

Media Release

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‘PORT TO REZ’ AGREEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR SMOOTH ENERGY TRANSITION

The NSW Government will upgrade the State’s road network to help accelerate the transition to renewables.

The upgrades will be undertaken in consultation with communities, councils and road users during construction of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

Components for renewable energy projects and supporting transmission infrastructure will need to be transported from ports to the REZs along the existing road network. These include wind turbines, towers and transformers.

To support this, the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to facilitate the rollout of REZs with road improvements.

The ‘Port to REZ’ MOU ensures TfNSW can assist EnergyCo to:

- identify appropriate corridors for transportation of over-sized and over-mass (OSOM) components to REZs and priority transmission network infrastructure projects
- plan, consult and undertake necessary works to ensure the identified roads can support the anticipated transportation requirements
- develop a strategy and framework to efficiently and safely manage transportation of OSOM loads along these routes.

The agreement relates to coordinating and facilitating necessary upgrades to State road infrastructure where TfNSW is the roads authority.

EnergyCo chief executive James Hay said EnergyCo will lead consultation with renewable generators, landowners and councils around relevant roadworks.

“The Port to REZ MOU between EnergyCo and TfNSW is another example of how we are taking a whole-of-government and community-focussed approach to delivering a clean, reliable and affordable energy system for the State,” Mr Hay said.

“It complements EnergyCo’s agreement with the Department of Planning to establish dedicated resources for assessment of major energy projects in NSW REZs, and EnergyCo’s partnership with the Port of Newcastle to understand the logistics required to support renewable energy development in NSW.”

Anthony Hayes, Transport for NSW Executive Director, Regional Community and Places, said the Transport task associated with these projects is substantial, and the new agreement will aid efficient and collaborative planning with government, local councils and communities.

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is part of the Treasury Cluster

“For many of these projects, hundreds of massive components will need to be safely and efficiently moved across our road network,” Mr Hayes said.

“By working together, we will ensure the best routes are identified and ready to enable the manoeuvring of these key components to their destinations in the Renewable Energy Zones, with minimal impact to the community.”

Individual developers will still be responsible for addressing their respective road haulage requirements and will need to plan for and implement any necessary measures to ensure OSOM vehicle movements can be accommodated on local road networks to their project sites.

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