

Central-West Orana REZ Community Reference Group

Held on: 26/03/2024 – 10:30am to 1:00pm

At: Club Mudgee, 99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee

Chaired by: Lisa Andrews

Attended

Category	Attendees
Independent Chair	Lisa Andrews (LA)
EnergyCo representatives	Ash Albury, Executive Director Planning and Communities (AA) Jane Sayabath, CWO Community and Council Interface Manager (JS) Amer Hussein, CWO Director Community and Place (AH) Renee Ridley, CWO Director Community and Place (RR) (online) Anissa Baiquni, CWO Senior Manager Community & Stakeholder (AB) (online) Thomas Watt, Director Planning & Policy (TW) (online) Sarah Barker, CWO Principal Advisor - Planning & Environment (SB) (online) Bridget Kelleher, Senior CWO Place Manager (BK)
LGA Delegates	Councillor Kathy Rindfleish, Warrumbungle Shire Council (KR) Councillor Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council Councillor Katie Dicker – Mid Western Regional Council Member for Parliament Dugald Saunders (DS) (online) Jane Diffey, Senior Electorate Officer (JD) (online)
Community representatives	Doug Morse (DM) Colin Kilby (CK) John Kelly (JK)
Stakeholder groups	Grant Gjessing – Business Mudgee (GG) Kate Hook, RE-Alliance (KH) Neville Mattick, (NM) RE-Alliance David Thorne, NSW Farmers (Mudgee) (DT) Beverley Smiles, Central West Environment Council (BS) Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group & Watershed Landcare (RH)

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Meeting Minutes

Category	Attendees
Invited guests	Sharon Labi, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs ACERERZ (online) Jane Hegarty, Cassilis District Development Group Jillian Kirwan Lee, Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

Apologies

Category	Invitee
LGA Delegates	Councillor Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council
Community representatives	John Kelly (JK)

Agenda items

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Acknowledgement of Country	LA
2	Welcome and introductions	LA
3	Apologies	LA
4	Business arising and correspondence	LA
5	EIS Response and amendments	SB
6	Community Employment Benefit Program	TW
7	Property	BK
8	General business	All
9	Next meeting	LA

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes

Item	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Acknowledgement of Country	LA	
2	Welcome and housekeeping	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting opened at 10:00 am. <p>All members were welcomed and those attending via video-conferencing were introduced.</p>
3	Apologies	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Kelly (JK) <p>Councillor Mathew Dickerson – Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council</p>
4	Business arising from last meeting	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send Amendment Report to the group once published – closed <p>Next meeting to include an update on the Community and Employment Benefit Program. – closed</p>
5	Declarations	LA	LA declared that she is an approved Independent Chairperson, engaged by EnergyCo. No changes to members' previous declarations.
6	Correspondence report	LA	As per meeting notice & final agenda sent 18/3/24.
7	EnergyCo presentation		
7.1	EIS Response and amendments	SB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB provided an overview of activities carried out with the EIS Response and amendments since the last CRG meeting. SB presented on social mental health, impacts on medical services, impacts on housing, water security and water use. CK question SB around the term “microwave site” and asked if they catch fire? SB advised that it provides connectivity between transformers, however, took on notice to investigate. CK made comment regarding the social impact statement around camp sites having their own medical practitioners on site to cater for the employee numbers, comments and discussion was

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Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<p>had around whether the community could access these medical professionals due to lack of availability of services in the community already.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT commented on a land owner affected by the power line complaining about bullying tactics. Suggesting that it was better to work productively with land owners. AA responded that they are working on improving how they are doing things; explaining they are bound by the Just Terms Compensation Act. • KH made a comment regarding “genuine community consultations” being a 2-way process rather than taking feedback once and making the change. • CK raised the concerns around bushfires and asked the question on whether EnergyCo will do additional hazard reduction work around Barney’s creek for example. Is there an opportunity to partner with RFS. • SB made comment that the Network Operator is required to implement an Electricity Network Safety Management System, which includes collaborating with the RFS to determine if any additional resources are required to manage bushfire risk. Conducting additional hazard reduction work around Barneys Reef is the responsibility of the RFS and may not be an activity the Network Operator will undertake. • Issue was raised about the Barigan Creek substation, building next to the current Transgrid station; where in the planning have EnergyCo considered the “shutdown” while building Barigan Creek? SB answered this query in the session. • BS raised the matter that the Bushfire Assessment failed to identify the high risk of fire in the Barigan Valley and the consideration of the risk of shutdown of the Barigan Creek substation in a Section 44 bush fire emergency. • CK raised concerns around the 20,000-litre consideration for workers camp site and believes the water consideration was not correct, SB advised that water consideration was appropriate, and this was checked by the team. • BS enquired where things were up to with the Federal approvals. Advised that the applications are under assessment. • Traffic control management plans: construction process and traffic management needs to be worked through with the mining companies and other projects in the region to minimise traffic on the roads.

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Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BS advised that Wilpining Coal mine is proposing a modification to its project approval which will impact the Ulan Wollar Road and the railway line. Stating that there is community concern with cumulative construction and traffic impacts for this and the CWO REZ. AA to raise this issue with DPHI. CK provided information on the Newcastle Port and difficulties with road/rail transport to the facility for export of grain. <p>Action: SB take action to investigate into Microwave sites and fire safety parametres.</p>
	Break from Lunch – 12.04pm		Meeting recommenced at 12.15pm
7.2	Community Employment Benefit Program (CEBP)	TW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TW provided an overview and update of the work carried out by EnergyCo’s CEPB project team in the CWO REZ. TW identified that based on community feedback EnergyCo will be assisting the community to access the CEPB by providing Grant Writing Workshops. TW gave overview on discussion around funding allocation to \$128M over four years to enable CEPB. <p>KH mentioned the opportunity to consider a CWO REZ activity to “support and create a community vision”. TW mentioned that this has been considered and there are varying views on this.</p>
7.3	Property	BK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BK provided an overview of EnergyCo’s progress with consultation and land acquisition rates. GG enquired where the work force will be coming from. Action: Taken on notice. <p>Action: BK to provide details/link on Department of Planning’s Land Acquisition Review. Actioned: Sent 27 March 2024.</p>
8	Questions and discussion		
8.1	General discussion	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR proposed to representative from ACEREZ to attend the next CRG meeting and CRG agreed. Proposed future agenda item: Discuss agriculture and food security.

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Item	Description	Lead	Updates
			Action: Invite ACEREZ to next meeting to present
8	General business	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA advised that the 2 year tenure of the membership for this CRG would be reached in June 2024. LA read out the Purpose & Objections of the CRG's Terms of Reference (ToR) LA explained the proposed recruitment campaign, which would occur in May 2024 and be open for 28 days for nominations to be received. <p>Discussion around current representatives, suggesting members connect with their networks and broader community.</p>
9	Meeting close		Meeting closed at 1:00 pm. LA thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Action items

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Comments/updates	Status
1	SB take action to investigate into Microwave sites and fire safety parameters.	SB			
2	BK to provide detail on Department of Planning – Land Acquisition Review	BK			
3	Invite ACEREZ to next meeting to present	JS			
4	Future Agenda Item – Agriculture & Food Security	SB			
5	Provide information on where the construction work force will be coming from	SB			

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Upcoming meetings

Date: Week beginning Monday 22 July 2024 (TBC)

Time: 10am morning tea 10.30am to 1pm

Venue: Dubbo

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	Relevant links
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator	aemo.com.au
AEMO Services	Consumer Trustee and subsidiary of AEMO	aemoservices.com.au
AER	Australian Energy Regulator	aer.gov.au
CCC	Community Consultative Committee	planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees
CFG	Candidate Foundation Generator	energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo/renewable-energy-generation-projects
NO	Network Operator	
OSOM	Oversize and over-mass vehicle movements	
PAN	Proposed Acquisition Notice	
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone	

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Acronym	Definition	Relevant links
RNI	REZ Network Infrastructure (the transmission project)	
SBP Scheme	Strategic Benefit Payment Scheme	energyco.nsw.gov.au/community/strategic-benefit-payments-scheme