

Half yearly community update

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

July 2026

EnergyCo acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Wiradjuri, Wailwan (also known as Weilwan and Wayilwan), and Gamilaroi (also known as Gamilaraay and Kamilaroi) countries. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all communities who also call the Central-West Orana home. We commit to respect the land we walk on and the communities we walk with.

Overview

The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is helping to deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy for NSW while creating lasting benefits for local communities.

As construction progresses, investment is supporting local jobs, businesses and community projects across the region.

This Community Update provides an overview of recent milestones, community initiatives, construction activity and opportunities to get involved.

It also highlights how EnergyCo is working with communities, landholders, Traditional Owners, industry and government agencies to ensure the benefits of the energy transition are shared across the Central-West Orana region.



Women in Construction Taster Program participants



New wheelchair accessible toilet and shower facilities at Binnaway Showground

Supporting communities through targeted investment

The Community and Employment Benefit Program is delivering direct benefits to communities across the Central-West Orana region, helping ensure they share in the opportunities created by the renewable energy transition.

With Stage 1 funding now awarded, projects underway are already delivering:



Improved community facilities and public spaces



Infrastructure to support growing towns



Training and skills development for local jobs



Opportunities for Aboriginal organisations and businesses



Programs that strengthen community connections and wellbeing.

Part of the delivery of the Central-West Orana REZ is the NSW Government commitment to create lasting economic, social and community benefits—supporting jobs, strengthening local businesses and building skills for the future.

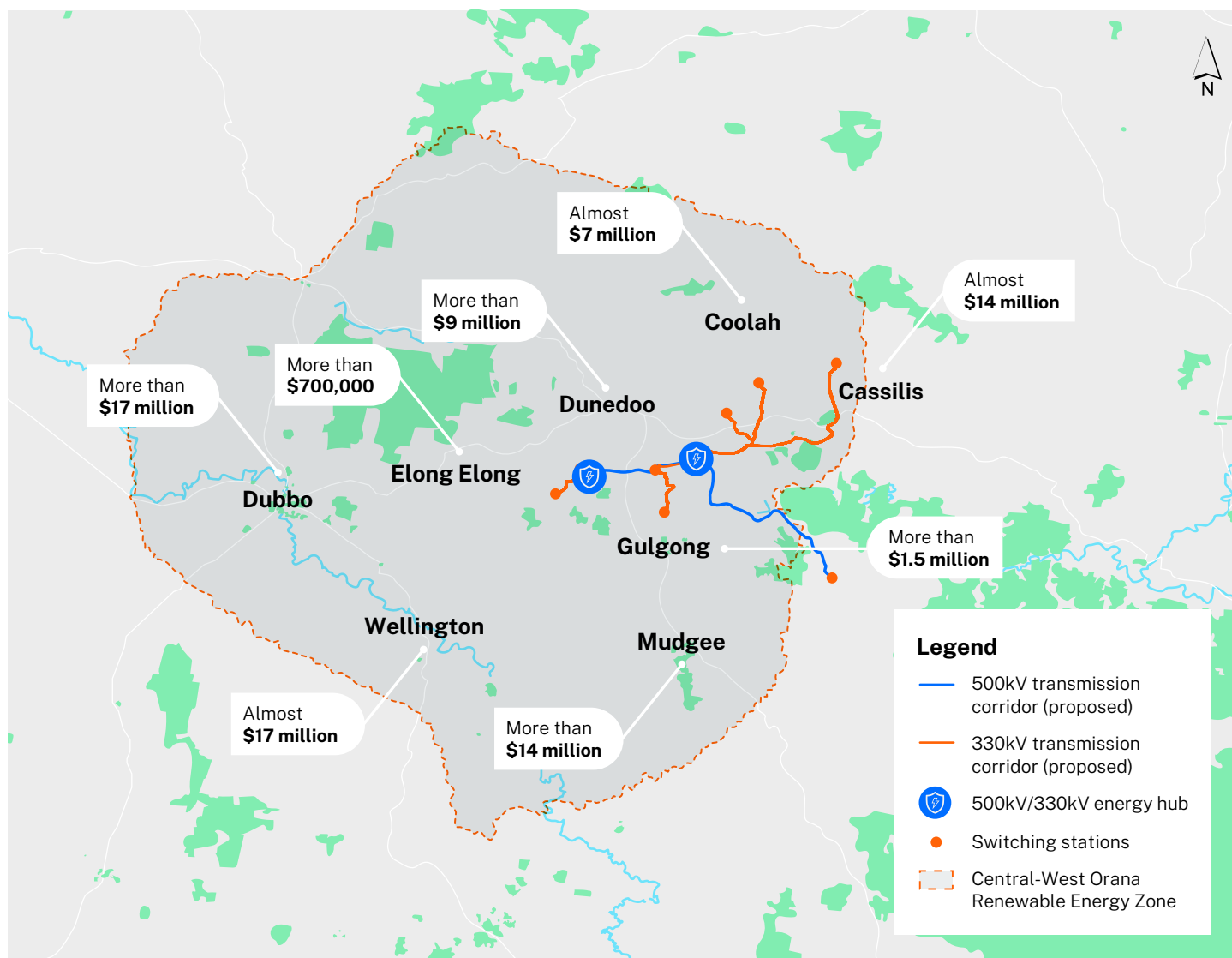
Spotlight: Upgrade of Binnaway Showground

New wheelchair accessible toilet and shower facilities have improved access for community members and visitors.

These upgrades support inclusive, sustainable local events like the annual show, while helping reduce costs for organisers and supporting long term community use.



Community and Employment Benefit Program recipients and projects



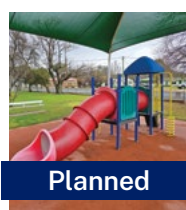
Milling Park,
Dunedoo



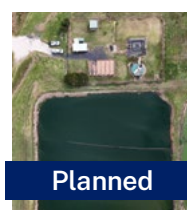
Coolah Swimming
Pool



Bowan Oval,
Coolah



McMaster Park,
Coolah



Wastewater
treatment plant,
Cassilis



War Memorial Park,
Cassilis



Essential worker
housing, Mudgee



Nanima Village Old
School, Wellington



PCYC, Wellington



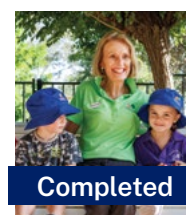
Wellington
Showground



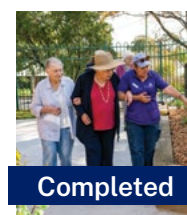
Kildallon Spring
Fair, Mudgee



Red Hill Education
Centre, Gulgong



Dunedoo Pre-school
Kindergarten



Wenona Lodge,
Gulgong

Delivering benefits and opportunities

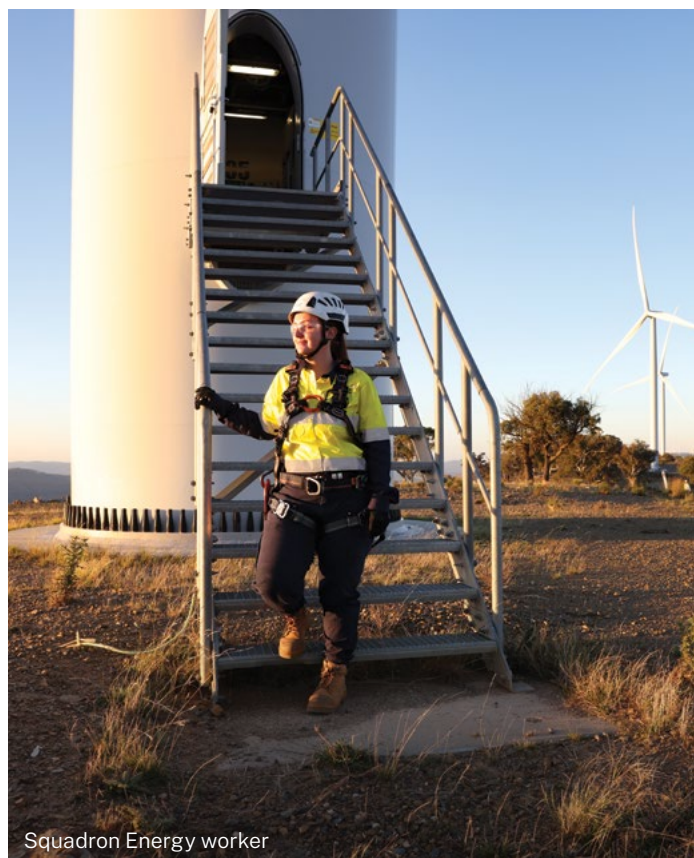
The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is helping create opportunities for local businesses, workers and future generations across the region.

As the REZ develops, demand is increasing across a range of industries, including construction, manufacturing, transport, retail and local services. More than 100 local businesses and suppliers are already contributing to the transmission project, helping deliver infrastructure while supporting jobs and economic activity throughout the region.

Connecting local businesses with renewable energy projects

With a growing pipeline of renewable energy projects across NSW, strengthening local supply chains has never been more important.

New renewable energy directories developed by EnergyCo and the Industry Capability Network (ICN) are helping local businesses showcase their capabilities and connect with clean energy project opportunities. The directories make it easier for project developers to find local suppliers, manufacturers and service providers.



Women in Construction Taster Program

Supporting pathways into renewable energy jobs

Training initiatives have helped local people secure work linked to the REZ. Participants in the recent free, nationally accredited Renewables Taster Program gained practical experience in site safety, machinery operation, traffic control and work readiness.

NSW Government-funded programs also support women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and long-term job seekers. Nine women who recently completed the Women in Construction Taster Program in Dubbo and Wellington secured local roles in traffic control, civil construction and labouring.

The REZ is also helping inspire future workers. More than 800 students from Years 5 to 10 recently participated in the National Science and Engineering Challenge in Dubbo, exploring careers in science, engineering and energy through hands-on activities.

Together, these initiatives and many others are helping communities across the Central-West Orana region share in the opportunities and benefits of the renewable energy transformation.

Find out more about jobs, training and business opportunities at energyco.nsw.gov.au/community/careers-training-business-opportunities

Need help finding work or training in the local renewable energy sector?

Our Local Skills Coordinators are here to help.

Reach out today on 1800 032 101 or via cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au.



Join us at the Community Roadshow

As transmission construction continues, residents across the Central-West Orana region are invited to attend a series of Community Roadshows. The NSW Government is continuing to support locals to understand what the local renewable energy zone means for them.

Hosted by EnergyCo, they will bring government agencies, infrastructure providers and industry experts together in one place. Residents will be able to access the latest information, speak directly with government and industry representatives, as well as independent advisers, and discuss local jobs, business opportunities and benefits for communities.

Get information on:



Regional growth and opportunities

Jobs, business opportunities and community funding.



Your property and land

What energy projects may mean for landholders and neighbours, including access, compensation and protections.



What's being built

An overview of REZ projects and other infrastructure upgrades.



Looking after land and culture

How land, biodiversity and cultural heritage will be protected.



Your rights and support

How to raise concerns, seek advice and access support services.



The planning process

How projects are independently assessed, approval timeframes, compliance requirements and how to make a formal submission.

These events build on EnergyCo's ongoing engagement across the region, including more than 10,500 interactions with landholders, 2,200 meetings with councils and community groups, 185 public information pop-ups and the opening of a local Community Information Centre in Mudgee.



Find your local event

- **Tuesday 11 August:** 3pm to 6pm, Coolah Central School Hall, Coolah
- **Wednesday 12 August:** 4pm to 7pm, Club Mudgee, Mudgee
- **Thursday 13 August:** 4pm to 7pm, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
- **Friday 14 August:** 3pm to 6pm, Dunedoo Jubilee Hall, Dunedoo
- **Saturday 15 August:** 9am to 11am, Wellington Soldiers Club, Wellington

Free entry, light refreshments and family-friendly activities. All are welcome.

Register to attend

Registration helps us plan but is not required. Scan the QR code or visit events.humanitix.com/cwo to register.



Scan the QR code to register.



Women in Construction Taster Program

Construction is progressing

Construction of the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project began in June 2025 and is now progressing across multiple locations, with activity increasing as the network takes shape.

EnergyCo is planning and coordinating the delivery of transmission infrastructure, with ACERZ responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining the network.

This infrastructure will carry electricity from wind, solar and storage projects to homes, farms and businesses across NSW – supporting a more reliable and modern energy system.

To keep informed about construction progress and upcoming works, please visit the ACERZ website at acerz.com.au/resources.

To request project updates email cwo.community@acerz-acjv.com.au



Expected completion from 2028



Energy hubs and switching stations

Work is progressing at Sandy Lane, Barigan Creek and Elong Elong energy hubs and 330kV switching station sites at Birriwa, Uarbry East, Sandy Creek and Cobbora.



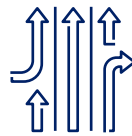
Transmission lines

Along the alignment, crews are progressing tower foundation works, including piling, concreting and ground earthing, as well as pre-assembly and erection of transmission towers.



Workforce accommodation

At Merotherie, building of the temporary workforce accommodation village continues, including delivery and installation of units and facilities to support the growing construction workforce.



Road upgrades

Upgrades to Merotherie Road are ongoing, including construction of the new Leo Nott Bridge over the Talbragar River.

Acknowledging Aboriginal cultural heritage incident

A serious incident during construction led to the permanent loss of a registered Aboriginal cultural heritage site, a rock shelter. We recognise the importance of this site and the distress this has caused to Traditional Owners and the wider community.

EnergyCo expects all work to meet strict heritage protection requirements. In this case, ACERZ did not meet those requirements. The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is investigating, with ACERZ cooperating fully. ACERZ has strengthened controls to better protect cultural heritage.

We will continue to work closely with Wiradjuri Traditional Owners and share findings when available.

First use of Port of Newcastle to REZ route

The first use of the upgraded Port of Newcastle to Renewable Energy Zone route marks a major milestone for regional NSW and the state's clean energy future, with Squadron Energy successfully delivering components to its Ungula Wind Farm in the Central-West Orana REZ.

The Port of Newcastle to REZ route — from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana REZ — has been designed by the NSW Government, with more than \$110 million in funding, to support the safe and efficient transport of critical equipment needed to build renewable energy projects.

This milestone demonstrates the route is now operational, enabling the movement of oversize over mass (OSOM) vehicles carrying large wind and solar components from port to site, while helping to reduce disruption for regional communities.

Upgrades along the route are now nearing completion.

Over the past year:

- Road upgrades have been completed at 13 locations
- Powerlines have been raised at more than 50 locations to allow safe passage of large equipment

New pullover bays between Newcastle and Elong Elong are under construction, with all works scheduled for completion in late 2026. Once finished, these bays will complement existing roadside facilities and provide more opportunities for motorists to safely pass OSOM vehicles.

These upgrades will not only support the delivery of renewable energy projects but also provide lasting benefits for the region, including improved road safety, reduced delays and more efficient travel along key freight routes.

Travelling safely around oversize over mass vehicles

When travelling on roads used by OSOM vehicles:

- be patient and allow extra travel time
- only overtake when safe and directed
- follow instructions from escort vehicles and traffic controllers
- keep a safe distance from large loads.

By working together, we can help ensure roads remain safe for everyone while supporting the delivery of important infrastructure for NSW's energy future.

To watch the latest safety videos and stay informed about upcoming works, traffic changes and project progress, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/enabling-projects/port-to-rez



Tower component being delivered

Ongoing support

Community members can raise questions or concerns at any time by contacting the project team, speaking with their dedicated property manager (for directly affected landholders), or engaging through the project website, community events or the Community Information Centre at 30-32 Church Street, Mudgee.

Support is also available for individuals and families who may be experiencing stress or uncertainty. This includes local health and wellbeing services, free and confidential mental health support lines, and community support organisations operating across the region.

More information about the support services is available on our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/living-in-a-renewable-energy-zone/information-for-landholders/support-for-landholders or call 1300 089 551.



Share your feedback

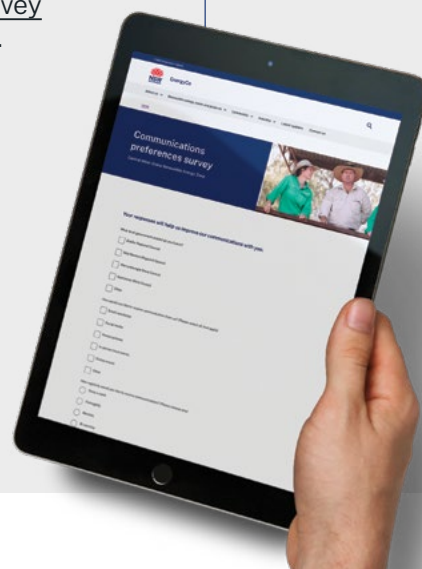
We're committed to providing clear, timely and useful information about the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, and we want to hear from you.

Complete our short survey to tell us what matters to you and how you prefer to receive updates.

Scan the QR code or visit energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo-comms-survey to have your say.



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About EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is a statutory authority responsible for leading the delivery of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) as part of the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

EnergyCo is working closely with communities, investors and industry to deliver the state's first five REZs.

For more information about EnergyCo, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/about-energyco.

Central-West Orana REZ

EnergyCo wants to hear what you think about our plans. If you have questions or want to give feedback, please get in touch with our team.



cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au



1800 032 101 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)



energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo



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 032 101**.