

Penny Sharpe

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

**Minister Jenny Aitchison**

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Media Release

Golden Highway a critical path to net zero ambitions

Friday, 18 October 2024

Detailed maps are now available to outline the 19 highway upgrades that will pave the way from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

'Port to REZ' upgrades will be funded by the Australian and NSW governments, with \$128.5 million announced towards 320 kilometres of road upgrades and ancillary works.

The upgrades will enable the transportation of wind turbines and other crucial components needed for wind and solar farms and the transmission network that connects them.

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) and Transport for NSW are working together to deliver the improved roads, ensuring they can comfortably accommodate transportation of materials required, whilst also improving road safety for local communities.

The 19 specific locations identified as pinch points are on the Golden Highway between the Port of Newcastle and Elong Elong, as well as a section of the Castlereagh Highway.

The maps can be found [here](#)

Quotes attributable to NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison:

"Transport for NSW is supporting the eight councils along the route with resources and information to help guide them in the rollout of the REZ in preparation for new wind and solar power operations.

"We are working closely with councils who are the local road authorities in their respective areas, responsible for the management of local road networks, including road safety, road funding, road maintenance and heavy vehicle access.

"Additionally, Transport for NSW and EnergyCo are currently carrying out a review of roads across the designated renewable energy corridors to determine if any roads should be reclassified as state roads."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Climate Change and Energy Penny Sharpe:

"As the Renewable Energy Zones progress, we're working to ensure that local infrastructure such as roads, are in a good enough state to accommodate extra demands.

"This is part of our commitment to the long term prosperity of communities hosting Renewable Energy Zones as we continue the transformation of our state's energy system."