

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

# NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board

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Fifth report on activities of the Board

June 2024



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# Acknowledgement of Country



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.

NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board

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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 About the Board

The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (the Roadmap) is delivering the electricity network New South Wales needs now and for the future. Together with business, industry and communities, the NSW Government is coordinating investment in new transmission, generation, storage and firming infrastructure to ensure New South Wales has an electricity system that is affordable, clean and reliable for everyone.

As we build new renewable infrastructure, we know we need to minimise the adverse impacts for regions, communities and workers, and take care of the things that matter to us – our homes, our communities, our land, our economy, and the environment. The Roadmap is bringing secure, long-term jobs to New South Wales, creating new apprenticeships, and empowering businesses to bring even more economic opportunity to local communities, especially in our regions.

The NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board (the Board) was established in February 2021 under section 7 of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (the Act). The Board helps make sure local workers, communities and industries across New South Wales reap the economic benefits of the transition to affordable, cleaner and reliable energy for everyone.

The Minister appoints representatives to the Board from the following groups:

- trade unions
- the electricity, manufacturing, fabrication and construction sectors
- the renewable energy industry
- NSW electricity customers
- the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo)
- other persons at the Minister’s discretion.

Under section 8 of the Act, the Board prepared a plan for the NSW renewable energy sector, which the Minister for Energy published in September 2022 (OECC 2022b). The plan seeks to maximise the use of locally produced and supplied goods and services and employment of suitable qualified workers on new infrastructure projects under the Roadmap. It also aims to foster opportunities for apprentices and trainees.

The Board also provides advice to the Minister and Roadmap delivery entities on how to support the growth and competitiveness of the NSW renewable energy sector and jobs for NSW workers.

This document is the Board’s fifth report on its activities, which the Board is required to provide to the Minister by 30 June 2024.

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## 2 Effect of the Board's plan

AEMO Services Limited (AEMO Services), a subsidiary of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), has been appointed as the NSW Consumer Trustee. The Renewable Energy Sector Board's plan and First Nations Guidelines informed the Consumer Trustee's development of the social licence eligibility and merit criteria in its tenders (OECC 2022a).

The Minister and the Consumer Trustee must take the Board's plan into account when exercising functions under the Act. The Consumer Trustee is required to act independently and in the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity customers to improve the affordability, reliability, security and sustainability of electricity supply. The Consumer Trustee's functions include:

- running the competitive tenders for generation, storage and firming infrastructure projects
- preparing an Infrastructure Investment Objectives report every 2 years
- authorising renewable energy zone (REZ) network infrastructure projects.

The Consumer Trustee may impose a condition that is consistent with the plan when:

- recommending the Minister give a direction for a REZ network infrastructure project
- authorising a network operator to carry out a REZ network infrastructure project.

The Minister may impose a condition that is consistent with the plan in:

- a direction for a REZ network infrastructure project
- an authorisation for a priority transmission infrastructure project.

The Board also directed its recommendations to EnergyCo as the Infrastructure Planner for the 5 REZs required to be declared under the Act.

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### 2.1 Tenders for generation, long-duration storage and firming

AEMO Services considered the Board's recommendations throughout all the tender processes it has run under the Roadmap, including:

- eligibility criteria
- merit assessment
- due diligence
- contractual commitments.

As of June 2024, 4 AEMO Services tenders have closed.

#### **AEMO Services' third tender**

For Tender 3, AEMO Services received bids for generation representing a total capacity of 3.1 GW, against an indicative target of 950 MW. Bids for long-duration storage represented a total capacity of 1.6 GW, against a target of up to 550 MW. The successful bids represent \$4.2 billion in private sector investment and comprise:



- 2 renewable energy generation projects (1 wind farm and 1 solar farm) representing 750 MW capacity
- 3 long-duration storage projects (2 battery projects and 1 advanced compressed air energy storage system) representing 524 MW (4,192 MWh) capacity.

## **AEMO Services' fourth tender**

AEMO Services' fourth tender is for eligible renewable generation projects located across New South Wales. The tender is now closed and it is anticipated that successful bids will be announced mid-2024.

## **AEMO Services' fifth tender**

AEMO Services opened Tender 5 for 1 GW of long-duration storage and up to 3.98 GW of South West REZ access rights in May 2024.

## **Central-West Orana access tender**

EnergyCo is administering an expedited application process to allocate the initial tranche of access rights for generation and storage projects seeking to connect to the new Central-West Orana (CWO) REZ network infrastructure. Eligibility submissions closed on 29 April 2024 and merit submissions closed on 24 May. The network operator is expected to award contracts to successful proponents in the fourth quarter of 2024.

## **Capacity Investment Scheme tender**

The Australian Government is committed to 82% renewable electricity by 2030, targeting delivery of 32 GW of new capacity nationally through the expansion of its Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS). A pilot CIS NSW tender was held in 2023 in partnership with the Roadmap.

The first National Electricity Market-wide CIS tender commenced on 31 May 2024 and will target 6 GW of variable renewable energy generation.

On 10 May 2024, AEMO Services released a market briefing on the May CIS tender. It confirmed:

- of the 6 GW target, at least 2.2 GW will be allocated to New South Wales
- the tender will commence on 31 May 2024, with successful projects expected to be announced in December 2024
- projects in New South Wales will be required to set out how they will contribute to and comply with the requirements in the NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan, and demonstrate alignment with the NSW First Nations Guidelines as per NSW legislative requirements.

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## **2.2 Central-West Orana REZ network operator tender**

EnergyCo adopted the Board's local content requirements in the competitive process to select a network operator for the CWO REZ.

In December 2023, the NSW Government entered into a commitment deed with ACERES as preferred network operator for the REZ.

The consortium 'ACERZ' is comprised of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy and has signed on to seek approval to deliver, operate and maintain the REZ transmission network for the next 35 years. This includes new high-capacity transmission lines, energy hubs and related infrastructure.

As part of the CWO REZ network operator tender, proponents prepared a draft Industry and Aboriginal Participation Plan (IAPP), outlining how they will meet all legislative requirements and the requirements set out in the plan and the First Nations Guidelines. ACERZ will now consult the community and stakeholders on the IAPP before a summary is released to the public later in 2024.

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## 2.3 Waratah Super Battery project update

The Board's plan was considered during the procurement of System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) services to support the Waratah Super Battery (WSB) project. The SIPS is designed to monitor transmission lines and enable the battery to act as a shock absorber in the event of any sudden fault on the transmission system.

On 14 October 2022, Transgrid was directed as network operator to carry out the WSB project, which included specific requirements regarding the plan. Transgrid was directed to prepare and implement an IAPP and report to EnergyCo on its progress against these commitments.

Akaysha Energy was appointed the successful SIPS service provider. Akaysha Energy will work closely with Transgrid as network operator to deliver the service, while complying with the requirements in the Board's plan.

Construction of the WSB commenced early in 2023 on the site of the former Munmorah Power Station in Colongra, and is expected to conclude in 2025.

It is expected that the WSB project will generate up to \$1 billion in private investment into new energy storage and associated network improvements and will support over 100 jobs in the region during the construction period.

The WSB will be capable of providing continuous active power capacity of at least 700 MW and a guaranteed useable energy storage capacity of at least 1,400 MW.

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## 3 Review of the Board's plan for the NSW renewable energy sector

The Board is currently reviewing its plan, following a request for an early review by the former Minister. The Board expects to finalise its review and recommendations about the implementation of its plan by September 2024. Any changes to the Board's plan will require review and approval by the regulator, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), and the Minister. These changes will be presented as an addendum to the plan. The updated plan will take effect on the day it is published on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) website.

The Board's review will:

- provide an overview of the key changes in the global and national energy transition landscape
- reaffirm the opportunities the Board has identified for the NSW renewable energy sector, including wind tower fabrication, solar farm infrastructure such as racking and mounting, and battery pack assembly and cell manufacturing
- summarise the outcomes of the early review of the plan
- reiterate and update the Board's advice to the Minister on key complementary policies and enabling actions to help Roadmap projects meet and, over time, exceed the minimum requirements.

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### 3.1 Planned addendum to the Board's plan

The Board is planning to update its plan via an addendum, which will provide clarifications for issues raised by AEMO Services and recommend further enhancements to the implementation of the Board's plan.

When implementing the plan in its tenders, AEMO Services suggested improvements to enable more effective translation of the recommendations into contractually binding commitments. The addendum will require review and approval by the regulator, IPART, and the Minister. Once finalised and published on the department's website, the addendum should be read jointly with the plan published in September 2022.

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### 3.2 Process to increase local content requirements

Concurrently with the review of its plan, the Board is also preparing an approach to increasing local content requirements over time, focusing on how to unlock investment into local manufacturing capacity.

There has been recent significant investor and government interest in developing local supply chains to support delivery of the energy transition. However, realisation of these investments is hindered by a 'chicken and egg' problem associated with establishing new manufacturing facilities.

The chicken and egg problem is two-fold. On one hand, local manufacturers have indicated they need certainty of a sustainable market over the longer term, before committing to investments in new capacity (ACIL Allen 2022, pp. 75–76).



On the other hand, local content requirements must be realistic and achievable, and based on the capacity of the local market to supply (OECC 2022b, p 9).

The Board expects to finalise the process to increase local content requirements in 2024, which will seek to balance these considerations.

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## 4 Changes in Board membership

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### 4.1 Appointments and resignations

Between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024, the following Board members resigned from their positions on the Board:

- Trevor Gauld resigned from his position on the Board as representative of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), effective from 19 October 2023.
- Mike Young resigned from his position on the Board as representative of EnergyCo, effective from 21 December 2023.
- Cory Wright resigned from his position on the Board as representative of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, effective from 25 March 2024.
- Rod Stowe resigned from his position on the Board as a nominee under the category of 'persons appointed by the Minister', effective from 14 February 2024.

The Minister invited diverse nominations to fill the positions. A panel then assessed the nominations and made recommendations for the Minister's consideration.

On 14 February 2024, the Minister approved the reappointment of 4 Board members:

- Dr Anita Talberg, Director, Workforce Development, Clean Energy Council, was reappointed as the representative for persons involved in the planning, design, construction and operation of generation infrastructure.
- Craig Memery, Senior Advisor, Energy, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, was reappointed as co-chair and representative for NSW electricity customers.
- Mark Cain, Chief Executive, Australian Steel Institute, was reappointed as the representative for manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials.
- John Coyle, Director, Varley Group, was reappointed as the representative from the Australian Industry Group for the metal fabrication industry.

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## 4.2 New Board members

During the reporting period the Board welcomed the following new members.

### **Allen Hicks – NSW Branch Secretary, Electrical Trades Union**



Allen Hicks is the Divisional Branch Secretary of the NSW and ACT Branch of the ETU.

Allen has been a full-time official for 23 years, commencing as an officer with the Queensland branch of the ETU in August 2000. Allen became the National Secretary in 2013 and was re-elected in 2015 and 2019.

In May 2021, Allen was appointed Divisional Branch Secretary of the NSW/ACT ETU Branch. This appointment was in addition to the role of National Secretary. In July 2023, Allen decided not to recontest the office of National Secretary and to focus on the role of NSW/ACT Divisional Branch Secretary.

During his time as an officer with the ETU, Allen organised the building/construction and power industries.

### **Alison Goodwin – National Research and Policy Officer, Mining and Energy Union**



Alison Goodwin is the National Research and Policy Officer at the Mining and Energy Union (MEU).

She has worked in research and policy roles within the trade union movement since 2018.

At the Mining and Energy Union, Alison advises on climate, energy and environmental policy, and broader industry trends affecting MEU members. She frequently represents the MEU in its engagements with state and federal governments, NGOs, and other unions, with a particular focus on the impacts of the energy transition on coal workers and their communities.

## **Ash Albury – Executive Director, Planning and Communities, Energy Corporation of NSW**



Ash Albury is the Executive Director of Planning and Communities at EnergyCo. Ash has extensive experience in the private sector as well as NSW Government agencies including in the Department of Regional NSW, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the former NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

With a focus on regional communities, Ash has a strong track record in supporting economic development, capacity-building and policy frameworks that support local life.

At EnergyCo he is responsible for whole-of-REZ strategic planning and policy frameworks, planning approvals for network solutions, community benefit sharing, and land and property management.

Making his home in Central-West New South Wales, Ash has unique and extensive knowledge of the strengths, challenges and opportunities within regional New South Wales.

## **Andrew Newman – Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, Tomago Aluminium**



Andrew Newman is the Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of Tomago Aluminium.

He has an extensive background in finance, commercial and operational leadership across a variety of commodities including copper, zinc and lead in addition to aluminium.

His career has taken him across Australia and Canada with experience in an array of mining, metals processing, manufacturing and infrastructure businesses.

Tomago Aluminium is the National Electricity Market's largest connected load (representing 12% of NSW demand) and is currently in the process of contracting its post-2028 power supply. This has the potential to be Australia's largest renewable power purchase agreement.

## **Brad Pidgeon – NSW & ACT Acting State Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union**



Brad Pidgeon is the NSW & ACT Acting State Secretary at the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU). He is a passionate and enthusiastic trade union leader.

As Acting State Secretary of the AMWU, he is responsible for the strategic direction of the NSW & ACT Branch. Brad has extensive experience in negotiation, campaigning, advocacy, education, and health and safety, for the benefit of workers.

Brad has represented AMWU members across the manufacturing, power generation, mining, heavy industry, ship building and construction industries in New South Wales and Western Australia for over 10 years. He is passionate about advocating for renewable manufacturing opportunities within New South Wales. Current directorships include Hunter Workers, Hunter Jobs Alliance, and ACIRT.

## **Brian Spak – Director, Energy System Transition, Energy Consumers Australia**



Brian Spak serves as Director, Energy System Transition for Energy Consumers Australia, the national voice of residential and small business energy consumers.

His team facilitates a transition to a more abundant, sustainable and affordable energy system by advocating to improve energy market and network regulation and practice.

Previously, Brian led grid and renewable integration research for CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and led the new consumer energy product division for Portland General Electric (an American electric utility).

As well as the NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board, he serves on the Transgrid Advisory Council, as a startup mentor for clean-tech incubator Third Derivative, and has represented Australia in Mission Innovation's Smart Grids Innovation Challenge. He has also been a delegate in the US–Australia Energy Security Dialogue.

### **Bridgette Carter – Project Director, ASMaP Project, BlueScope Steel**



Bridgette Carter is the Project Director of the Advanced Steel Manufacturing Precinct (ASMaP) Project for BlueScope Steel that encompasses upgrades and modernisation of the Port Kembla Plate Mill, with a focus on supporting the development of sovereign renewable energy manufacturing capability.

Bridgette has spent over 20 years in the manufacturing sector with significant experience in the development and operationalisation of energy sourcing strategy.

She is also the Deputy Chair of the Energy Users Association Australia and a passionate advocate for energy users, with a strong interest in ensuring an efficient and equitable transformation of the energy industry to a low emissions future.

### **Dominic Adams – General Manager, Networks, Energy Networks Australia**



Dominic Adams is the General Manager, Networks at Energy Networks Australia.

Dominic is responsible for crucial areas of policy to support the rapid transformation of Australia's energy sector.

In his role, Dominic leads advocacy strategies and a program of work for the development and transformation of Energy Networks Australia's transmission, distribution and gas networks. Dominic has over a decade of experience working across the energy supply chain, with particular emphasis on policy and regulatory engagement with market bodies.

Dominic has a combined bachelor's degree in Law and Arts from the University of Newcastle, with a focus on climate and environmental law.

### **Anthony (Tony) Callinan – NSW Branch Secretary, Australian Workers' Union**



Tony Callinan is the NSW Branch Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union (AWU), elected in 2021.

Tony has been an AWU member for 28 years. The AWU NSW branch represents almost 20,000 members employed in a wide range of industries including civil construction, shearing, mining, food services, arts and recreation, public administration, funeral services, manufacturing, technical works, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, forestry and more, and he is proud to be called the Branch Secretary.

Tony holds the positions of AWU National Executive Member, Director of Chifley Services, Director of MERT, Member of the National Construction Industry Forum, Board Member of BCI Long Service Leave Corporation, Executive Member for Unions



NSW, Executive Member for Hunter Workers, and President of the Beresfield ALP Branch.

### **Professor Heidi Norman – Indigenous Land and Justice Research Group, Arts, Design and Architecture, UNSW**



Heidi Norman is Professor (Research) at the Indigenous Land and Justice Research Group, Arts, Design and Architecture, UNSW.

Professor Norman is a leading researcher in the field of Australian Aboriginal political history. She has published widely on the histories of Aboriginal land rights, Aboriginal participation in rugby league football, studies of media representation, the history of Aboriginal working life in cities, and political history of Aboriginal affairs administration.

Her family are from the Gomeroi lands of north-western New South Wales. She is a member of the First Nations Clean Energy Network and the Commonwealth Government's First Nations Clean Energy and Emissions Reduction Advisory Committee, where she has contributed to the development of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy.

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## **4.3 Current Board membership**

- Allen Hicks – NSW Branch Secretary, ETU (co-chair)
- Craig Memery – Senior Advisor, Energy, Public Interest Advocacy Centre (co-chair), as a representative for NSW electricity customers
- Alison Goodwin – National Research and Policy Officer, MEU
- Dr Anita Talberg – Director, Workforce Development, Clean Energy Council, as a representative for persons involved in the planning, design, construction and operation of generation infrastructure
- Anthony (Tony) Callinan – NSW Assistant Branch Secretary, AWU
- Ash Albury – Executive Director, Planning and Communities, EnergyCo
- Andrew Newman – Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, Tomago Aluminium, as a representative for manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials
- Brad Pidgeon – NSW and ACT Acting State Secretary, AMWU
- Brian Spak – Director, Energy System Transition, Energy Consumers Australia, as a representative for NSW electricity customers
- Bridgette Carter – Project Director, ASMaP Project, BlueScope, as a representative from the Business Council of Australia for manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials
- Dominic Adams – General Manager, Networks, Energy Networks Australia, a person appointed by the Minister under section 7(2)(c) of the Act
- Professor Heidi Norman – Indigenous Land and Justice Research Group, Arts, Design and Architecture, UNSW, a person appointed by the Minister under section 7(2)(c) of the Act

- John Coyle – Director, Varley Group, as the representative from the Australian Industry Group for the metal fabrication industry
- Mark Cain – Chief Executive, Australian Steel Institute, as a representative for manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials

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## 5 Outcomes of Board meetings

The Board held 6 meetings from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. See Table 1 in the appendix for a register of attendance.

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### 5.1 Seventeenth meeting

The Board held its 17th meeting on Tuesday 15 August 2023.

The Board noted the final reports from Accenture on the *Articulation and Quantification of Localising Renewable Energy Supply Chains* and PricewaterhouseCoopers on the *Local Content Requirements Ratchet Mechanism*. These were commissioned by the department on behalf of the Board.

The Board reviewed a revised draft outline of the contents for the Board's next deliverable and the process for how the Board will increase local content requirements.

The NSW Department of Education presented on the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (SLP) and Women in Construction Initiative.

AEMO Services and EnergyCo provided an update on their work.

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### 5.2 Eighteenth meeting

The Board held its 18th meeting on Thursday 16 November 2023.

The Board reviewed the draft review of its plan and the draft process to increase local content requirements. The Board identified the need to collaborate with AEMO Services to resolve the issues raised in the draft documents.

The Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate discussed his recommendations on skills, training and jobs in his second report to the Minister.

AEMO Services and EnergyCo provided an update on their work and the department presented on the recommendations from the Electricity Supply and Reliability Check-up.

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### 5.3 Nineteenth meeting

The Board held its 19th meeting on Tuesday 12 December 2023.

The Board reviewed drafts of the review of its plan, the addendum to the Board's plan, and the process to increase local content requirements.

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### 5.4 Twentieth meeting

The Board held its 20th meeting on Thursday 8 February 2024.

The Board reviewed the draft review of its plan and recommendations to the Minister about implementation of its plan.

AEMO Services gave an update on the results from tender round 3 and the 2023 Infrastructure Investment Objectives report.

EnergyCo provided an update on its work.

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## 5.5 Twenty-first meeting

The Board held its 21st meeting on Tuesday 20 February 2024 (out-of-session).

The Board reviewed the latest revisions to the addendum to its plan and the process to increase local content requirements.

ACIL Allen presented on their assessment of BlueScope's proposal to increase the steel requirement for wind farms.

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## 5.6 Twenty-second meeting

The Board held its 22nd meeting on Thursday 30 May 2024.

During the meeting the Board agreed to:

- endorse the addendum to the Board's plan, including an increase to the minimum requirement for First Nations participation from 1.5% to 3% in the merit assessment for long-term energy service agreement (LTESA) tenders, REZ access rights allocations and network infrastructure projects
- endorse *The Board's approach to increasing local content requirements over time*.

The Board discussed draft recommendations to the Minister about implementation of its plan.

The Scheme Financial Vehicle (SFV) introduced its work to the Board, and EnergyCo provided an update on its work.

The SFV and Jobs Advocate presented on monitoring and compliance with the Board's local content requirements.

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## 6 Advice to inform the Board's work

At the request of the Board, the department engaged consultancies to undertake the following projects to help inform the work of the Board.

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### 6.1 Wind Tower Fabrication Case Study

At its meeting in August 2023, the Board agreed to take a business case approach to increasing the local content requirements and to use a proposal for a NSW wind tower fabrication facility as a pilot.

On behalf of the Board, the department engaged ACIL Allen to assess an investment proposal from BlueScope Steel to increase local content requirements for steel in wind farms.

The project includes:

- an assessment of the BlueScope proposal against draft criteria for strategic alignment, deliverability and technical feasibility, commercial feasibility, impact on NSW electricity consumers, and consistency with trade obligations
- a report from ACIL Allen including the detailed assessment, findings and recommended next steps.

ACIL Allen started the project in October 2023 and completed it in March 2024.

At the time of writing, the Board is considering the ACIL Allen report and further work required.

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### 6.2 Consistency with Australia's international trade law obligations

On behalf of the Board, the department engaged King & Wood Mallesons to advise on whether the draft addendum and process to increase local content requirements documents are consistent with Australia's international trade obligations and to outline any relevant developments in international trade law since May 2022.

The project includes:

- an overview of the relevant international trade law developments and case studies
- analysis on the consistency of the addendum and process to increase local content requirements.

King & Wood Mallesons started the project in February 2024 and it is expected to conclude mid-2024.

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## 7 Ongoing consultation with Roadmap entities and NSW Government agencies

The Board co-chairs, Craig Memery and Allen Hicks, met with representatives from AEMO Services regularly throughout the year. These meetings provided an avenue for dialogue between the Board and AEMO Services during the implementation of the Board's recommendations for tenders for generation, long-duration storage and firming infrastructure LTESAs.

Board members also attended 2 deep dive sessions with representatives from AEMO Services. The first was held on 10 October 2023 on the Network Authorisation Process and Approach Paper (NAPAP). The NAPAP requires that AEMO Services considers the plan in exercising its functions under the Act. The second deep dive session was held on 14 November 2023 to discuss outcomes of the first 3 tenders, minimum content requirements for the Board, and AEMO Services' project schedule for 2023–24.

The Board engages regularly with the Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate, Dr Mark Apthorpe, including a standing item at Board meetings where Dr Apthorpe provides an update on his activities and stakeholder engagement for discussion with the Board.

Allen Hicks serves as a member of the Employment Purpose Advisory Committee (EPAC) in his capacity as co-chair of the Board. EPAC advises the Minister on long-term plans for diversifying the economy and supporting employees and local communities affected by the transition to renewable energy. EPAC also advises AEMO Services, as the Consumer Trustee, on the component of the REZ access scheme fees to be used for an employment purpose under the Act.

The Board's secretariat consults with NSW Government agencies and Roadmap entities on behalf of the Board to foster a coordinated approach to implementing the Board's recommendations and communicating the Board's vision and plan. This includes regular consultation with EnergyCo, Investment NSW and the Department of Regional NSW.

In October 2023, the Board's secretariat consulted with Board members, AEMO Services, IPART and others on the process to increase local content requirements as part of the review of the plan.

To update the Board on implementation of the 15 recommendations to NSW Government in the plan, the Board's secretariat completed a targeted consultation with NSW Government agencies including:

- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- NSW Department of Customer Service
- NSW Department of Education
- Department of Regional NSW
- EnergyCo
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- Procurement NSW
- TAFE NSW
- Training Services NSW.



The purpose of the consultation was to provide an update on actions since publication of the plan.

# Appendix: Register of attendance at Board meetings

Table 1: Register of attendance at Renewable Energy Sector Board meetings from 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

☒ attended; 
 ☐ did not attend; 
 ☐ resigned, so not eligible; 
 ☐ not yet appointed.

Where an alternate attended the meeting for the Board member, this is indicated in the table.

| Board member  | Meeting #17<br>15 August 2023          | Meeting #18<br>16 November 2023 | Meeting #19<br>12 December 2023 | Meeting #20<br>8 February 2024 | Meeting #21<br>20 February 2024 | Meeting #22<br>30 May 2024 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Craig Memery (co-chair)<br>Public Interest Advocacy Centre                  |  |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 |                            |
| Allen Hicks (co-chair)<br>Electrical Trades Union<br>(appointed 19/10/2023) | Attended as alternate for Trevor Gauld |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 |                            |
| John Coyle<br>Varley Group  |  |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 |                            |
| Mark Cain<br>Australian Steel Institute                                     |  | David Varcoe as alternate       |                                 |                                | David Varcoe as alternate       | Partial attendance         |
| Cory Wright<br>Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union                      | Robyn Fortescue as alternate           |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 |                            |
| Trevor Gauld<br>Electrical Trades Union<br>(resigned 19/10/2023)            | Allen Hicks as alternate               |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 |                            |
| Mike Young<br>EnergyCo<br>(resigned 21/12/2023)                             |  |                                 |                                 | Thomas Watt for EnergyCo       | Thomas Watt for EnergyCo        |                            |
| Anita Talberg<br>Clean Energy Council                                       |  |                                 |                                 |                                |                                 | Anna Freeman as alternate  |

| Board member  | Meeting<br>#17<br>15 August<br>2023  | Meeting<br>#18<br>16 November<br>2023 | Meeting<br>#19<br>12 December<br>2023 | Meeting<br>#20<br>8 February<br>2024 | Meeting<br>#21<br>20 February<br>2024 | Meeting<br>#22<br>30 May<br>2024 |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rod Stowe<br>former NSW Fair<br>Trading<br>Commissioner<br>(resigned<br>15/02/2024) |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Grahame Kelly<br>Mining and Energy<br>Union<br>(resigned 8/6/2023)                  | Alison<br>Goodwin<br>as<br>alternate |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Alison Goodwin<br>Mining and Energy<br>Union<br>(appointed<br>19/10/2023)           |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Matt Robertson<br>BlueScope   | Bridgette<br>Carter as<br>alternate  | Bridgette<br>Carter as<br>alternate   | Bridgette<br>Carter as<br>alternate   | Bridgette<br>Carter as<br>alternate  |                                       |                                  |
| Bridgette Carter<br>BlueScope<br>(appointed<br>14/2/2024)                           |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Dominic Adams<br>Energy Networks<br>Australia<br>(appointed<br>14/02/2024)          |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Andrew Newman<br>Tomago Aluminium<br>(appointed<br>19/10/2023)                      |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Brian Spak<br>Energy Consumers<br>Australia<br>(Appointed<br>19/10/2023)            |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |
| Tony Callinan<br>Australian Worker's<br>Union (appointed<br>19/10/2023)             |                                      |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                       |                                  |

| Board member   | Meeting<br>#17<br><br>15 August<br>2023 | Meeting<br>#18<br><br>16 November<br>2023 | Meeting<br>#19<br><br>12 December<br>2023 | Meeting<br>#20<br><br>8 February<br>2024 | Meeting<br>#21<br><br>20 February<br>2024 | Meeting<br>#22<br><br>30 May<br>2024 |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ash Albury<br>EnergyCo<br>(representative from<br>22/04/2024)                                |   |   |   |  |   |                                      |
| Heidi Norman<br>UNSW<br>(appointed<br>27/03/2024)  |   |   |   |  |   |                                      |
| Bradley Pidgeon<br>Australian<br>Manufacturing<br>Workers Union<br>(appointed<br>27/03/2024) |   |   |   |  |   |                                      |

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# References

- ACIL Allen (2022), *Consumer costs and economic benefits for Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan: Final report*, report to NSW Department of Planning and Environment, ACIL Allen, Melbourne.
- OECC (Office of Energy and Climate Change) (2022a) *First Nations Guidelines: Increasing income and employment opportunities from electricity infrastructure projects*, August 2022, Office of Energy and Climate Change, NSW Treasury.
- OECC (2022b) *NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board's Plan*, September 2022, Office of Energy and Climate Change, NSW Treasury.