

HCC REZ – community questions from February webinar

Approved for publication: J Wall, 21/02/2025

Question	Ausgrid response 18/02/2025
<p>The Roadmap calls for “two gigawatts of long-duration storage by 2030”. What is the power, the charge/discharge rate. How much energy will be stored? ie GW*hr etc. Thank you.</p>	<p>The HCC REZ seeks the introduction of 1 gigawatt (GW) of transfer capacity, with the first GW required by mid 2028 and the second slated for around the 2030s.</p> <p>Ausgrid’s HCC network infrastructure will install transfer capacity into the network to move electricity from generation and storage locations to where it is needed. However, this doesn’t include the installation of energy storage.</p> <p>Proposals for independent Battery Energy Storage Systems located in the HCC REZ can be found on the NSW Governments Major Projects Portal. Specific details on battery charge and discharge will be specific to the future storage proponent’s proposal.</p>
<p>What is this project going to cost?</p>	<p>The total project cost is estimated by Ausgrid and EnergyCo at \$600m. This is yet to be finalised and subject to AER determination.</p>
<p>Looking into the future, will the new Antiene substation be connected to the existing Lidell switch yard via new 330 or 132kV TL that is yet to be revealed to NSW consumers.</p>	<p>No. Currently, this is neither being planned nor provisioned for at Antiene substation.</p>
<p>Is this based on the publicly announced close date of coal fired power station or AEMO’s forecast which is different to what participants indicate.</p>	<p>See EnergyCo website for latest updates.</p>
<p>It’s good you are using existing corridors, how much higher will the new line towers be?</p>	<p>The proposed new poles are approximately 10m taller than the existing timber poles.</p> <p>However, in the majority, the existing corridors will stay the same – either 20m or 45m.</p>

Question	Ausgrid response 18/02/2025
<p>How are you ensuring maximum local content – supply chains? Ie are the steel 1000 poles made locally/in Australia?</p>	<p>Ausgrid are purchasing locally where it is logical and reasonable. The reality is that Australia doesn't have the manufacturing capability to meet the demand and timeframes of the HCC REZ. However, Ausgrid is looking to procure over 1 million metres of conductor locally.</p> <p>The steel poles will be manufactured in China and imported through a local distributor.</p> <p>Ausgrid and its delivery partners have agreed local and workforce targets with EnergyCo for both the construction and operation phases of the project.</p>
<p>Where are all the big steel poles and all the new transmission wires being purchased from. Australian companies?</p>	<p>Ausgrid is looking to procure over 1 million metres of conductor locally.</p> <p>The steel poles will be manufactured in China and imported via a local distributor.</p>
<p>What was Ausgrid's proposal to EnergyCo in terms of maximising ampacity of the transmission line?</p>	<p>EnergyCo's 'ask' was to add 1GW of transfer capacity to the HCC-REZ network. Ausgrid's proposal included design of new 132kV overhead lines and infrastructure to provide 400MW of transfer capacity into the Upper Hunter network and 600MW into the Newcastle network while maintaining reliability standards.</p>
<p>Will you consider an alternative conductor proposal? Who would be the best contact person?</p>	<p>At this point in time Ausgrid has settled on the conductor. However, we may consider alternatives for future proposals. You can email the team to provide more information on your product and/or services.</p>