nsw.gov.au.

We will engage with the community on an ongoing basis as we plan and deliver the road upgrades.




Project development timeline



Contact us

For more information about the New England REZ please get in touch:

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 1800 061 114 (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday)

 energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne-rez



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**.