

## Media Release

Monday, 17 February 2025

# EnergyCo invites community input on Central-West Orana REZ

EnergyCo is committed to working closely with the community as we plan and deliver the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). As part of this process, we are hosting consultation sessions with community members and stakeholders to develop a Social Impact Management Plan for the upcoming construction phase of the transmission project.

This plan will help maximise positive impacts and manage potential challenges, including cumulative impacts. It will also establish a framework to monitor, evaluate, and publicly report on these measures.

We are engaging with key stakeholders including those affected by the construction of the transmission line, as well as councils and local community groups. Local insights will help ensure that mitigation measures proposed in the social impact assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment Report are effectively implemented.

We are inviting community members to share their feedback in person or online until Friday 28 February 2025. Details of upcoming community feedback sessions are listed below. There is also an online survey [available on our website](#).

### Quotes attributable to EnergyCo Executive Director Planning and Communities Ash Albury:

“The transition to clean, reliable energy is taking shape in the Central-West Orana REZ. As we progress, we encourage community participation to ensure the project delivers positive social and economic outcomes for the region.

“The Social Impact Management Plan is a key part of our commitment to responsible development. We welcome input from landowners, neighbours, and the local community to help shape measures that support local communities throughout the construction phase.”

### Details of general community information sessions:

Area	Location	Day and Time
Gulgong	Memorial Hall	Wednesday 19 February 2025, 3-6pm
Cassilis	Community Centre	Thursday 20 February 2025, 3-6pm
Mudgee	Country Universities Centre	Friday 21 February 2025, 1.30-4.30pm
Dunedoo	Jubilee Memorial Hall	Saturday 22 February 2025, 9.30am - 12.30pm

### **Details for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Focus Groups:**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Day and Time</b>
Dubbo	The Exchange	Tuesday 18 February, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Wellington	Maliyan Cultural Centre	Tuesday 18 February, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Mudgee	Country Universities Centre	Friday 21 February, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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### **Further information:**

#### **What is a Renewable Energy Zone?**

Renewable Energy Zones will group new wind and solar power generation into locations where it can be efficiently stored and transmitted across NSW. Five zones have been identified and will keep NSW electricity reliable as coal-fired power stations retire, delivering large amounts of new energy to power our regions and cities.

REZs will help deliver lower wholesale electricity costs and place downward pressure on customer bills through increased competition, while supporting local jobs and business opportunities during construction and operation.

#### **Where is the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone?**

The state's first REZ is in the Central-West Orana region, centred by Dubbo and Dunedoo. It also takes in cities and towns including Gulgong, Mudgee, Wellington, and Gilgandra.

It is expected to bring billions of dollars in private investment to the Central-West Orana region by 2030.

At its peak, this REZ is expected to support around 5,000 construction jobs in the region.