Annual Community Attitudes Survey

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project
Summary of Results

Social Impact Management Themes

Annual Community Attitudes Survey

Survey Overview

The first Annual Community Attitudes Survey undertaken during construction was conducted between April and May 2026 to measure community sentiment against SIM Plan indicators and compare results with the independently conducted pre-construction baseline survey undertaken between January and March 2025.

The survey included 400 participants from across the project area using a representative sampling approach designed to reflect the demographic and geographic profile of local communities.

Summary of Results

Survey Results across the eight SIM Plan impact themes show that:

- Seven indicators were on target
- Four indicators were behind target
- Two indicators were not applicable due to the absence of a baseline target or because results could not be statistically compared.

Where indicators do not meet target, adaptive management measures identified in the SIM Plan are implemented to respond to findings and support ongoing improvement throughout construction.

Annual Attitude Survey Results and Considerations

Social Impact Management Plan – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project

Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	2026 Result	Indicator Comments
Community					
C-01	Proportion of people who describe their relationship with their neighbours and members of the community as 'good' and 'very good'.	90%	<5% decrease from baseline	85% ✓	On target
Way of Life					
W-01	Proportion of people who report being 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with the way in which traffic impacts are managed.	69%	<5% increase from baseline	41% ✓	On target
W-02	Proportion of people who describe their experience with the volume of local traffic as 'poor' and 'none/very poor'.	20%	<5% increase from baseline	25% ✓	On target
Accessibility					
A-02	Proportion of people who describe their access to telecommunications as 'poor' or 'none'	37%	>1% increase annually	18% ✓	On target
Health and Wellbeing					
H-01	Proportion of landowners who report to be 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the mental health support available for landowners and community members.	5%	<5% increase from baseline	41% ✓	On target
Culture					
CH-01	Proportion of responses reporting 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.	5%	>10% increase from baseline	25% ✓	On target
Surroundings					
S-02	Proportion of responses indicating their enjoyment of the environment is 'good' or 'very good'	94%	<20% decrease in satisfaction from baseline	86% ✓	On target

Annual Attitude Survey Results and Considerations

Social Impact Management Plan – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project

Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	2026 Result	Indicator Comments
Livelihood					
L-04	Proportion of survey respondents who rate the biosecurity for local landowners involved in agricultural production as 'very good' and 'good'	45%	>5% increase from previous year	31% ⊗	The proportion of landowners involved in agricultural production who rated project biosecurity management as 'good' or 'very good' decreased from 45% at baseline to 31% in 2026 and did not meet the SIM Plan target. Survey participants commonly identified concerns relating to earthworks, soil disturbance, erosion and the potential for impacts on agricultural land.

What is being done to manage biosecurity risks?

To manage biosecurity risks, the SIM Plan includes biosecurity measures for access to landholder properties and the implementation of property access plans. Where indicators do not meet target, the SIM Plan requires a review of existing biosecurity measures and verification that property access plans are being implemented and adhered to.

Consistent with these adaptive management measures, EnergyCo and ACEREZ are reviewing existing biosecurity controls and property access arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate and effective.

Additional actions being considered include increasing engagement with councils, landholders and subject matter experts to better understand community concerns and improve awareness of existing biosecurity management measures.

Annual Attitude Survey Results and Considerations

Social Impact Management Plan – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project

Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	2026 Result	Indicator Comments
Decision making systems					
D-01	Level of satisfaction of community and stakeholder about the management of social impacts (proportion 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')	9%	>10% increase from previous year	12% ⊗	The proportion of respondents who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the management of social impacts increased from 9% to 12%. While satisfaction improved compared with the baseline survey, the result did not meet the SIM Plan target.
D-01	Level of satisfaction of community and stakeholders about ability to lodge queries, complaints and receive a response (proportion 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')	9%	>10% increase from previous year	10% ⊗	The proportion of respondents who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their ability to lodge queries, complaints and receive a response increased from 9% to 10%. While the result remained relatively stable, it did not meet the SIM Plan target.
D-01	Level of satisfaction of community and stakeholders about access to project information (proportion 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')	11%	>10% increase from previous year	20% ⊗	The proportion of respondents who were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with access to project information increased from 11% to 20%. While this represents a notable improvement compared with the baseline survey, the result remained slightly below the SIM Plan target.

What is being done to strengthen decision-making systems?

While satisfaction with the management of social impacts, access to project information, and the ability to lodge queries, complaints and receive a response improved compared with the baseline survey, all three indicators remained below target. Collectively, these results suggest that community confidence in decision-making is influenced not only by project outcomes, but also by how information is shared, how concerns are addressed, and how decisions affecting communities are communicated and understood.

To support communication, engagement and decision-making, the SIM Plan includes measures to improve access to project information, provide opportunities for community input and feedback, and support ongoing stakeholder engagement. These measures include implementation of the Community Communication Strategy, establishment of community and stakeholder forums, including the Community Reference Group (CRG), Central-West Orana Working Group and Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) sub-group, and operation of the community information centre.

Where indicators do not meet target, the SIM Plan requires a review of processes for documenting and managing unexpected impacts, identification of opportunities to strengthen social impact management practices, and an independent review of existing arrangements.

Consistent with these adaptive management measures, EnergyCo and ACEREZ will continue reviewing existing social impact management, communication and engagement processes to ensure they remain appropriate and effective. Reviews will also identify opportunities to strengthen communication, engagement, decision-making and social impact management throughout construction.

Annual Attitude Survey Results and Considerations

Social Impact Management Plan – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project

There are **two** indicators where baseline or 2026 data was not recorded, requiring consideration in SIM Plan review

Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	2026 Result	Indicator Comments
Surroundings					
S-01	Proportion of responses indicating 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with management of impacts to agricultural land.	Nil	<10% decrease in satisfaction from baseline	51%	Baseline data was not collected, meaning comparison cannot be established. In 2026, 51% were 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with the management of impacts to agricultural land.
Way of Life					
W-02	Proportion of responses indicating their sense of safety on the road as 'poor' or 'none'.	Nil	<5% decrease from baseline	21%	The original indicator was: "Proportion of people who describe their sense of safety as 'poor' and 'none/very poor'" and has been amended for this SIM Plan Annual Community Attitudes Survey (as noted to the right). Question wording was changed to reflect 'safety on the road'. Original indicator's target remains unchanged. As no baseline has been defined for this amended indicator, no comparison can be established in this annual survey. Respondents selected a rating on a five-point scale. In 2026, 21% rated their sense of safety on the road as 'poor' or 'none'.

Additional Interview Survey Comments

Social Impact Management Plan – Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Project

What else we heard

In addition to the results reported against SIM Plan indicators, participants shared broader feedback on matters important to local communities. These insights provide additional context on community views and experiences during the first year of construction.

Common themes included:

- Cumulative impacts
- Community confidence in decision-making
- Water security concerns
- Local government capacity

While not all of these matters are directly related to the construction impacts managed through the SIM Plan, they provide important context for understanding community views and concerns.

These findings will be considered alongside other monitoring information and shared with the appropriate project teams and stakeholders for consideration. This process helps identify where additional actions, responsibilities or broader project and government responses may be required.