

The Secretary
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attn: Nicole Brewer and Wayne Jones

By email: nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au
wayne.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Central West-Orana REZ Transmission Project (SSI 48323210) – Request to stage the Transport Strategy (Condition B31) per condition C3

Dear Ms Fishburn,

I refer to Central West-Orana REZ transmission project SSI 48323210 (the Project), which the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces approved on 26 June 2024 under section 5.19 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Condition B31 requires the preparation of a Transport Strategy for road upgrades identified in Appendix 4 of the approval. Condition C3 permits EnergyCo, with the approval of the Planning Secretary, to prepare the Transport Strategy on a staged basis. This letter is a request under condition C3 to prepare the Transport Strategy required by condition B31 on a staged basis.

Proposed staging approach (condition C3)

Four (4) stages are proposed for the Transport Strategy, noting that each stage will include minor access point intersections (being any access point associated with minor access tracks off public road network) where applicable to that region or activity, as follows:

1. **Merotherie Transport Strategy:** road upgrades associated with the construction of the Merotherie Energy hub, Merotherie construction compound and Merotherie accommodation camp.

2. **Elong Elong and Wollar Switching Station Transport Strategy:** Upgrades required for commencement of site establishment at the two key energy hubs for the project.
3. **Project-wide Transport Strategy:** All remaining road upgrades not addressed as part of the Merotherie or Elong Elong and Wollar Switching Station Transport Strategies, that are listed in Appendix 4 of the Minister’s Conditions of Approval.
4. **Stringing Transport Strategy:** The Strategy for stringing will form the final element of the transport strategy and will include sufficient detail to outline methodology and any required concept designs for stringing cables across the state and local road network.

The Merotherie Transport Strategy would include the following road upgrades from *Table 5: Road upgrades* in of Appendix 4 of the project approval:

Road/Intersection	Treatment	Timing
Merotherie Road	Widening and upgrade, as necessary to sealed standard between the Golden Highway and the Merotherie Energy Hub access point.	Prior to commencing construction of the Merotherie Energy Hub, construction compound or workforce accommodation camp
Merotherie Road	Installing a new bridge to replace the existing crossing of the Talbragar River.	Timing as outlined in Transport Strategy
Intersection of Merotherie Road and Golden Highway	Basic Left Turn and Short Channelised Right Turn Confirmation that the design for upgrade meets Austroads requirements (and TfNSW supplements), including checks for OSOM movements to be provided in Traffic Strategy under condition B31.	Commence prior to commencing construction of the Merotherie Energy Hub, including the construction compound and any workforce accommodation camp.
Minor Access Points intersections	Relevant Access Point associated with minor access tracks off public road network, that are associated with the works or geographical location of Merotherie.	Timing as outlined in Transport Strategy

Consultation (condition C4)

The Transport Strategy must be prepared in consultation with TfNSW and the relevant Councils under Condition B31. The required consultation will occur for all Transport Strategy stages, but limited to the Councils of the relevant local government areas in which the road upgrades in each stage would occur.

Revisions of the Strategies (condition C5)

The process of revision or superseding of the document will be included in all Transport Strategies. This shall be consistent across all Transport Strategies.

Strategy requirements (condition C6)

The staging of each Transport Strategy would address the requirements B31(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (h) of condition B31.

In relation to item B31(d) where the proposed upgrade and associated disturbance footprint has been described and assessed in the EIS and associated environmental assessment documentation, the Transport Strategy will reference and summarise the existing assessment and outcomes.

In relation to B31(f) and B31(g) where the Transport Strategy does not include any transmission line stringing, this content will not be included. Information required by B31(f) and B31(g) will only be included in Transport Strategies that address stringing activities.

I request the Department's review of the proposed staging approach described herein and, if satisfied, recommend the Planning Secretary approve the proposed staging per condition C3. If supported, it would be appreciated if the Planning Secretary's approval is received by 10 October 2024.

Thank you for considering this request. If you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact John Fisher, Post Approval Lead (john.fisher@avc.com.au or 0448 514 073).

Sincerely,



Thomas Watt
Director, Planning and Policy