

Central-West Orana REZ Community Reference Group – Extraordinary meeting

Held on: 10/12/2024 – 10:00am to 11:30am

At: Country University Centre, Mudgee

Chaired by: Lisa Andrews

Attendees:

Category	Attendees
Independent Chair	Lisa Andrews (Chair)
EnergyCo representatives	Thomas Watt, CWO Director Planning & Policy (TW) Yvette Lloyd, CWO Director Regional Coordination (YL) <i>online</i> Anissa Baiquini, CWO (AB) <i>online</i> Rebecca Williams, CWO (RW) Shannon Schofield, CWO (SS) Jane Sayabath, CWO (JS) <i>online</i> Alicia Rados, CWO (AR) <i>online</i> Mariana Cidade, CWO (MC) <i>online</i>
Invited Guests	Carla Martinez (CM)
Consultants – WSP	Kim-Cherrie Davidson (KCD) Felicity Richards <i>online</i> (FR)
LGA delegates	Councillor Pat Ryan (PR) – Upper Hunter Shire Council <i>online</i>
Government/MPs	Tony Fuller (TF) – Aboriginal Affairs Department
Community representatives	Jock Rice-Ward (JRW) <i>online</i>
Stakeholder groups	Neville Mattick, RE-Alliance (NM) David Thorne, NSW Farmers (Mudgee) (DT) Beverley Smiles, Central West Environment Council (BS) Aleshia Lonsdale, Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council (AL) Jane Hegarty, Cassilis District Development Group (JH) Kylie Manson, Warrabinga Wiradjuri #7 Native Title Claimants (KM) Catherine Bowman, Dunedoo and District Development Group (CB) <i>online</i>
ACEREZ representatives	Kee Li – ACJV D&C Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (KL) <i>online</i> Emily Wheeler – Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (EW) Sharon Labi – Senior Manager Corporate Affairs (SL) <i>online</i>

Apologies	David Walker, Burrendong Botanic Garden & Arboretum* Colin Kilby, Community Representative Rosemary Hadaway, Mudgee District Environment Group Jillian Kirwan Lee, Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal Beau Kassas, Mudgee Region Tourism Cr Kathy Rindfleish, Warrumbungle Shire Council* Cr Katie Dicker, Mid-Western Regional Council Mel Manchee, Roy Butler MP's office*
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*Attempted to participate via video, however, was unable to join due to technical issues.

Agenda

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Chair
2	Welcome and introductions	Chair
3	Apologies	Chair
4	Governance/Declarations	Chair / All
5	Business arising (held over to Q1 2025 CRG)	Chair
6	Correspondence (held over to Q1 2025 CRG)	Chair
7	Social Impact Management Plan (SIM Plan) briefing	WSP (CM)
8	SIM Plan consultation overview	EnergyCo (AB) (RW)
9	Discussion	All
10	Meeting Close	Chair

EnergyCo

Meeting Minutes



Meeting minutes

Item	Description	Lead	Discussions
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Chair	Meeting opened at 10:02am
2	Welcome and Introductions	Chair	Chair thanked members for making themselves available for the extraordinary CRG. Provided background on reason for meeting.
3	Apologies	Chair	As listed.
4	Business arising from last CRG held 23/10/24	Chair	Held over to Q1 2025
5	Declarations	Chair	Nil
6	Correspondence report	Chair	Held over to Q1 2025

Item	Description	Lead	Discussions
7	Social Impact Management Plan (SIM Plan) briefing	WSP (CM)	<p>Section 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation commenced with overview of SIM Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is a SIM Plan ○ Plan Development ○ Plan Requirements <p>Section 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Impact Assessment • Social Locality • Social Impacts • Management Measures <p>Section 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Engagement Approach • Timeframes <p>Section 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback

Item	Description	Lead	Discussions
7.1	Comments/Feedback	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of concern raised: existing telecommunications, housing, road safety and traffic impacts, accommodation, local employment, gender equity, childcare, mental health, the acquisition process, eligibility for the Community Employment Benefit Program. • Discussion on how the many different plans required by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) speak to each other. The Social Impact Management Plan will consider all plans' recommendations to ensure they are effective. • Discussion on workforce accommodation and the local workforce. ACEREZ advised that local employees would continue to live locally. Consideration of accommodation location and travel options to sites will be given to regionally based employees on a case-by-case basis. The aim of the accommodation camps is not to put pressure on hotels or long-term rental accommodation in the region. • Request to consult with emergency and social services.
8	SIM Plan Consultation Overview (EnergyCo)	AB / RW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo outlined the planned consultation approach to help inform development of the SIM Plan. The Plan includes interviews, workshops, face to face feedback sessions and an online survey. Further information about the Plan will be available to key stakeholders as it is developed. • Discussion about the need to include social services and other government agencies. • The need to consider the engagement activities of other projects to avoid consultation fatigue was noted.

Item	Description	Lead	Discussions
9	Discussion	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnergyCo requested feedback on the proposed approach to consultation. Feedback was requested on the location of drop-in sessions. • Discussion around timing, with weekends and evenings recommended. • Discussion around venues, with the proposal to include smaller towns centres agreed to. • Discussion around format, including need for structured questions which reflect community impacts. • Discussion around promotion of consultation. EnergyCo outlined using social media, website, local government newsletters, local papers. Feedback suggested ABC and community radio, and other agencies email newsletters such as those sent by NSW Farmers. • Committee members requested more time be given to review a draft of the Plan. • EnergyCo thanked members for their feedback and recognised the need for the consultation program to be flexible and that timings for a draft review would be looked at.
10	Close	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Closed at 11.18am.

Note: There was a Fact Sheet provided to in-person attendees “Guide to the Social Impact Management Plan – Central West Orana REZ transmission project”.

Next meeting

JH advised that there is a NSW Farmers meeting on 18 February 2025, which will conflict with the proposed Q1 2025 of the CRG. Chair to propose alternate date.

Date: TBC

Time: 10am morning tea; 10.30am to 1pm CRG

Venue: Dubbo - TBC