



Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

Network infrastructure upgrades

Newsletter #2 April/May 2025



Artist impression

In December 2024, Ausgrid signed a deed with the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) to deliver the critical network infrastructure upgrades required to support the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone.

The Hunter-Central Coast REZ will have the capacity to transfer 1 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2028.

Ausgrid will design, finance, construct, commission, operate and maintain the upgrades required to the existing electricity network between Muswellbrook, Singleton and Kurri Kurri. Ausgrid's proposed infrastructure includes two new substations, a major upgrade of two existing substations, and upgrading of approximately 85km of existing powerlines.

The benefits of the REZ include:



Enabling more renewable energy



Local construction jobs



Improved electricity supply stability and reliability for the Hunter-Central Coast region



Less community impact by using existing corridors

KEY PROJECT UPDATES

We are here

1

Late 2024 – early 2025

- Site investigations.
- Community and stakeholder feedback.

2

Early – mid 2025

- Refine design.
- Ongoing site investigations.

3

Mid 2025

- Review of Environmental Factors (REF) on public display.

4

Mid - late 2025

- Detailed design and early works.

5

Early 2026

- Start of subtransmission line and substation construction works.

6

Mid 2028

- Commission and move into operation and maintenance phase.

EnergyCo projects in the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone

The map shows EnergyCo projects in the Hunter-Central Coast REZ area, with the proposed Ausgrid network infrastructure works in red.



Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ● 132kV substation (existing) | — Hunter-Central Coast REZ corridor | — New England Revised study corridor |
| ⊙ 132kV substation (new) | ⋯ Port to REZ Stage 1a | — Hunter Transmission Project Refined corridor (December 2024) |
| ● 330kV substation (existing) | — Port to REZ Stage 1b | |
| ● 500kV substation (existing) | | |
| ● 500kV substation (proposed) | | |

Planning update – Review of Environmental Factors

As part of the planning process, a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for these works will be on public exhibition from **29 April to 9 June 2025**. The Review of Environmental Factors considers potential environmental impacts of the proposal. These works are being assessed and determined by Ausgrid under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Community members are invited to submit feedback on the proposal directly to Ausgrid. A report detailing submissions and any changes made to the Project will be made available on the Ausgrid website following the exhibition period.

Some of the themes covered in the REF include:



Air and water quality

- Groundwater



Biodiversity

- Local and native flora and fauna



Geology and soil

- Potential contamination



Visual amenity

- Cumulative impact



Social and economic impacts

- Jobs/business opportunities



Aboriginal heritage

- Preservation of heritage sites



Hazards and risks

- Bushfire



Noise and emissions

- Sound/EMF



Travel and access

- Transport during construction

Information sessions

To learn more about the Hunter-Central Coast REZ and the Review of Environmental Factors we are holding information sessions.

Singleton

Thursday 15 May 2025 | 4pm - 6pm

Singleton Library

Muswellbrook

Wednesday 21 May 2025 | 4pm - 6pm

Muswellbrook Library

Branxton

Thursday 22 May 2025 | 4pm - 6pm

Branxton Community Hall

Singleton

Sunday 25 May 2025 | 10am - 2pm

Valley Markets Singleton

Online webinars

Monday 19 May 2025 | 6:30pm - 7:15pm

Tuesday 20 May 2025 | 12:30pm - 1:15pm

Register at: yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/HCCREZ



All community members are welcome to drop in during these times, meet the Ausgrid team and learn more about the Project.

How to have your say

The Hunter-Central Coast REZ network infrastructure upgrades Review of Environmental Factors will be on public exhibition until 9 June 2025 at: yoursay.ausgrid.com.au/HCCREZ

We invite community members to submit their feedback on the proposal to Ausgrid via:

@ hccrez@ausgrid.com.au

✉ Ausgrid HCC REZ, GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300

Your submission should include:

1. Your name and address.
2. A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal.
3. The reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Ausgrid's Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone team in the community



First Nations engagement

The Hunter-Central Coast REZ will be hosted on the traditional lands of the Wanaruah, Awabakal, Worimi and Darkinjung peoples, cared for by their Local Aboriginal Land Councils, as well as the Bahtabah, Biraban, Mindaribba and Karuah Land Councils.

Ausgrid is committed to engaging with the traditional custodians and building our connections with these communities.



Landowner engagement

By utilising the existing (electricity corridors) Ausgrid is looking to minimise impact on landowners during construction and over the lifetime of the Project.

With the primary network infrastructure upgrades running over more than 85km, it can be difficult identifying and connecting with landowners. We have a dedicated team working with landowners to understand and address any challenges they may have. See below for contact details.



Upper Hunter Show – 14 and 15 March

Ausgrid was proud to have our Hunter-Central Coast REZ team out and about in the community, joining in at the Upper Hunter Show last month. While it may have been 40 degrees in the shade, participating at shows such as this give us an opportunity to speak directly with the community about the Project.

It's an opportunity to share information and updates, and to hear first-hand any concerns or feedback you may have.

Visit us: Tocal Field Days | 2-4 May 2025



Photo: Adam Regan, Field Manager at the Upper Hunter Show.

Contact the Hunter-Central Coast REZ project team



1800 955 635

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm



hccrez@ausgrid.com.au



Ausgrid HCC REZ

GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300



Sign up to receive newsletters and updates direct to your inbox.



EnergyCo

Ausgrid is the preferred network operator delivering the subtransmission network for the NSW Government's Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone.

