

Workforce accommodation

New England Renewable Energy Zone | September 2026

This document provides frequently asked questions about workforce accommodation for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) network infrastructure project.

The New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is a critical project in unlocking clean, reliable and affordable energy for everyone in NSW. The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is leading the plans for new transmission lines, energy hubs (substations) and related infrastructure which will connect renewable energy projects in the New England region via new dual 500kV transmission lines to the existing Bayswater Power Station near Muswellbrook.

In addition to planning the corridor for the new transmission lines, we have been working to determine suitable locations for temporary workforce accommodation close to where the project is being built. Providing dedicated accommodation and facilities for workers will help reduce pressure on local housing and short-term accommodation, while supporting safe and efficient construction activity.

We understand that the community has questions and concerns about the details of the sites, how they were selected and how they may operate. Detailed work is ongoing during this early stage, and we are contacting neighbours of these sites to offer a discussion and consider their questions and concerns in early planning.

The project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is anticipated to be on public display this year. The EIS will provide information about the proposed sites and the community will be invited to provide feedback before any determination on the project is made.

Should the proposed temporary workplace accommodation sites proceed, EnergyCo will continue to engage with the local community and neighbours to ensure their feedback is considered in detailed design and in operation of the facilities.

Q&As

Q. What are workforce accommodation sites and why are they needed?

EnergyCo is progressing plans for temporary workforce accommodation sites to support the safe and efficient construction of the New England REZ network infrastructure project.

Temporary dedicated workforce accommodation and facilities will help reduce impacts on local housing availability and short-term accommodation, while supporting safe and efficient construction activities.

The sites would be built early as part of enabling works to provide temporary housing and associated living facilities for construction.

The temporary workforce accommodation sites are intended to support the construction phase of the project and will be decommissioned and rehabilitated once they are no longer required.

Q. How many sites will be constructed and how many workers will be accommodated at each site?

The environmental impact statement (EIS) considers multiple accommodation camps. Around 5 are proposed, but this could change through the EIS and detailed design process.

To accommodate an estimated peak workforce of approximately 1400 workers across the project at any one time, we estimate camps of around 320 to 550 beds, with the final capacity of each site subject to ongoing project development and assessment.

Further details of the proposed sites will be included in the EIS, which is expected to go on public exhibition in late 2026.

EnergyCo is currently in the procurement phase with three prospective network operators, each of which may have a different approach to delivering the project. The proposed workforce accommodation sites and capacities outlined above are being assessed as part of the EIS. The final accommodation requirements, including the capacity and configuration of each site, may change as the project progresses and the network operator's delivery approach is finalised.

The sites will host construction workers, engineers, managers and other project support staff. The final workforce profile will be determined by the network operator, as they will be responsible for recruiting and managing their workforce and operating the facilities. EnergyCo is currently undertaking a competitive process to appoint a network operator to finalise the design and deliver the New England REZ network infrastructure project.

Network infrastructure projects of this scale require a skilled workforce which will include a mix of local workers and workers from outside the region. EnergyCo and the future network operator will focus on maximising opportunities for local workers, businesses and suppliers through employment pathways, training and regional procurement policies.

Q. How are potential site impacts being assessed and managed?

The EIS is a comprehensive report that provides information on the economic, environmental and social impacts of the project during construction and operation. It helps the community, government agencies and the relevant ministers make informed submissions or decisions on the project.

The proposed temporary workforce accommodation sites will be assessed as part of the EIS and will consider their potential impacts, including traffic and transport, noise and vibration, lighting, water

resources, biodiversity and biosecurity. The EIS will also outline proposed measures to avoid, mitigate and manage those impacts.

Q. When will the detailed information in the Environmental Impact Statement be available?

The local community and stakeholders will be invited to review the proposal and make submissions when the EIS is placed on public exhibition, expected in late 2026.

Q. Will there be opportunities to provide feedback?

We are engaging with neighbouring landholders at this early stage to ensure their feedback is considered as we finalise our planning assessment.

The EIS is expected to go on public exhibition in late 2026, when communities and stakeholders will be invited to review the proposal and make submissions.

Feedback received during the exhibition period will be considered as part of the planning assessment process before any determination is made on the proposed workforce accommodation sites.

We will consider feedback as we identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts to communities and the environment during the operation of these sites.

Q. What happens after the EIS exhibition?

Following public exhibition of the EIS, feedback and submissions will be considered as part of the planning assessment process.

Any decision on whether the proposed workforce accommodation sites proceed will be made as part of the statutory planning approvals process undertaken by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

EnergyCo will continue to engage with the local community, landowners and neighbours and consider feedback in the ongoing development of the project.

Q. What is EnergyCo doing to coordinate housing and accommodation impacts in the REZ?

EnergyCo is consulting with councils, communities and industry to identify potential initiatives to provide long-term benefits to regional communities once construction is complete, including potentially contributing to legacy housing solutions. Any future initiatives are subject to further investigation and have not yet been confirmed.

In addition to the workforce accommodation needs to deliver the network infrastructure project, EnergyCo is also working with councils and developers of generation and storage projects on housing and accommodation for the REZ as a whole. In June 2026, EnergyCo established a Regional Steering Committee comprising local councils and agencies involved in coordinating delivery of the New England REZ. The group will work to address several priority areas, including housing and

accommodation, seeking to ensure impacts are minimised while leaving lasting benefits for regional communities.

EnergyCo also welcomed feedback and insights from the community on potential legacy housing opportunities for the region. From December 2025 to April 2026, we invited feedback through an online survey following the release of the New England Regional Major Infrastructure Studies. A summary of the survey feedback is available to view at New England Renewable Energy Zone - Project documents and resources | EnergyCo.

Q. How can I learn more?

As planning for the project progresses, including the public exhibition of the project EIS, we will continue to keep the community and landholders informed.

More information about community engagement, including how to sign up for our newsletter is available at <https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/new-england-rez/community>

Alternatively, contact our community engagement team at nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 061 114.