



NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

A message to our valued stakeholders

Welcome to the first NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap newsletter of 2021. In this update, we outline progress on the Roadmap since the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act (the Act) commenced in December 2020 and upcoming opportunities for your involvement in 2021.

The Roadmap is a comprehensive framework to modernise the NSW electricity system into one that is cheaper, cleaner and more reliable. It sets NSW on a path to replace its ageing coal fired power stations with a coordinated portfolio of generation, storage and network investment that is intended to reduce risks to investors, reduce costs to businesses and households, ensure enhanced reliability of supply and provide a basis for the future economic prosperity of NSW.

We are committed to working closely with all stakeholders to get the settings right for electricity consumers and investors. We need the best technical expertise, input and advice not just from our advisors but from all interested parties to ensure the Roadmap is a success.

Recently, the Department established a Roadmap Implementation Taskforce to deliver a range of activities, such as setting up entities and managing appointment processes required under the Act, as well as drafting regulations to support its implementation. We will also be commencing on-the-ground community engagement in the coming weeks for the first Renewable Energy Zone in the Central-West Orana region.

As we develop the foundations of the Roadmap, we will be continuing to seek your input and expertise. We have prepared an [indicative consultation timeline](#) to let you know when those opportunities will occur. Further details on opportunities for engagement will be provided through the year ahead.

The Roadmap provides an opportunity for government, communities and the private sector to work together for positive environmental, economic and community outcomes. We look forward to working closely with you.

Kind regards,

James Hay

Chief Executive, Energy Corporation of NSW

Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change & Sustainability

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Upcoming milestones

Below you will find some highlights of the work underway and opportunities for your involvement. You can find more detailed information in the Roadmap's [indicative consultation timeline](#).

Renewable Energy Zones (REZ)

In February 2021 we are undertaking on-the-ground engagement and consultation in the Central-West Orana area for the first Renewable Energy Zone.

A consultation paper on access scheme models for the Central-West Orana REZ is expected to be released for public feedback before the end of the first quarter of 2021.

Planning for the next REZ in the New England region is well underway. An industry Registration of Interest process seeking project information from potential proponents in the region is also expected to open by the end of the first quarter of 2021. The NSW Government will also continue to undertake feasibility and planning work throughout the year on the South West, Hunter-Central Coast and Illawarra REZs.

To find the most up-to-date information on the REZs, please visit the [REZ webpage](#).

Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program

We are consulting with legal, commercial and technical experts on various

elements of the Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program design, including the program guidelines and drafting for the grant recoverability mechanism. The Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program is expected to launch before the end of the first quarter of 2021. The Program Guidelines will clearly outline eligibility requirements and project merit criteria. These guidelines will be released shortly before applications open early in the second quarter of 2021.

To receive further updates on the Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program, please email pumpedhydro@dpie.nsw.gov.au to register your interest.

Renewable Energy Sector Board

A Renewable Energy Sector Board is being established to create and monitor a plan for the manufacturing and construction of infrastructure in the renewable energy sector. The Board will provide its first report on its activities to the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment in March 2021.

How to get involved

If you have any questions or want to participate in any of the consultation activities we are undertaking, please email Electricity.Roadmap@dpie.nsw.gov.au. For the latest updates on the Roadmap, please visit the [Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap webpage](#).

The NSW Government strongly values stakeholder and community feedback. We will continue to work in partnership with industry, regional communities and other key stakeholders, alongside wider public consultation opportunities, to implement the Roadmap over the coming months.

This newsletter has been sent to recipients who have expressed interest in receiving updates on the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. You can [subscribe to this list](#), [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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