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Meeting minutes
Central-West Orana REZ Community Reference Group

Held on: 11/08/2026 – 10.30am to 1.05pm

At: Western Plains Cultural Centre, 76 Wingewarra Street, Dubbo

Chaired by: Garry West

Attendees	
Independent Chair	Garry West (Chair)
EnergyCo representatives	Alicia Rados, Associate Director, Community and Place (AR) Rebecca Williams, Community Engagement Manager (RW) Joanna Yang, Program Delivery Manager (JY) *online*
Transport for NSW representatives	Allison Dunsdon, Senior Manager, Renewables Transportation (AD) *online*
LGA delegates	Councillor Katie Dicker, Mid-Western Regional Council (KD) *online* Councillor Kathy Rindfleish, Mayor of Warrumbungle Shire Council (KR) *online* Councillor Josh Black, Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council (JB)
Government/MPs	The Hon. Dugald Saunders, Member for Dubbo (DS) Jane Diffey, Snr Electorate Officer Dugald Saunders' Office (JD)
Community representatives	Lisa Penson (LP) Leigh Shoemark (LS) *online*
Stakeholder groups	Beverley Smiles, Central West Environment Council (BS) Jane Hegarty, Cassilis District Development Group (JH) Aleshia Lonsdale, Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council (AL) *online* Sally Neaves, Catholic Diocese of Bathurst Environmental Group (SN)
ACJV representatives	Kee Li, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager (KL) Sonja Malcolm, Workforce Development and Training Manager (SM) *online* Nick Francesconi, Environmental Advisor (NF) *online* Catie Anderson, Operational Services Director (CA) Tim Smith, Property Manager (TS) Darren Cooke, Senior Safety Manager (DC) *online*
Network Operator representatives	Steve Masters, CEO (SM) *online* Miranda Wood, Director Communications and Stakeholder Engagement (MW) *online* Sharon Labi, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs (SL)

Attendees	
Apologies	David Menchin, Mel Manchee, Kylie Manson

AGENDA

1	Acknowledgement of Country	Chair
2	Welcome and introductions	Chair
3	Apologies	Chair
4	Governance/declarations	Chair / All
5	Business arising	Chair
6	Correspondence	Chair
7	ACEREZ CEO Welcome	SM
8	ACEREZ – Project update	
8.1	ACEREZ – Project construction	WV/NF/DC
8.2	ACEREZ – Community engagement	KL
8.3	ACEREZ – Industry & Aboriginal participation	SM
9	EnergyCo update	
9.1	EnergyCo's Telecommunications Uplift Program	JY
9.2	EnergyCo – Port to REZ	AR
9.3	EnergyCo – Community engagement update	AR
10	General business	All
11	Next meeting	Chair

MEETING MINUTES

1	Acknowledgement of Country	GW	
2	Welcome and introductions	Chair	Meeting opened at 10.30am.
3	Apologies	Chair	David Menchin, Mel Manchee, Kylie Manson.
4	Business arising from last meeting (5/5/2026)	Chair	See table below

No	Action	Responsibility	Due date	Comments/updates	Status
1	Spreadsheet outlining current status of all project approval Management Plans	KL	Before next meeting	All Management Plans have been approved. No further update will be provided as all required Management Plans are approved and published on https://www.acerez.com.au/resources, under *Post-approval document library*.	Closed
2	Follow-up with Squadron Energy about the timing of its OSOM to Uungula Wind Farm	AR	Completed during meeting	UWF OSOM delivery schedule | Squadron Energy Squadron Uungula Project: uungulawind@squadronenergy.com Complaints and issues contact point: Tel : 0488820191.	Closed
3	Provide location of potential telecommunications tower	EnergyCo	Completed during this meeting	Locations will be determined through the competitive grants process, however the assessment criteria are designed to push investments towards priority locations.	Closed
4	Planning of OSOM by Transport for NSW	AR	Next meeting	Update provided during this meeting; Transport for NSW will regularly attend CRG.	

			5	Hold future CRG meeting at the Merotherie Accommodation Camp	KL	Next meeting	It was agreed the next CRG meeting, scheduled for November 2026, will be held at the Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation site, including a site tour.	
			6	Provide approved transport route for Wollar area	AR	Next meeting		
5	Declarations	Chair	No changes to declarations.					
6	Correspondence report	Chair	8/5/26 – Email to members with responses to action items from the Q1 2026 meeting and action item related to OSOM from the Q2 CRG. 8/5/26 – Email to members attaching TOR advising that applications are open for Term 3. 18/5/26 – Email to members with draft minutes for review. 27/5/26 – Email to members with finalised minutes, presentation & reminder for Term 3 applications. 14/7/26 – Email advising applicants of their appointment to the Term 3 CRG. 23/7/26 – Email agenda for 11/8/26 meeting.					
7	ACEREZ CEO acknowledgement		Steve Masters (CEO) joined the meeting online and welcomed new and returning CRG members. SM also welcomed new chair Garry West, paid tribute to outgoing chair Lisa Andrews and thanked all members for their time, commitment and valuable contributions to the CRG, adding he looked forward to a collaborative and productive term.					

8.1	ACEREZ – Project construction	WV	**Presentation included:** • Indicative construction timeline. • Project construction highlights video. • Construction activities – Barigan Creek and Elong Elong (work in May, June and July). • Construction activities – Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation and Sandy Lane Energy Hub (work in May, June and July). • Construction activities – Transmission lines including transmission line access tracks construction - Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek; transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane towards Cassilis; transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barneys Reef Road. • Construction activities – 330kV switching stations. • Merotherie Road upgrade and what to expect. • Intersection upgrade (WAD 2) – Blue Springs Road and Golden Highway intersection. • Three-month lookahead – August to October 2026 including project wide, energy hubs, 330kV switching stations, transmission lines. **Questions and responses:** • JH asked about access tracks to the Valley of the Winds Project which is currently having its approval challenged in court. TS advised they are completing access tracks to their currently approved switching stations. JH said the mine sites host an annual 'Open Day' and asked whether ACEREZ would offer a similar arrangement at Merotherie. SL advised that some immediate neighbours and smaller groups have visited the Merotherie site. Given Merotherie is still an active construction site, an open day isn't appropriate at this stage. • DS raised concerns about drainage issues at switching stations and potential flooding. WV indicated they are designed to mitigate flooding impacts. The sites receive regular inspections from the independent Environmental Representative appointed by the NSW Government, as well as representatives from DPHI. At this stage all sites are holding up well with recent rain events. • BS indicated that Transgrid is also working in the area of the Barigan Creek Switching Station and there is an

overload of deliveries coming into the area. WV advised there is still some more material to come, mainly gravel and cement. BS referred to road damage and safety issues with gravel truck movements from Bylong quarry. GW acknowledged the feedback and suggested local council be notified regarding any ongoing safety concerns.

- BS enquired about the program for the stringing process. TS advised that once the towers are erected for each section, the stringing is the next operation whilst tower construction continues in other sections.
- BS indicated that when the 500kV line from the new Mt Piper power station was erected the towers were painted green to soften the shine. ACEREZ will consider BS' feedback. **ACTION**
- JH raised concerns about Coolah Road which links Cassilis to Vinegaroy Rd which is being used by ACEREZ to access the construction work for their development of the transmission lines at the East Uarbry section. The road is being impacted by heavy vehicles and there has been little discussion about a maintenance schedule for that road to assist the Upper Hunter Shire Council which has limited funds for rural roads. Has a road maintenance program been developed to assist with the road maintenance on the approved route? **ACTION**

NF and DC presentation included:

- Environmental initiative – supplementary hollows (Hollow and Nest Strategy).
- Bushfire season preparedness – including simulated fire extinguisher training and RFS bushfire awareness.
- Fire Danger Ratings – DC provided an overview of how fire danger ratings have been integrated into the electronic pre-start forms.
- DC explained that a log for site personnel is prepared each day so if evacuations occur all personnel can be accounted for.
- Daily briefing boards provide advice on what works may be restricted and which ones require permits.

Questions and responses:

- BS noted that extensive clearing is being undertaken for easement tracks. Are these being done outside breeding season? NF advised that clearing outside of Spring is undertaken as much as possible, and the team is working closely with WIRES if their assistance is needed.
- SN asked how many artificial hollows are being installed, what species are targeted, and what is the size of the hollows? NF advised the number depends on need and the landscape. The number and size depend

			on the species. • JH raised concern that habitats are being removed and not replaced, resulting in a net decline in the region. Can the bird boxes be put in trees that are still standing in areas where the habitat has been destroyed so local populations can remain in the area? NF advised the hollow log nests are particularly needed where connectivity is essential. • JH asked how workers are advised if an evacuation is required in areas where there is no internet access. DC advised work crews have internet access through Starlink. • JH asked what training is undertaken for people working around switching stations, particularly in relation to industrial fires. DC advised all crews are adequately trained in line with WHS requirements. TS also explained that concerns about industrial fire risk is a matter for ACEREZ M&L after construction is completed. M&L is establishing appropriate processes and can provide more detail in future CRGs. **ACTION** • DS asked in the event of a bushfire if the strategy is to save houses before equipment. BS pointed out that training with local RFS crews would be useful coming into the next fire season to help with the volunteer load and ageing demographic. TS advised the policy is to be a 'good neighbour' and help where they can. CA commented that last year the ACEREZ work crews assisted at least five bushfire incidents.
8.2	Community engagement update	KL	**Presentation included:** • Events attended including the Henry Lawson Heritage Festival, Leadville Markets, the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days and the Art Unlimited regional art exhibition in Dunedoo which ACEREZ sponsored. • Upcoming events include National Renewables in Agriculture Conference, Orana Youth Forum, Mudgee Running Festival, Central-West Orana Local Jobs Fairs, Flavours of Mudgee, Pink Up Mudgee and Wellington Markets. • Update on the ACEREZ Community Grants Program Round 2. **Questions and responses:** • BS asked if the link was clear for the grants. Response was yes. • Cr Kathy Rindfleish asked whether all applicants must be within the REZ, as she had received requests for support from organisations that she was not aware of providing services to her LGA. KL responded that all applicants must meet the eligibility criteria, including providing services to the four council LGAs and LALCs.

8.3	Industry & Aboriginal participation	SM	**Presentation included:** • Statistical information on the workforce profile, including Aboriginal participation, with focus on diversity and skills. • Headcount, full-time equivalents, gender ratio, targets against project workforce and reporting number of placements. • Local workforce and supplies (local employment outcomes by LGA). • Guyulgang Futures program - graduates take next steps into construction careers. • ACEREZ partnering with Workforce Australia's Local Jobs Program to deliver two Jobs Fairs. • SN asked what is on offer for jobs in the environment field in the areas impacted by the REZ and if there were any apprenticeships available. CA indicated local recruitment is undertaken.
	LUNCH BREAK		**Members broke for lunch at 11.55am. Meeting recommenced at 12.15pm.**
9.1	EnergyCo update – Telecommunications Uplift Program	JY	**Presentation included:** • Provided a presentation/program overview on EnergyCo's proposed Telecommunications Uplift Program to be administered in partnership with the NSW Telco Authority, and with applications to open in coming months.
9.2	Port to REZ Project Update	AR	**Presented a progress update:** • Port to REZ critical road upgrades are nearing completion (12 of 19 intersections completed, 2 of 5 pullover bays commenced and remaining works on track for completion by Q4 2026). **Questions and responses:** • JH reported that, as the first turbine blade delivery was due to commence on Monday 10 August, she has received advice that the school run, which normally took 30 to 40 minutes, was extended by 20 to 30 minutes. It was clear that the delivery was occurring during school bus times. This needs to be revised. When the blade is passing through Merriwa, the town shuts down. AR advised Community should consider factoring in

			additional travel time to move safely around OSOM movements. GW to raise at UWF CCC. **ACTION** • LP noted the traffic controllers are good, but when work is not occurring the speed limit signs need to be covered. AR advised her understanding was the new law only applies when the work reaches a required level of safety. • LP noted these impacts are occurring when only one wind farm is under construction. The cumulative impact will likely be greater when several are under construction at the same time will be a major issue. • KR reported a WSC community transport bus was delayed by 30 minutes due to being caught behind an OSOM and a community member subsequently missed a medical appointment. KR questioned how Squadron is notifying community about movements. **ACTION**
9.3	Community engagement update	AR	**Presentation included:** • Provided an overview of the community roadshow planned for 11-15 August, both the proposed locations and the topics to be addressed. • Dunedoo Community Leaders Roundtable held on 12 May 2026. A second roundtable will be held later in the year.
10	General business	GW	• Whether CRG members agree to having their email addresses added to the EnergyCo website. GW will send members an email. **ACTION** • BS asked for details of the next tranche of the EnergyCo Community and Employment Benefits program. **ACTION** • GW thanked all members for their attendance at the first meeting of Term 3.
11	Next meeting		To be held at the temporary workforce accommodation at Merotherie. A site inspection will follow for interested members.
	Meeting close		Meeting closed at 1.05 pm.

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2	Follow-up with Squadron Energy about the timing of its OSOM to Uungula Wind Farm	AR	Completed during meeting		Closed
3	Provide location of potential telecommunications tower	AR	Next meeting		Closed
4	Planning of OSOM by Transport for NSW	AR	Next meeting		
5	Hold future CRG meeting at the Merotherie Accommodation Camp	KL	Next meeting	Agreed the next CRG to be held at the temporary workforce accommodation at Merotherie.	
6	Provide information about approved transport route for Wollar area	AR	Next meeting		

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Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Reference Group

11 August 2026

Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo & Online

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Acknowledgement of Country

Agenda

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1. Introduction by new chair Garry West
2. Introduction of Term 3 CRG members
3. Welcome by ACEREZ CEO Steve Masters
4. ACEREZ project update
    - Project construction – Wayne Vella/Nicholas Francesconi/Darren Cooke
    - Community engagement – Kee Li
    - Industry and Aboriginal participation – Sonja Malcolm

Lunch break

5. EnergyCo update
    - Telecommunications Uplift Program – Joanna Yang
    - Port to REZ – Dimitri Perdikaris
    - Community engagement – Alicia Rados
6. General business

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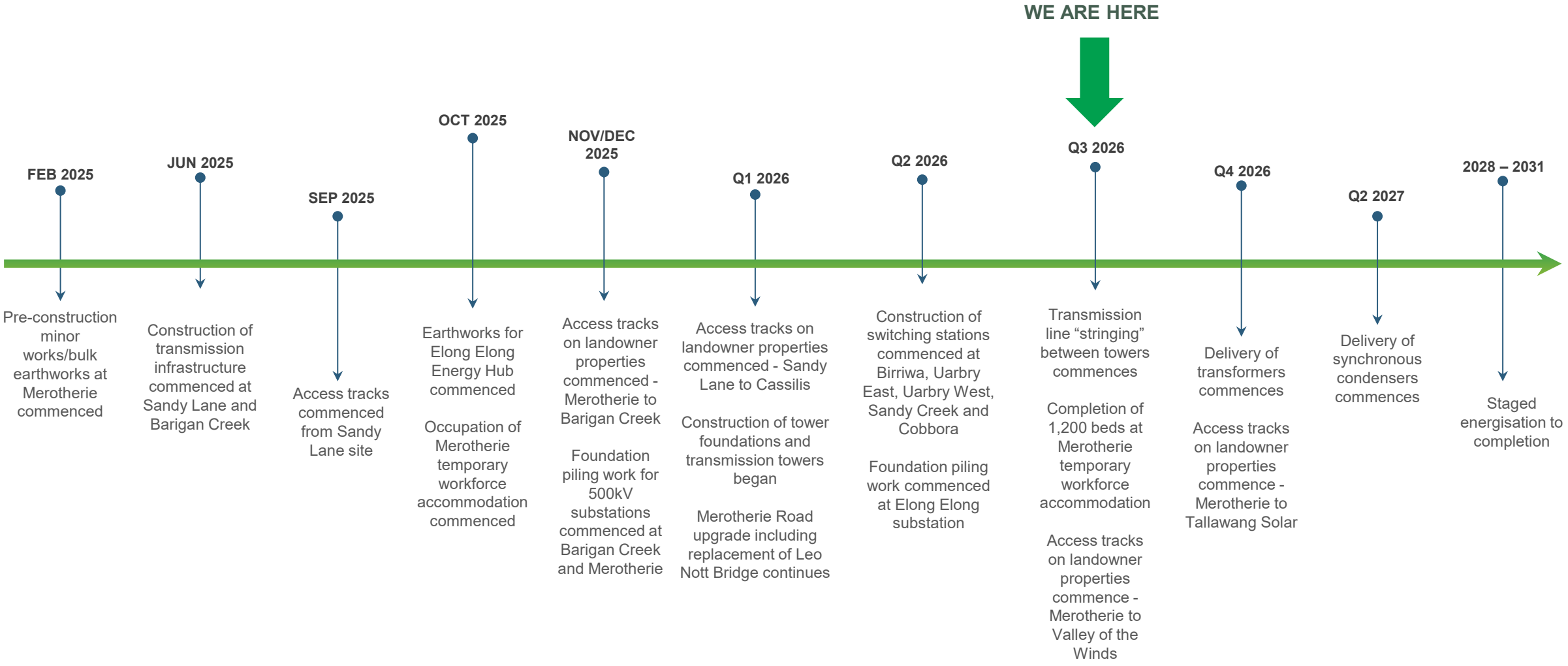
ACEREZ project update

Indicative construction timeline



July 2026 construction update video

Construction activities – Barigan Creek and Elong Elong

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Work in May, June and July included:

Barigan Creek

- Completion of piling of the foundations and five out of six electrical gantry structures
- Commencement of testing of foundations together with installation of electrical equipment, including circuit breakers and isolation switches
- Construction of drainage, internal roads and equipment storage areas
- Construction of cable trenches, pits and associated works

Elong Elong

- Delivery of machinery, equipment and materials
- Bulk earthworks continued to prepare the site for energy hub infrastructure construction
- Commencement of piling

Barigan Creek Switching Station

Elong Elong Energy Hub

Construction activities – Merotherie and Sandy Lane

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Work in May, June and July included:

- Completion of eight out of nine electrical gantry structures at the Sandy Lane Energy Hub
- Construction of foundations for transformers and synchronous condensers commenced, while bulk earthworks and piling continue for other energy hub infrastructure
- Construction of internal roads, laydown area, plant workshop and drainage
- Commenced installation of electrical equipment work, such as circuit breakers and isolation switches
- Construction of cable trenches, pits and associated works

Sandy Lane Energy Hub

Construction activities – Merotherie and Sandy Lane

Temporary workforce accommodation

- About 1,100 ensuite bedroom units and service facilities are now operational at the Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation site
- Completion of accommodation units, site utilities and remaining facilities at the site
- Ongoing delivery of machinery, equipment and materials

Merotherie Temporary Workforce Accommodation

Construction activities – transmission lines

Transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek

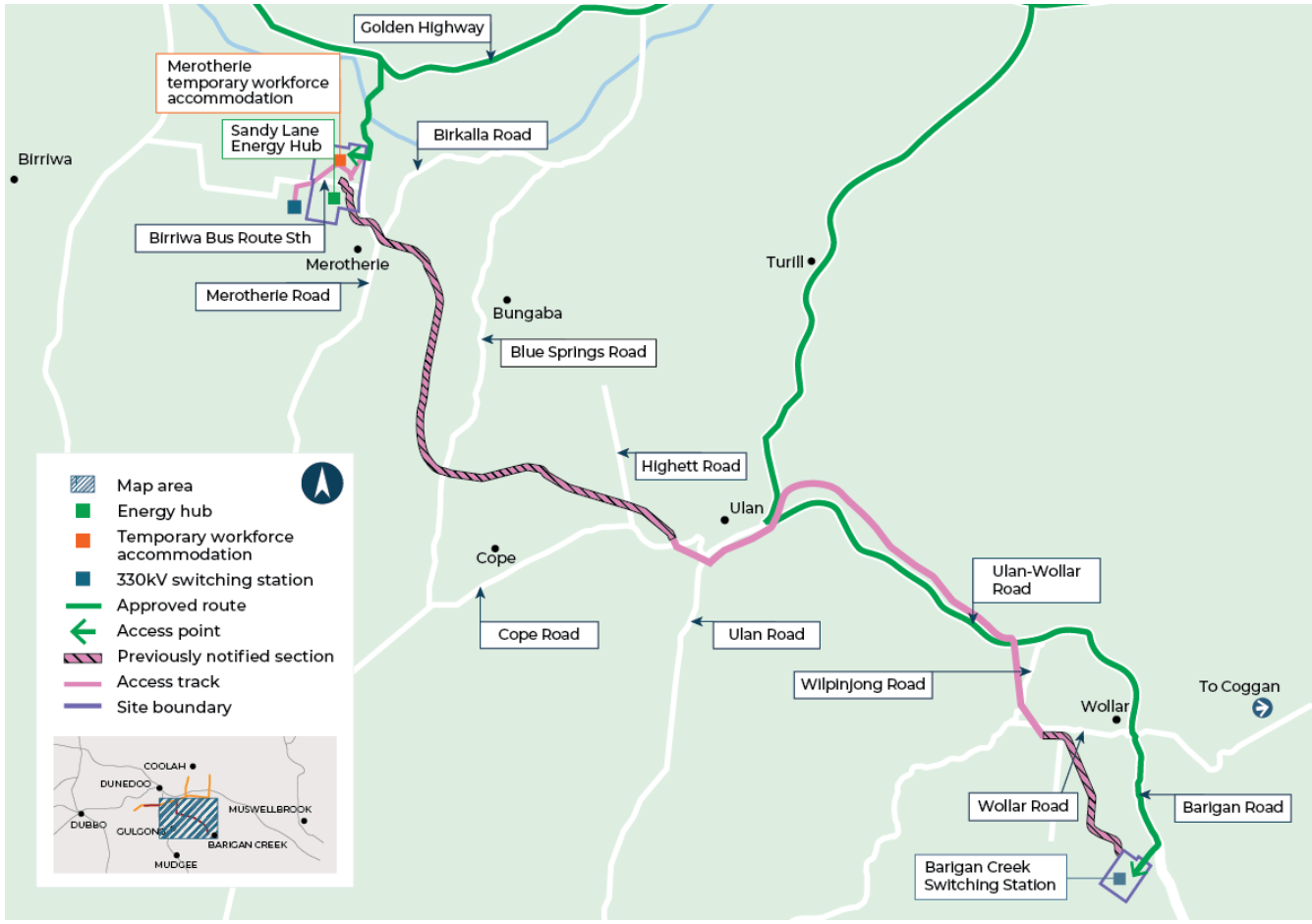
Work on access tracks has recommenced and tower foundations continue from Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barigan Creek Switching Station.

There are approximately 260 transmission towers within this alignment. More than 38 towers have been installed as of July 2026.

ACEREZ will update the community before any clearing work is undertaken within the transmission line easement on Birriwa Bus Route South.

Work within the alignment includes:

- Construction of access tracks and transmission tower pads, including vegetation clearing on agreed properties
- Piling of tower foundations, concreting and tower ground earthing installation between Cope Road and Ulan Road, and between Blue Springs Road and Cope Road
- Pre-assembly work and erection of transmission towers
- Site preparation and equipment set up to enable stringing
- Utilities relocation and protection work along the transmission line alignment



Work area map

Construction activities – transmission lines

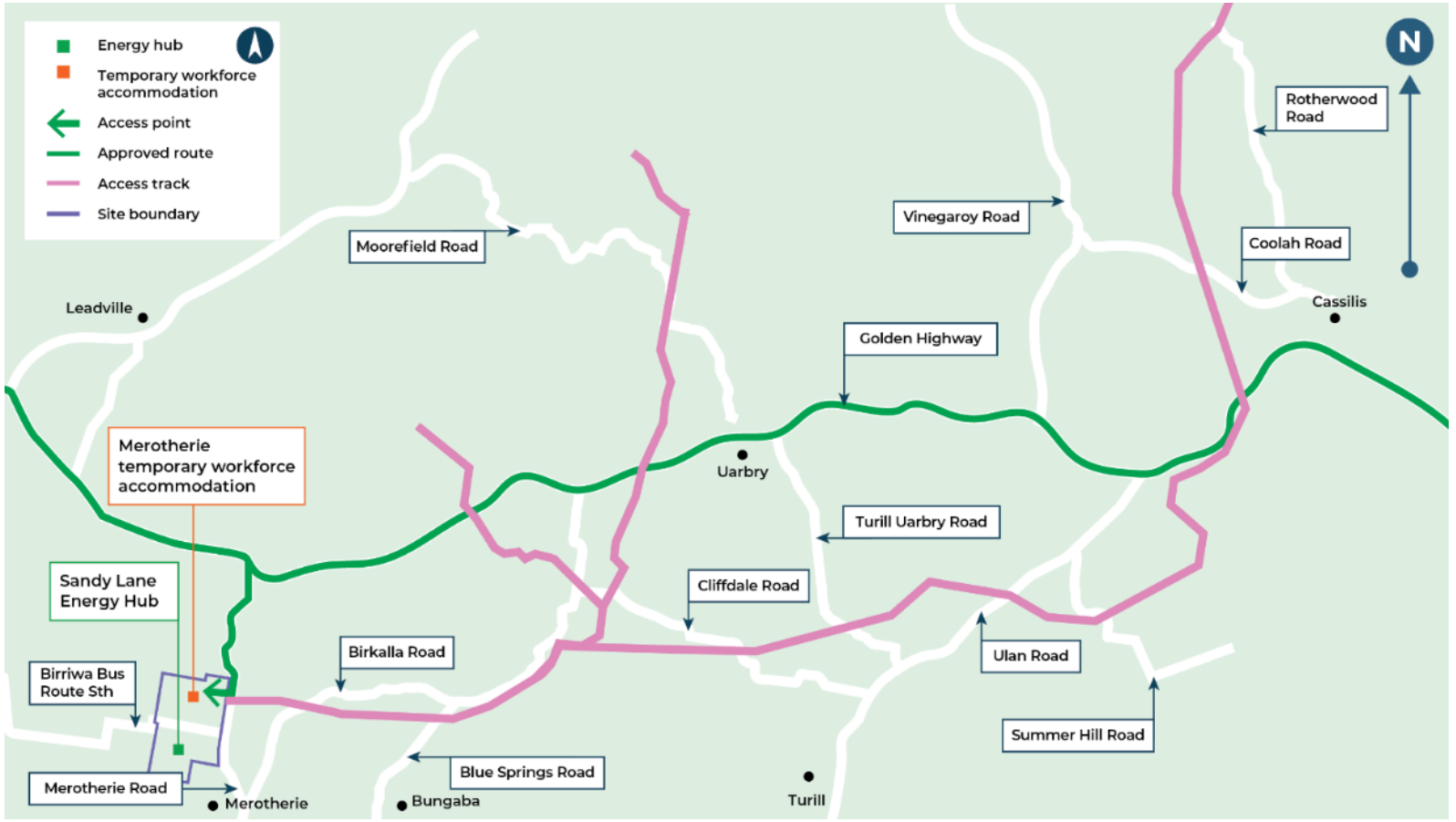
Transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane towards Cassilis

Work continues from Sandy Lane Energy Hub towards Cassilis.

There are approximately 270 transmission towers within this alignment.

Work within the alignment will include:

- Construction of access tracks and transmission tower pads, including vegetation clearing on agreed properties
- Piling of tower foundations, concreting and tower ground earthing installation between Sandy Lane Energy Hub and Blue Springs Road, and between Blue Springs Road and Cliffdale Road
- Pre-assembly work and erection of transmission towers
- Site preparation and equipment set up to enable stringing
- Utilities relocation and protection work along the transmission line alignment



Work area map

Construction activities – transmission lines

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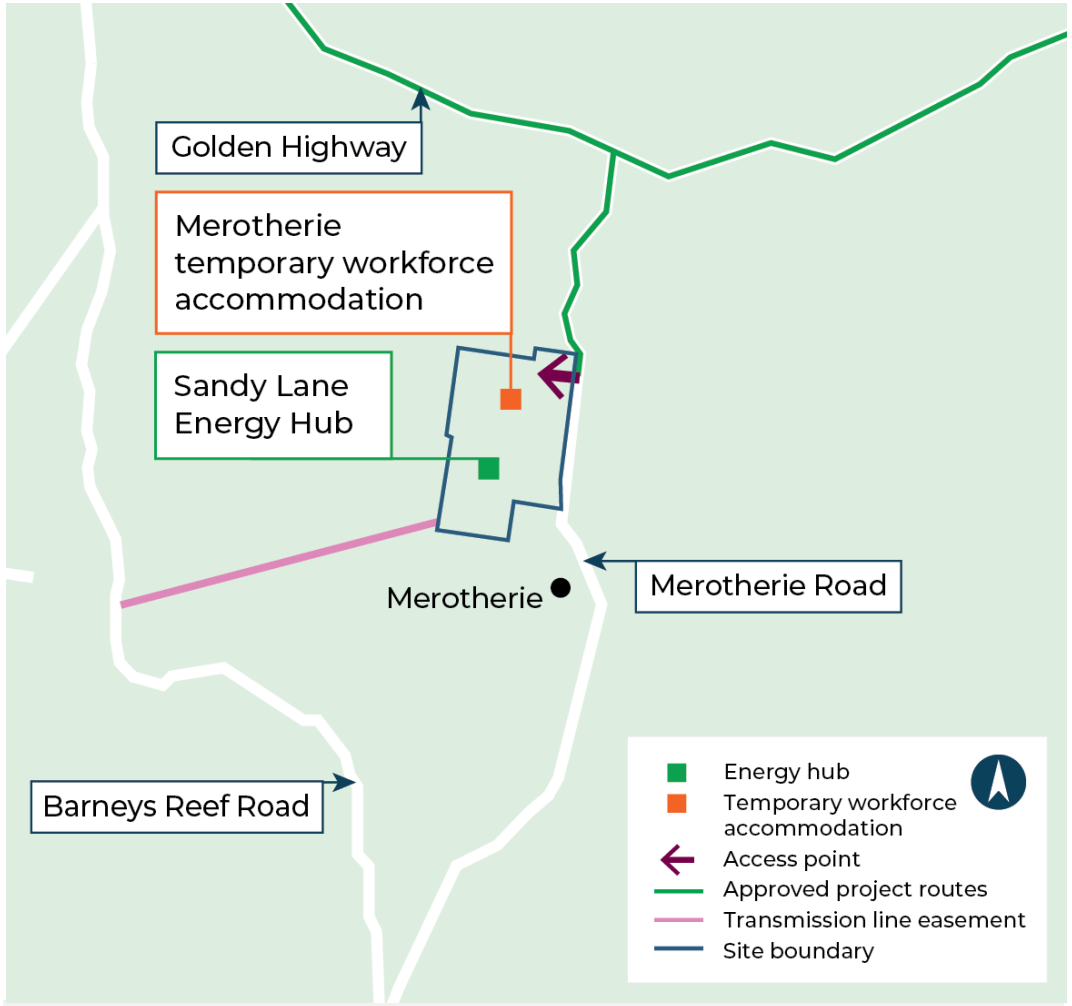
Transmission line access tracks construction – Sandy Lane Energy Hub to Barneys Reef Road

Construction of access tracks and tower foundations between the Sandy Lane Energy Hub and Barneys Reef Road is due to commence in Q3 2026.

There are approximately 55 transmission towers within this alignment.

Work within the alignment will include:

- Construction of access tracks including vegetation clearing on agreed property, followed by earthworks, formwork and concrete pouring within the transmission line easement
- Construction of tower pads and foundations
- Pre-assembly work and erection of transmission towers
- Utilities relocation and protection work along the transmission line alignment



Work area map

Construction activities – switching stations

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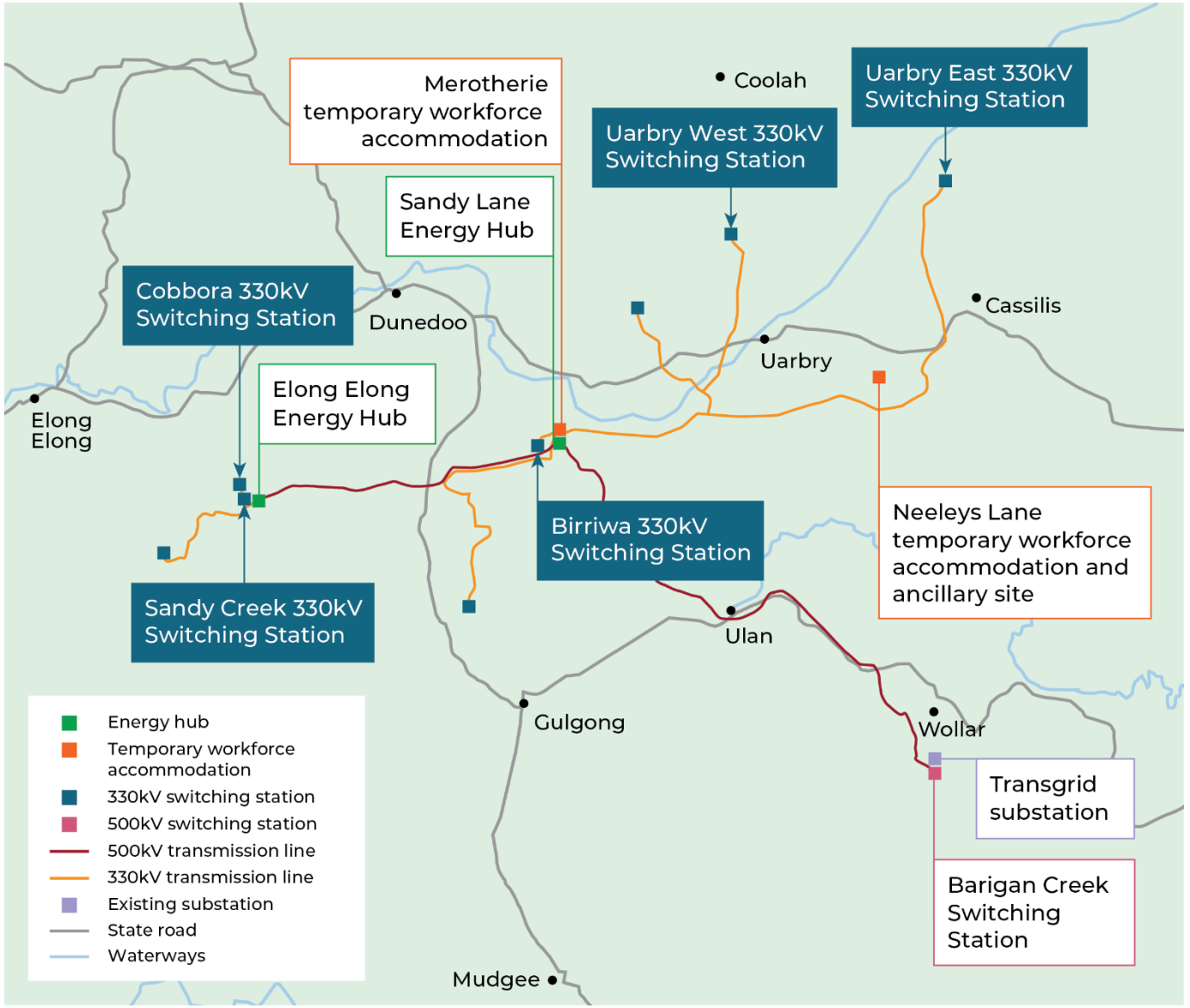
330kV switching stations

- Work is continuing on the Birriwa, Uarbry East, Uarbry West, Sandy Creek and Cobbora 330kV switching stations
- The work includes fencing and gate adjustments on agreed private properties, surveys, delivery of machinery, equipment and materials, bulk earthworks and drainage to prepare the sites for construction
- Following community engagement and ongoing liaison with representatives from the Cassilis Development Group, Cassilis Public School and Upper Hunter Shire Council, ACJV is seeking approval to use Branksome Street/Buccleugh Street/Coolah Road for all heavy vehicles, and Ancrum Street for all light vehicles, to access the Uarbry East Switching Station site
- Works will also occur at the remaining three switching stations at Valley of the Winds, Tallawang and Spicers Creek when access has been achieved



Merotherie Road upgrade

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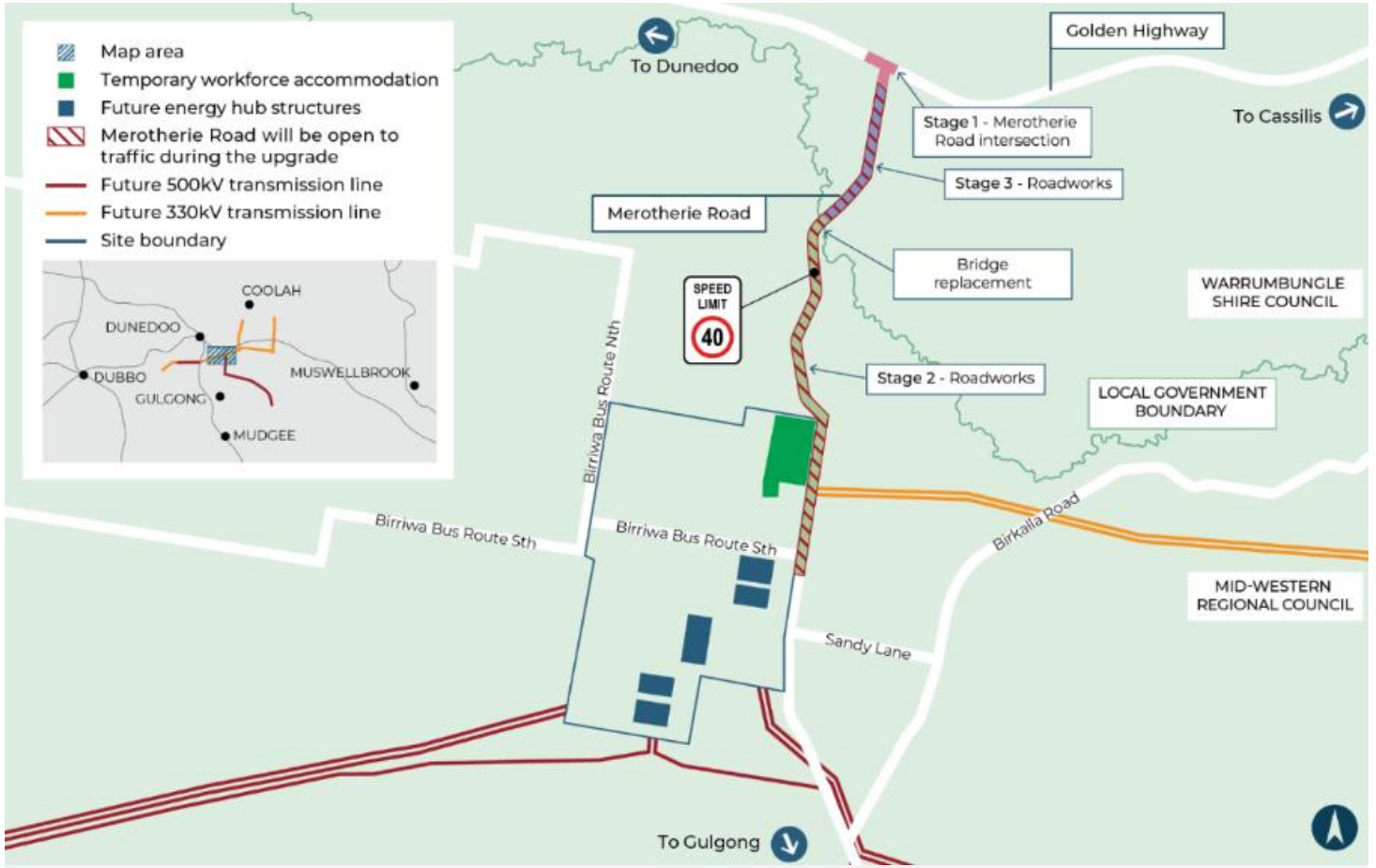
- Following the completion of Stage 1, the upgrade of the Golden Highway and Merotherie Road intersection late last year, work is continuing on Merotherie Road, from the intersection with Golden Highway to approximately 300 metres south of Birriwa Bus Route South. This includes replacing the existing bridge over the Talbragar River, widening and sealing the road and extending and improving the existing drainage
- The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, weather and site conditions permitting
- Merotherie Road remains open throughout with stop-go traffic control in place

What to expect:

- Access to Merotherie Road will be maintained at all times with temporary stop-go traffic control
- Reduced speed limit of 40km/h around the construction site
- Oversized plant and machinery within the construction site
- Use of water spray trucks as required
- All relevant environmental controls will be in place during the work
- Safe access for cyclists will be maintained



Work area map

Intersection upgrade (WAD 2)

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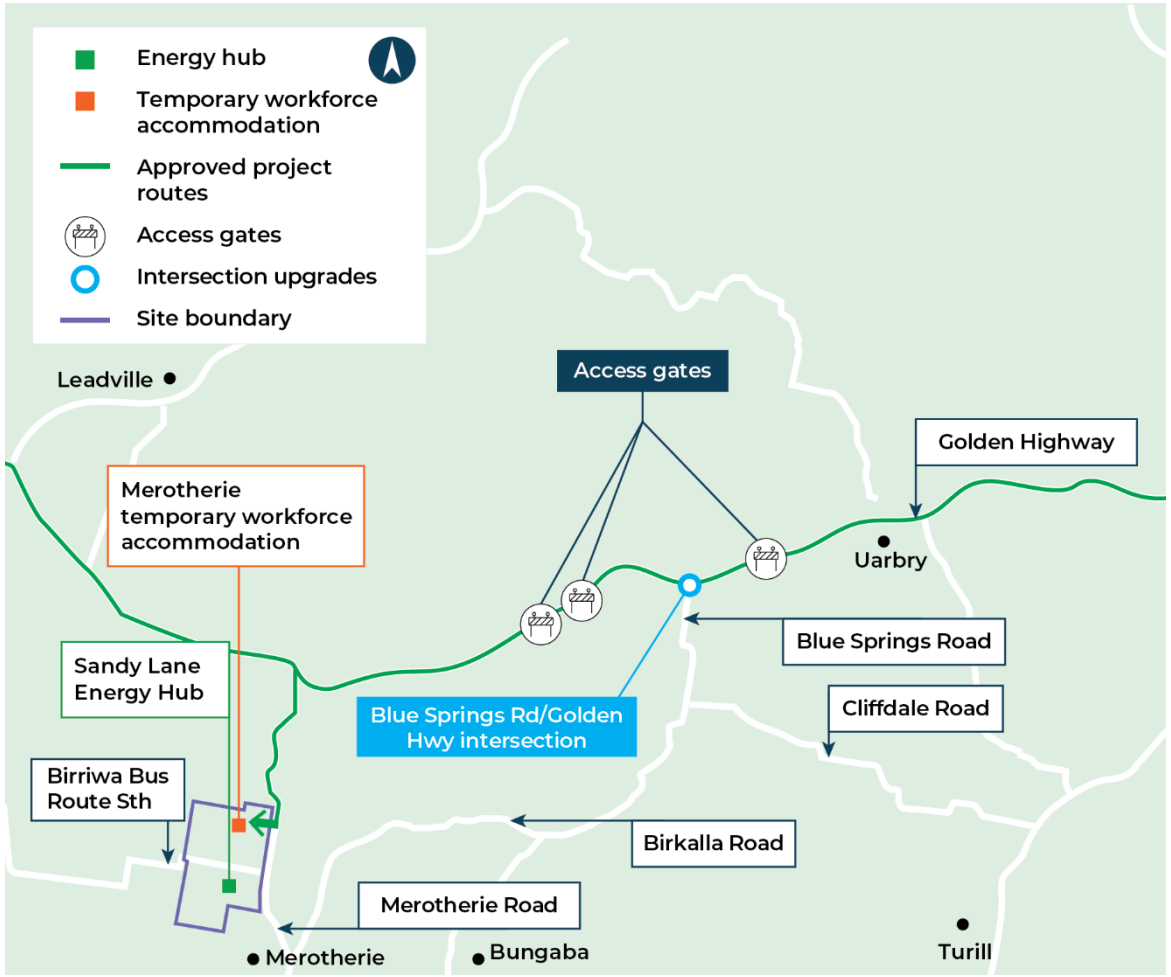
Blue Springs Road and Golden Highway intersection

ACEREZ is upgrading the intersection at Golden Highway and Blue Springs Road in preparation for works on the transmission line easement.

Three access gates will also be constructed on Golden Highway to improve access to the Uarbry West and Valley of the Winds Switching Station sites.

The road upgrade includes:

- Installation of environmental controls, signage and traffic controls
- Delivery of plant, materials and equipment
- Ground and vegetation clearing
- Preparation and installation of site utilities and services
- Earthworks and pavement construction
- Road widening and turnout improvements
- Installation of bitumen emulsions and line marking on new road approaches
- Revegetation of disturbed areas



Work area map

Three-month lookahead – August to October 2026

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Project Wide

- Completion of 1,200 beds and the associated infrastructure at Merotherie temporary workforce accommodation
- Continuing work on Merotherie Road upgrade
- Continuing the road upgrade on the Golden Highway and Blue Springs Road intersection, including new access gates

Energy Hubs

- Continue construction works at Sandy Lane, Barigan Creek and Elong Elong
- Commence foundation piling work at switching stations

330kV Switching Stations

- Ongoing earthworks (including clearing on private land) to prepare for construction of the Birriwa, Uarbry East, Uarbry West, Sandy Creek and Cobbora Switching Stations
- Preparation for the installation of site utilities, offices, prefabricated buildings, casting for foundation works and slabs

Transmission Lines

- Continuing transmission tower pre-assembly and construction
- Continuing construction of tower foundations between Merotherie and Barigan Creek
- Commencement of stringing of transmission cables
- Continuing access tracks and tower foundations from Merotherie to Cassilis and Merotherie to Elong Elong
- Commencement of access tracks and tower foundation from Merotherie to Valley of the Winds

Environmental initiative – supplementary hollows

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Project initiative:

- The Project has prepared a Hollow and Nest Strategy to establish supplementary hollows through an artificial hollow method
- The method will use specialised, unique wood carving tools to create habitat for hollow-dependent wildlife
- The creation of carved hollows is in addition to the biodiversity offset package being delivered by EnergyCo
- Key targeted areas, including Goulburn River National Park and Tuckland State Forest, have been identified for the hollows

Bushfire season preparedness

- **Fire Danger Ratings** will be discussed at the pre-start briefing, displayed on safety notice boards and covered in hot work permits
- When hot works are required, a comprehensive risk assessment must be conducted prior to the work being done, clearly outlining the fire mitigation controls, and complying with the requirements of the **Hot Works Procedure and Permit** and approved by the ACJV Project Manager
- If a **Total Fire Ban** (TOBAN) is in place, hot works are strictly prohibited
- **Portable Amenities Checklist -** Includes designated smoking area requirements

Project Initiatives:

- Simulated fire extinguisher training is implemented – removing the risk of lighting fires for training purposes
- RFS Bushfire Awareness training conducted with the workforce (ongoing)

Fire Danger Ratings – pre-start forms

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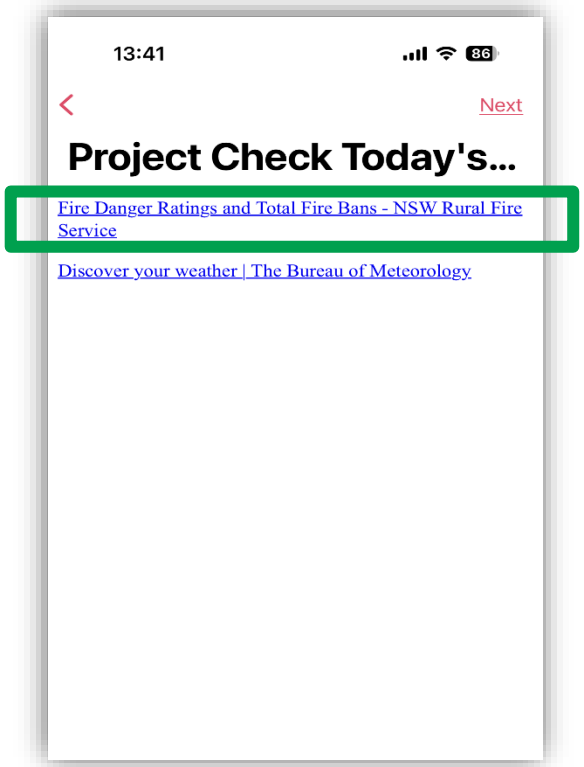
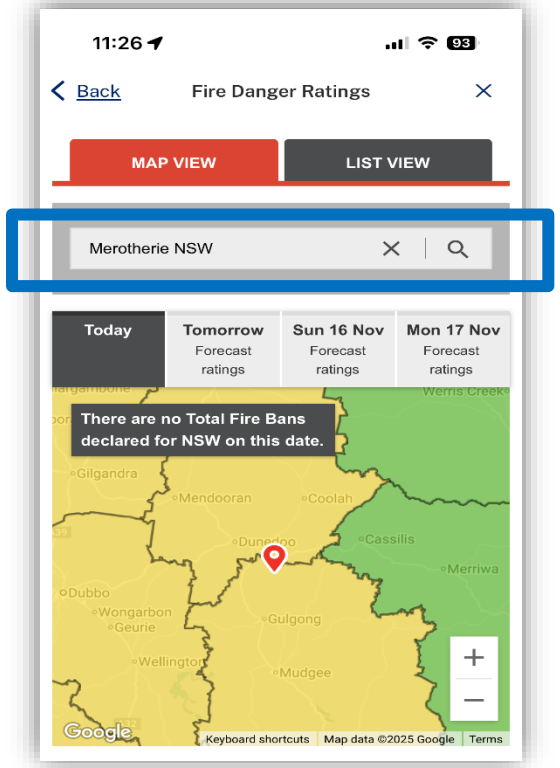
Fire Danger Ratings have been integrated into the electronic pre-start form

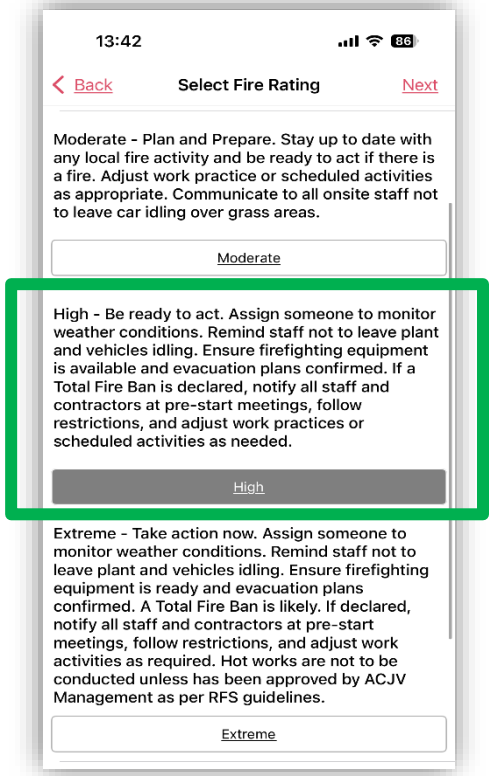
1. Click on “Fire Danger Ratings & TOBAN” to access the NSW RFS website



2. Supervisor checks the Fire Danger Rating for the local area



3. Once applicable Fire Danger Rating for the day is selected, a detailed summary of the requirements are displayed



Community engagement

The ACEREZ Community Team has been busy across the region, engaging with locals and taking part in some much-loved regional events, including the Henry Lawson Heritage Festival, Leadville Markets, the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days, and as a returning sponsor at the Art Unlimited regional art exhibition in Dunedoo.

Upcoming community events:

Date	Event	Location
12 August	National Renewables in Agriculture Conference	The Greenhouse, Orange
20 August	RDA Orana Youth Forum	Charles Sturt University, Dubbo
23 August	Mudgee Running Festival	Mudgee
2 September	Central-West Orana Local Jobs Fair	Mudgee
9 September	Central-West Orana Local Jobs Fair	Dubbo
26 September	Flavours of Mudgee	Market and Church Streets, Mudgee
1-31 October	Pink up Mudgee	Mudgee
24 October	Wellington Markets	Cameron Park, Wellington

Mudgee Small Farm Field Days 2026

ACEREZ Community Grants Program Round 2

Applications for Round 2 of the ACEREZ Community Grants Program are now open

- 46 local projects are receiving more than $2.1 million in funding through Round 1 of the ACEREZ Community Grants Program
- 5 information sessions have been held in Gulgong, Wellington, Dunedoo, Coolah and Cassilis in preparation for Round 2
- Applications for Round 2 are now open and close at **5pm on 18 September**
- ACEREZ's free grant writing service is available for applicants with accessible, tailored assistance (both in person and online) to enhance the quality of grant applications
- ACEREZ will assess all eligible applications and will inform Round 2 applicants of the outcome in November

Industry and Aboriginal participation – Diversity and skills

Project workforce				Gender ratio			
Headcount	2274	Full time equivalent (FTE)	1119		Women 14%	Men 84%	Prefer not to say 2%

Targets against Project Workforce (FTE)	Target	Performance	FTE Number
Learning Workers A worker with or without qualifications, who needs to gain qualifications or skills to meet the needs of the infrastructure project	43%	52%	578
Young People < 25	8%	8.4%	94
Underrepresented Groups A demographic group that is not proportionately represented in various industries or fields	15%	44.6%	499
Aboriginal FTE employment opportunities	2%	4.4%	49
Targets against Trades Workforce (FTE)	**Target**	**Performance**	**FTE Number**
Trades workforce on site	NA	NA	35
Apprentices	25%	40%	14
Women	2%	7.8%	9

Mudgee Try-A-Trade day 2026

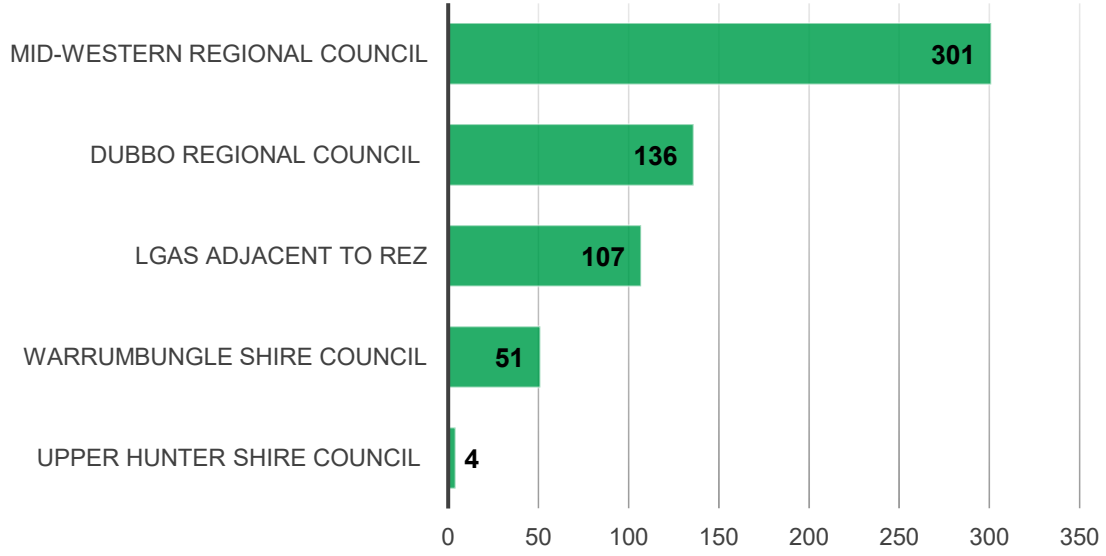
Industry and Aboriginal participation – Local workforce and suppliers

ACEREZ
the future of renewable energy

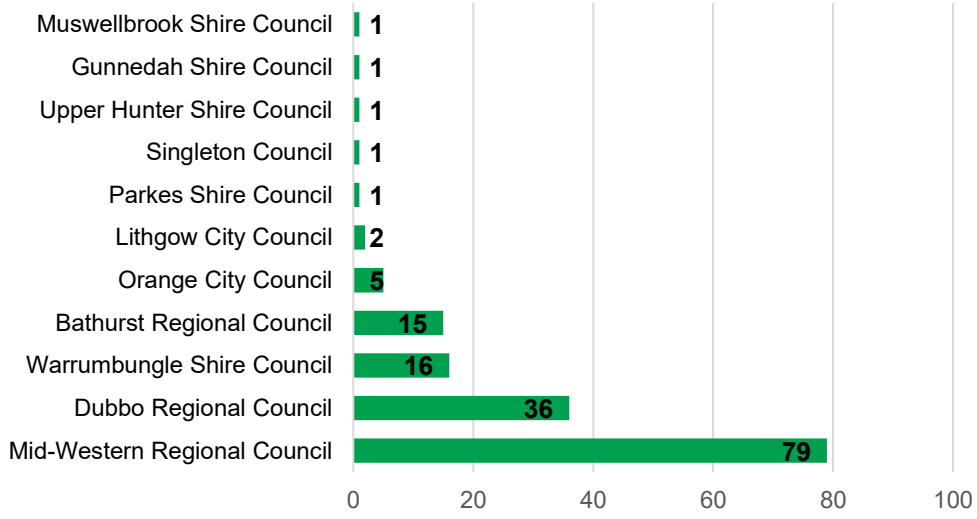
Reporting % against Project Workforce headcount

Local employment outcomes (percentage of the workforce who are local to the REZ and adjacent LGAs)	26.5%	599

Local Workforce



Local Suppliers



Data sourced June 2026 reporting period

Guyulgang (Strong) Futures program

ACEREZ
the future of renewable energy

ACEREZ Guyulgang Futures graduates take the next step into construction careers

- 4-week intensive training program commenced 25 May
- 10 young Aboriginal locals commenced and 10 graduated on 19 June
- 9 started their apprenticeships in June/July with local residential construction businesses across a range of trades:
  - Electrical
  - Demolition
  - Plumbing
  - Carpentry
  - Refrigeration
- Aiming for 100% employment outcomes

Central-West Orana Jobs Fairs

ACEREZ
the future of renewable energy

ACEREZ is partnering with Workforce Australia's Local Jobs Program

- To deliver two Jobs Fairs in Mudgee on 2 September and in Dubbo on 9 September
- A Jobs Fair is a public employment and careers event connecting job seekers, career changers, graduates, school leavers and community members with employers, training providers and industry representatives
- We invite employers, major projects, training providers, community services and employment organisations to register their interest as exhibitors via the QR code or link

Central-West Orana Jobs Fair by ACEREZ | Eventbrite

Questions

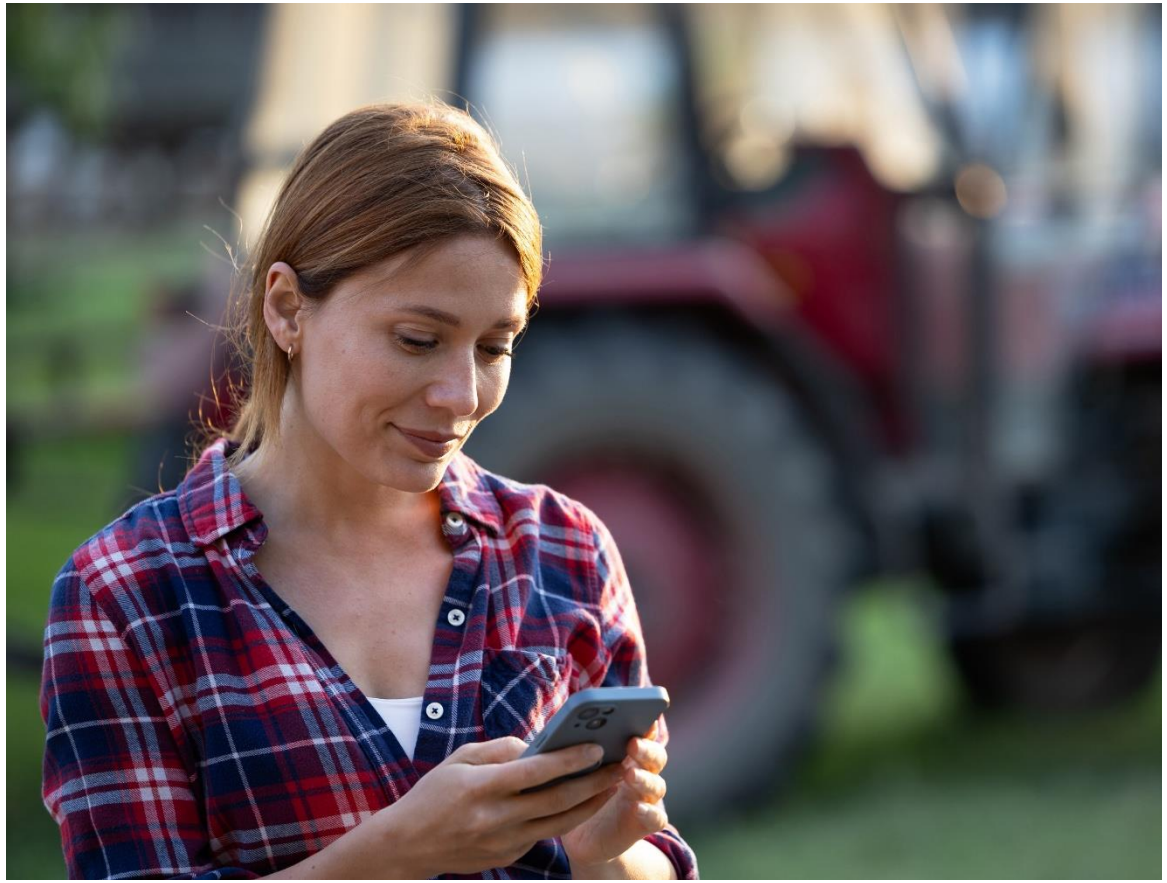
EnergyCo CRG Update
August 2026

Joanna Yang, Manager Program Delivery

Telecommunications Uplift Program

Telecommunications Infrastructure Uplift Program

- $14.5 million investment through the Community and Employment Benefits Program
- Designed to reduce blackspots & expand access to highspeed connectivity focusing on communities closest to the transmission easement
- Telecommunication providers will be offered financial incentives of up to 70% of the cost to expand and upgrade network infrastructure in known mobile and internet blackspots
- Administered in partnership with the NSW Telco Authority
- Applications will open in coming months



Dimitri Perdikaris, Strategic Delivery Manager

Port to REZ Project Update

Port to REZ: Port of Newcastle to Elong Elong

Critical road upgrades are nearing completion

- 12 of 19 intersections completed
- 2 of 5 pullover bays commenced
- Remaining works on track for completion by Q4 2026.

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo)

Alicia Rados, Associate Director Community and Place

Community Engagement Update

Community Roadshow

Find your local event

Tuesday 11 August: 3pm to 6pm
Coolah Central School Hall, Coolah

Wednesday 12 August: 4pm to 7pm
Club Mudgee, Mudgee

Thursday 13 August: 4pm to 7pm
Western Plains Cultural Centre
Dubbo

Friday 14 August: 3pm to 6pm
Dunedoo Jubilee Hall, Dunedoo

Saturday 15 August: 9am to 11am
Wellington Soldiers Club, Wellington

Station theme	What it covers (high-level)	Participating agencies and partners (in-person rep)
Welcome	Sign in, orientation, book a private consultation	EnergyCo CWO Project Team
Regional growth and opportunities	Jobs, business opportunities and community benefits for local communities.	EnergyCo CEBP & Skills team ,NSW Education, NSW Health DCCEEW, ACEREZ
Your property and Land	What energy projects may mean for landholders and neighbours, including access, compensation and protections in place.	EnergyCo Property
What's being built and why	What's being built and the purpose of projects in the REZ, including other infrastructure upgrades.	EnergyCo CWO Project Team, DCCEEW, TfNSW, ACEREZ, ARH Reps, Essential Energy, Transgrid
Looking after Land and Culture	How the environment is protected and cultural heritage is respected.	EnergyCo CWO Project Environment, DCCEEW, ACEREZ
Your rights and support	Your rights, how you can be involved, and where to get help - including independent advice services.	EnergyCo Property, AEIC, NSW Small Business Commissioner
Understanding the planning process	ow projects are independently assessed, the timeline for approvals, post-approval compliance and how to have your say.	DPHI

Dunedoo Community Leaders Roundtable

- Roundtable 1 held 12 May 2026 - independently facilitated by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner
- Attended by 11 community members, EnergyCo, ACEREZ, ACJV senior leadership, and representatives from four local Access Right Holder projects
- Discussions included social benefits, biosecurity training, water, communication and access to health services
- Progress on actions arising are regularly reported back to the community roundtable members
- At the community member's request, a second roundtable will be held again this year