

Media Release

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NSW Farmers partners with EnergyCo and ACERENZ to improve outcomes in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

NSW landholders will have a greater voice on the energy transition after a three-way partnership was struck in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between NSW Farmers, the state's peak farming body, EnergyCo, the statutory authority responsible for leading delivery of REZs, and ACERENZ, which is the preferred network operator to design, construct and maintain new transition infrastructure in the Central-West Orana REZ.

The MOU will support clearer communication with landholders throughout the transition to renewable energy for the region. The intention is to develop codes of conduct around accessing property that will host infrastructure.

The three organisations will collaborate to produce landholder guidance material that outlines rights and responsibilities of all involved, including during construction and operation of the new transmission towers and lines

The first phase of this relationship is already paying dividends with a draft landholder guide launched at the NSW Farmers 2024 Annual Conference for consultation. The landholder guide, adapted by NSW Farmers and supported by EnergyCo, will contain valuable information for landholders and clear answers to frequently asked questions. The guide will be regularly updated to capture new information as the roll-out of the Central-West Orana REZ continues, and other REZs continue their progress across NSW.

The MOU for the Central-West Orana region is effective immediately and is expected to lay the groundwork for better engagement with farmers and communities in all five REZs across NSW.

More information will be posted on the EnergyCo website and included in its regular newsletter. Farmers can [register here](#) for updates.

Quote attributable to EnergyCo chief executive James Hay:

“The energy transition in NSW presents both challenges and opportunities. Farmers are often the people asked to host essential infrastructure and of course have specific concerns in relation to this.”

“By working together constructively, EnergyCo and ACERERZ are committed to collaborating with NSW Farmers to ensure the voices of farmers play a strong role in all five Renewable Energy Zones progress.”

Quotes attributable to ACERERZ chief executive Trevor Armstrong:

“We look forward to partnering with NSW Farmers and EnergyCo as we deliver this vital project for NSW.

“Farmers are critical to the energy transition and ACERERZ is committed to working collaboratively with them and all community members across the Central-West Orana REZ.”

(Editor’s note: ACERERZ is a consortium comprising ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy.)

Quotes attributable to NSW Farmers chief executive Annabel Johnson:

“We know that to date, the rollout of renewables has been challenging for some landholders, and it is important we protect and support food and fibre production as Australia transitions to new sources of energy.

“The draft landholder guide my team put together was well-received by delegates at our recent Annual Conference, with the focus on practical and commonsense explanations very welcome.

“By being engaged in a genuinely collaborative and constructive dialogue, we can ensure the views of farmers are heard and taken into account, and thereby deliver far better outcomes for landholders.”

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