



# NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

## A message to our valued stakeholders

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

1. Introduction to the new Roadmap Virtual Room
2. Update on policy and design paper consultation
3. Draft Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Declaration
4. Results of the New England Registration of Interest

I'm excited to share the launch of the [Roadmap Virtual Room](#), a new interactive online tool for you to learn more about the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and what it means for NSW consumers, regional communities, the energy industry and investors.

An important milestone has been reached in implementing the Roadmap with the [draft declaration of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone \(REZ\)](#) being finalised and now on public exhibition until 15 October. It's the first step in formalising the REZ under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. The declaration sets out the intended network capacity (3 GW), geographical area (location) and infrastructure that will make up the REZ.

In other good news, we have received an overwhelming response to our recent **Registration of Interest for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)**, with a massive 34 GW from 80 projects offered up from potential

renewable energy, storage and network infrastructure projects; four times the level of interest needed to fully build the REZ. We thank all parties who registered interest.

We've also been progressing consultation on key policy and design papers, which are critical to finalising the policy framework and regulations, as part of implementation of the Roadmap.

We have just released two policy papers for public feedback – **Electricity Infrastructure Fund** and **Electricity Infrastructure Safeguard** – and will be running online sessions in mid-October to brief stakeholders and receive initial feedback. We value your time and insights on these papers.

Thank you to the 300+ participants who attended the online session last month on the [Long-Term Energy Service Agreements Design Paper](#) and those who provided submissions (closed 10 September). We're also grateful for the valued input received in industry briefings, reference and working groups, as well as other forums.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we're continuing to host engagement sessions online. We're monitoring the situation and will provide further information about face-to-face sessions as circumstances change.

Once again, thank you for your interest and valued feedback. Keep well and stay safe.

Kind regards,

James Hay

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

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## 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 on the Roadmap [website](#).

### Explore the Roadmap Virtual Room

We're excited to launch the [Roadmap Virtual Room](#) for you to find out more about the Roadmap, what it's aiming to achieve and what it means for NSW consumers, regional communities, the energy industry and investors.

Set up like an in-person information centre, the Virtual Room provides an interactive online space to learn more, and access engagement materials and key consultation processes. [Take a look around here](#).

We welcome any feedback on your experience using the tool, as we continually update and improve it over time. Please email [Electricity.Roadmap@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Electricity.Roadmap@dpie.nsw.gov.au).

### Update on Regulation Development

#### Have your say: Policy papers to inform development of regulations

The Department is seeking feedback on the following two policy papers to inform the development of regulations under Parts 6 and 7 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*, as part of ongoing implementation of the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap:

- [Electricity Infrastructure Safeguard policy paper \(Part 6\)](#) - Online session (10.30am–12pm, Wednesday 13 October) [Register here](#)

- [Electricity Infrastructure Fund policy paper \(Part 7\)](#) - Online session (1.30–3pm, Thursday 14 October) [Register here](#)

As part of our consultation on these policy papers, you are also invited to join separate interactive online sessions in October focused on the substantive policy and design issues within each paper. These sessions are an opportunity for you to ask further questions and seek clarification on issues within the papers.

[Please visit our website](#) (if accessing via mobile, please scroll to the consultation section) to:

- review the policy papers
- read an overview paper which outlines how each of the papers fits within the broader policy framework
- register for online sessions, and
- provide submissions

We will be releasing other policy and design papers in coming weeks for feedback, including on Network Infrastructure Projects and tender design. We will keep you informed when these consultations commence.

Thank you in advance for your valued feedback.

## **Long-Term Energy Service Agreements consultation and competitive tender process**

Consultation on the design of the [Long-Term Energy Service Agreements](#) closed on 10 September. Thank you to all those who provided feedback. We received close to 50 submissions. The Department expects to consult on the competitive tender process over the next few months.

## **Electricity Infrastructure Investment Amendment Regulation published**

Regulations relating to the Energy Security Target and the NSW Jobs Advocate under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* are now available to [view on the NSW Legislation website](#). These regulations were informed by public consultation undertaken in May. Further regulations are expected to be made in the near future.

## **EnergyCo NSW**

### **Overwhelming response to New England Renewable Energy Zone Registration of Interest (ROI)**

Australia's largest Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) has received significant interest with 80 registrations of interest, totaling 34 gigawatts (GW) of capacity and \$48 billion of investment from potential renewable energy, storage and network projects. This is four times the level of interest needed to fully build the 8 GW REZ.

EnergyCo NSW would like to thank all those who registered their interest. Information received through the ROI will help inform REZ mapping and design alongside ongoing consultation with local stakeholders led by EnergyCo NSW.

The ROI results were discussed amongst other key items at the second meeting of the New England Regional Reference Group (RRG) held last month. The RRG is the primary forum for local government, Aboriginal Land Councils and relevant State Government agencies to engage directly with EnergyCo NSW and project partners, as the New England REZ is planned and delivered.

For more information on REZs, visit our [website](#).

### **Draft Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Declaration**

The NSW Government has finalised the [draft declaration of the Central-West Orana REZ](#) for public exhibition. The declaration is the first step in formalising the REZ under the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020*. It sets out the intended network capacity (size), geographical area (location) and infrastructure that will make up the REZ. This enables and sets the scope of key legislative functions under the Act, including access schemes and REZ network solutions.

EnergyCo NSW has worked with a range of stakeholders to prepare the draft declaration in a way that considers local priorities and values, land use planning, investor interest and the legislative requirements.

**The [draft declaration](#) is now on exhibition for four weeks until Friday 15 October and can be viewed [here on our website](#).**

If you have any feedback on the draft declaration for the Central-West Orana REZ, please contact EnergyCo NSW's REZ team via [REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au).

### **Central-West Orana Regional Reference Group**

The Regional Reference Group, which brings together local councils, Aboriginal Land Councils, network planners and relevant NSW Government agencies, will meet again in October.

Engagement on the delivery of the Central-West Orana REZ will be ongoing over the coming years. For more information please contact [REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au).

### **Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) – Online Landholder Workshops**

[Landholder Workshops](#) in the Central-West Orana REZ are being hosted online on Thursday 30 September and Friday 1 October.

These online sessions aim to provide information regarding REZs, the renewable energy sector as well as planning and assessment pathways for landholders in the region.

Contact us at [rez@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rez@planning.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

### **Central-West Orana Wollar Substation Upgrade**

TransGrid has achieved an important milestone in the environmental planning process for the transmission network infrastructure upgrades required to facilitate the Central-West Orana REZ (CWO REZ); by lodging a project application and Environmental Scoping Report to upgrade and expand its existing Wollar Substation with the Department's Planning and Assessment Group.

These upgrades to the Wollar Substation are required to ensure the effective operation of the transmission network and minimise constraints on CWO REZ generation. The Department will now consider the Scoping Report and is expected to issue Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements to inform the development of TransGrid's Environmental Impact Statement for the Wollar Substation Upgrade.

Further information on the proposed Wollar Substation Upgrade is available [online](#).

### **Other updates from EnergyCo NSW**

Consultation on the Central-West Orana REZ's innovative network infrastructure solutions closed on Friday 20 August. Thank you to all participants. We are currently reviewing submissions, which will help us

consider the range of network infrastructure solutions to optimise the Central-West Orana REZ network design.

Applications closed last Friday 3 September for the [Pumped Hydro Recoverable Grants Program](#), and assessment of applications is now underway. This program will provide 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. Thank you to all those that applied. For more information on the application process and key dates, please [visit our website](#) or contact us at [pumped.hydro@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pumped.hydro@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

## How to get involved

If you have any questions or would like to be part of any of our engagement activities, please email [Electricity.Roadmap@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Electricity.Roadmap@dpi.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](mailto:REZ@planning.nsw.gov.au) or replying to this email.