

Coordinating generation and storage in the REZ

New England Renewable Energy Zone

July 2024

The New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is a critical energy project for NSW that will provide clean and reliable electricity to consumers for generations to come. EnergyCo is coordinating transmission, generation, firming and storage projects to deliver efficient and timely investment in the REZ.

Generation and storage projects

The New England REZ will bring together renewable energy generation and storage projects and connect them to the electricity network. These projects may include:



Solar projects which convert sunlight into electricity using solar panels with photovoltaic cells



Wind projects which use large turbines to generate electricity from wind



Pumped hydro which uses the force of moving water to create electricity



Battery energy storage systems (BESS) which provide rapid power on-demand to supply electricity when it is needed.

EnergyCo is working closely with developers to plan what future connections and integration will look like for the New England REZ. Importantly, all developers will need to seek the necessary planning approvals and be awarded access rights before they can connect to the REZ transmission network.

REZ-wide coordination and planning



EnergyCo is committed to planning and delivering the REZ in a way that minimises impacts and provides long term benefits to regional communities hosting renewable energy infrastructure.

We are working closely with developers, councils and key stakeholders on several priority topics to inform the development of the REZ. Feedback and data from this engagement will be used to develop a range of strategies and initiatives to benefit REZ communities. We will provide updates on this work as it progresses.

What's happened so far?

2021

We received **80 responses** to a registration of interest process totalling **34 GW** of potential new renewable energy projects. This is four times the intended network capacity of the New England REZ.

2022

We released an expression of interest to identify and select major generator and storage projects to participate in the New England REZ generation design partner process. To be eligible for this selection process, generator and storage projects needed to meet a **minimum threshold of 250 megawatt (MW)** alternating current capacity, or a storage equivalent of the 250 MW hour minimum threshold, and be **located within the New England REZ geographic area**.

2023

We identified **10 generation design partners** to work closely and consult with to ensure the REZ network infrastructure is fit for purpose. This also allows us to collaborate on the delivery of community benefits and manage potential impacts to communities and the environment.

2024

We are continuing to work with our generation design partners to inform various aspects of the New England REZ. As new developments are proposed, we seek to engage with the developers to better understand their projects and how they will fit within the REZ.



Connecting to the network

EnergyCo is working with our generation design partners to plan how their projects will connect to the New England REZ transmission network. Transmission lines between energy hubs and renewable energy generation projects will generally be 330kV lines and either single or double circuit. Generator connections will be subject to separate planning approval. We will keep landowners and the community informed once further details are available about this work.



Existing solar project near Armidale

Funding community benefit initiatives through REZ access schemes

Generation and storage projects that wish to connect to the New England REZ network infrastructure will be required to apply for an access right through a competitive tender process. Access right holders will be charged access fees that include components to fund community benefit and employment programs. These access fees are expected to be charged for 20 years, providing opportunities for funds to be invested back into local communities.

EnergyCo is currently developing an access scheme for the New England REZ and will consult with industry and other stakeholders as part of this process. We will keep the community informed about the timing and next steps.

Contact us

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.



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