



NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

A message to our valued stakeholders

Welcome to the second NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap newsletter. This update includes:

1. Sharing progress on the Roadmap, and
2. Outlining further opportunities for involvement over the coming months.

First of all, I wish to thank you for your ongoing interest and feedback. We are committed to working closely with all stakeholders to get the settings right for electricity consumers, investors and regional communities. We place a high value on input and advice from all interested parties. This is critical to ensuring the Roadmap is a success.

We welcome all feedback. A key comment has been that stakeholders would like additional information about the overall Roadmap structure and how it will operate in practice so investors can continue to advance their plans and have clearer ideas about the overall program and processes. We are currently working to set-up further engagement sessions to provide more detail and seek feedback. Further details about these sessions will be released within the next month.

Since the last newsletter, we have continued to progress the setting up of entities and managing appointment processes required under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. As well as drafting regulations to support

the Roadmap's implementation, we have commenced engagement across a number of critical delivery areas including:

[Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Access Scheme](#), and
[Tranche one and two of the regulations being developed to support Roadmap delivery](#).

We have visited communities in the Central-West Orana region where the first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is planned and held the third meeting of the Central-West Orana REZ Regional Reference Group in Dubbo on 2 June 2021. We also recently held the first Regional Reference Group for the New England REZ in Armidale.

In the past week we released the guidelines for the \$50 million [Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants program](#) and opened the [registrations of interest \(ROI\) process for generation, storage and network projects in the New England REZ](#).

We have also progressed the development of guidelines about consultation and negotiation with First Nations communities.

Again, thank you for your engagement to date. I encourage you to continue to participate in upcoming activities regarding the design, delivery and operation of the Roadmap. Your questions and comments are welcome, please get in touch using the details below.

Kind regards,

James Hay
Chief Executive, Energy Corporation of NSW
Deputy Secretary, Energy, Climate Change & Sustainability
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Milestone updates

Key highlights of the work underway are set out below together with further details on opportunities to get involved. You can find more detailed information in the [Roadmap's indicative engagement timeline](#).

Opportunities to stay involved

Thank you to all those who have provided feedback on how we can continue to get your input into critical aspects of Roadmap implementation. We have taken this feedback on and will be back in touch towards the end of June with a more detailed outline of key upcoming engagements and timing.

Our current plan is to build on the consultation already occurring to run targeted sessions around key issues associated with Tranche 3 regulation development and Long-Term Energy Service Agreements. This will include round tables, structured webinars, targeted engagement sessions and group meetings with interested stakeholders. We will also be releasing key information publicly for feedback from July and will be launching a new interactive information portal in August.

Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program Launched

We are excited to have launched the Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program (Program), which provides up to \$50 million in recoverable grants to developers to assist with the cost of early stage, detailed project feasibility studies for new pumped hydro projects.

Pumped hydro typically has long lead times and costly development activities. The Program is designed to assist with these early high risk activities, so the

Consumer Trustee will have the benefit of well-developed deliverable projects when it commences auctions to meet the 2 gigawatt target for long duration storage.

The Program Guidelines can be accessed [here](#). They set out the eligibility and merit criteria and key information about how to apply. Applicants should read these together with the FAQs before applications open in early quarter 3, 2021. We will notify you when applications open and you can also check the Program website [here](#) for updates. If you have any questions, please contact us at pumped.hydro@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

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Registration of Interest Open for New England REZ

The call for registrations of interest (ROI) for projects in the New England REZ is now open. The ROI will provide vital information to help plan the REZ, including the size, location and types of projects looking to connect. A key use of the information received will be to inform critical decisions around mapping the REZ and network design options and development.

The New England REZ is set to be the largest in NSW, delivering an estimated 8 gigawatt of new capacity, \$10.7 billion in private investment, and around 830 operational jobs and 1,250 construction jobs to the local economy.

The ROI is open to interested energy infrastructure projects and will close on Friday 16 July 2021. For more information on the New England REZ and the ROI please visit the website [here](#).

New England REZ Regional Reference Group Launched

We are committed to delivering REZ infrastructure in a way that reflects local

values and priorities. We have set up a Regional Reference Group for the New England REZ to help us ground-truth our work on REZ design and delivery.

The Reference Group first met in Armidale on 28 April 2021, bringing together local councils, Aboriginal Land Councils, NSW Government agencies and other key stakeholders. The New England REZ is expected to be located near Armidale on the lands of the Biripi, Dainggatti, Nganyaywana, Ngarabal, and Gumbainggir people.

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Access Scheme Engagement

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback about how we can create the best model and characteristics for the Central-West Orana REZ Access Scheme.

Your feedback will inform the development and draft declaration of a preferred access scheme ahead of a competitive process to allocate rights in the REZ.

The Scheme will enable the development of 3 gigawatts (GW) of new network capacity.

Submissions closed on 30 April 2021 and where appropriate submissions will shortly be made available on the Department's website. For more information visit our [website](#). You can also email us with any questions or comments at rez@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Update on Regulation Development and Consumer Trustee Tranche two regulations being finalised

We have recently completed public engagement on the [Issues Paper on the Tranche two regulations](#) required to support the Roadmap. Thank you to

everyone who made submissions. Tranche two was focussed on specific urgent and mechanical policy details where regulations are needed to implement the Roadmap.

We held a webinar on 11 May 2021 to help inform those who wanted to make submissions. If you would like to view the webinar you can access it [here](#) and slides [here](#). Submissions will be considered in finalising the regulations.

Tranche three regulation development

We have commenced engagement to inform the third tranche of regulation development. These regulations will cover REZ and REZ access schemes, network infrastructure projects, the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard, and the Electricity infrastructure fund. Further information on engagement sessions to occur in July and August will be released later this month.

Consumer Trustee

We are well advanced with key activities to stand-up the Consumer Trustee and associated entities. We have commenced consultation on key matters, including on the design of the Long-Term Energy Service Agreements and the competitive tender process, as well as other core operational features like cost recovery.

This is being done in parallel with the work on the development of the third tranche of regulations which includes the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard. The Consumer Trustee team is also developing the initial Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report. This is the key report under Part 6 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* in which the Consumer Trustee sets out how it intends to achieve the generation and long duration storage targets in the Act.

How to get involved

If you have any questions or want to be part of any of our engagement activities, please email Electricity.Roadmap@dpie.nsw.gov.au

For the latest updates on the Roadmap, please visit the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap webpage. You can also join the REZ Mailing list by emailing REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au or replying to this email.

We thank you for your continued support and feedback on our work implementing the Roadmap. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernise our energy system. By working in partnership with industry, regional communities and investors, we are making sure we have the best minds contributing to our work.

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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