



Hunter–Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone project

Newsletter #1 Jan–Feb 2025



We're excited to introduce to you the Hunter–Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) project and provide you with the latest news and updates.

As the project progresses, we will use our community newsletters to provide updates about what's happening, how Ausgrid is supporting the community, and ways you can provide feedback.

What is a Renewable Energy Zone?

Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) are the modern-day equivalent of traditional power stations. They are regions where new wind and solar power generation are grouped, so electricity can be efficiently stored and transmitted throughout NSW.

There are five REZs in NSW, which are expected to deliver a cleaner energy sector and emissions reductions, in line with the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap which was passed into effect in December 2020.

Who is delivering the HCC REZ?

Following a competitive tender process, Ausgrid was selected by EnergyCo as the preferred network operator to deliver the critical network infrastructure works required to support the HCC REZ.

Ausgrid's proposal predominantly includes upgrades to existing infrastructure corridors which aims to significantly reduce the impact on surrounding landowners, communities and environment.

The Hunter–Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure at a glance:



1GW
intended
network
capacity



85km
upgrade of existing
sub-transmission
power lines



2
new energy
hubs
(substations)



2
upgrades to
existing energy
hubs (substations)



18km
new underground
optical fibre
communications cable



Why has the Hunter-Central Coast been chosen?

The Hunter and Central Coast regions have excellent renewable energy resources and unique features which make them ideal locations for a REZ. Being able to tap into existing power stations, rehabilitated mining land, electricity network infrastructure, port and transport infrastructure and a skilled workforce, makes these areas well-positioned to support a REZ.

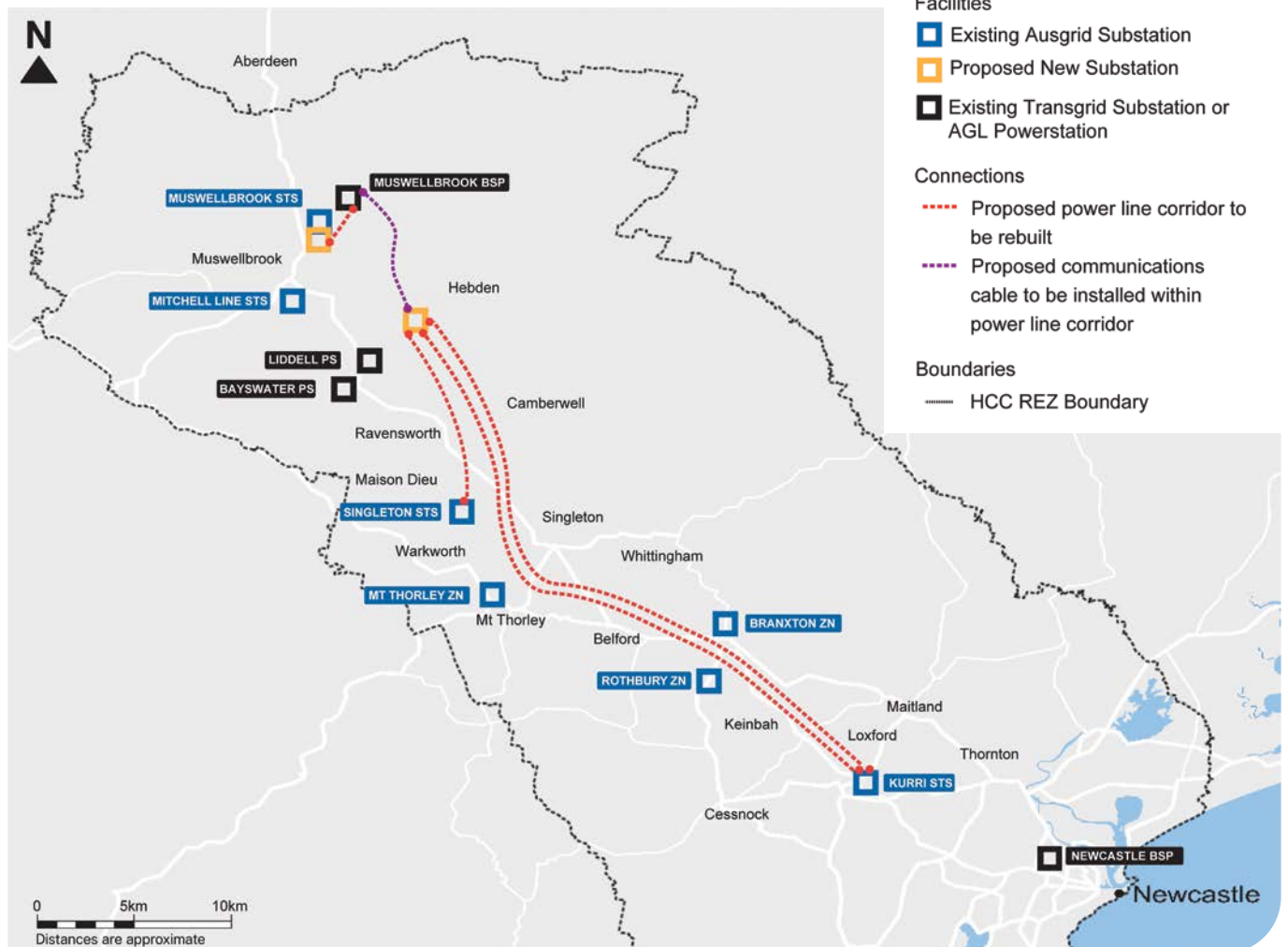
The HCC REZ project planning and design process

Ausgrid will work closely with local community and regional stakeholders on the design and location of the HCC REZ network infrastructure. In order to minimise impact on landowners, the community and environment, where possible Ausgrid has determined the sub-transmission route by utilising the existing infrastructure corridor and Ausgrid substations.

Part of the process involves Ausgrid preparing a detailed Review of Environmental Factors (REF), giving detailed consideration into a range of environmental factors including; air and water quality, geology and soil, noise and vibration, bushfire and other hazards, Aboriginal heritage, and social and economic aspects.

This REF is then put on display for public feedback – around mid-2025. Submissions are collated and considered as part of finalising the project design.

Project map



KEY PROJECT DATES

1

Late 2024 – early 2025

- Site investigations.
- Community and stakeholder feedback.

2

Early – mid 2025

- Refine design.
- Ongoing site investigations.

We are here

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 sub-transmission line and energy hub construction works.

6

Mid 2028

- Commission and move into operation and maintenance phase.



Landowner engagement

In early December, Ausgrid hosted its first landowner information sessions for property owners directly impacted by the proposed REZ works. Held at Branxton, Muswellbrook and Singleton, landowners met with the Ausgrid project team to learn about the proposed route, and most importantly, to share any concerns they may have.



Community engagement

Ausgrid is committed to working alongside EnergyCo and engaging with local landowners, communities, councils and businesses to ensure the Project delivers benefits for all stakeholders. Around one third of Ausgrid's valued employees also reside in the HCC REZ region.



Upcoming community drop-in sessions

Learn about the HCC REZ and share your thoughts on the Project.

Singleton

Friday 31 January 2025

2pm - 6pm

Singleton Senior Citizens Centre

Muswellbrook

Saturday 1 February 2025

9am - 2pm

Muswellbrook Library

Online webinars

Thursday 6 February 2025

12.30pm - 1.15pm, 7pm - 7.45pm

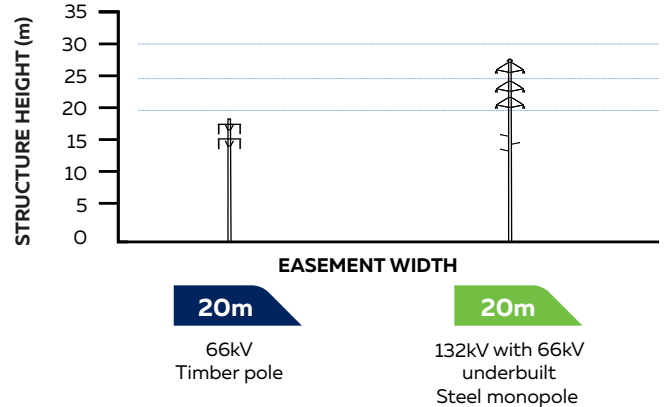
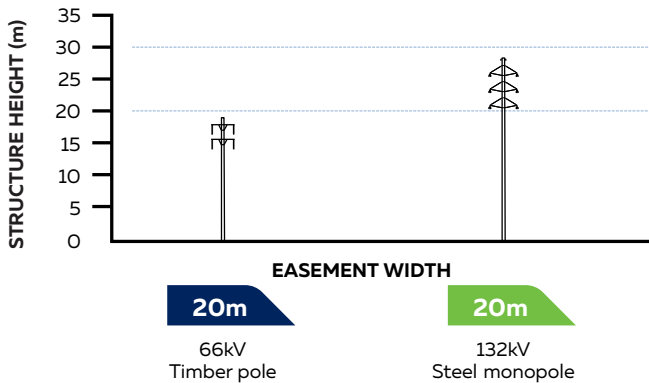
Scan QR code on reverse for details

Looking ahead

We'll be at the Upper Hunter Show in March and Tocal Field Days in May, so make sure you come and say hi.

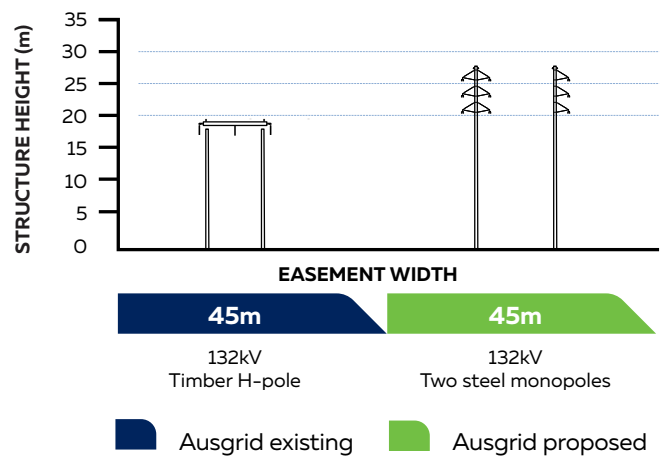
What will the new infrastructure look like?

Ausgrid will replace approximately 85km of existing sub-transmission lines between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook. Timber poles would be replaced with taller, stronger monopoles, like the diagrams below:



66kV single pole structures, which reside in a typical 20m wide corridor, would be replaced by one new steel monopole one of two arrangements, either: 132kV steel monopole (above left); or 132kV with 66kV underbuilt steel monopole (above right).

132kV two pole structure (H-pole), which reside in a typical 45m wide corridor, would be replaced by two 132kV steel monopoles (right).



About Ausgrid

Ausgrid is the largest distributor of electricity on Australia's east coast, providing power to 1.8 million customers and powering 60 per cent of NSW's GDP. Our network is made up of substations, powerlines (sub-transmission lines up to 132kV), underground cables and power poles, spanning 22,275 square kilometres throughout Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter Valley. For more information on Ausgrid visit ausgrid.com.au/About-Us.

Get in touch

Keeping our communities informed and ensuring they have the opportunity to provide feedback on the HCC REZ project is critical to its success.



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

Contact the HCC REZ project team



1800 955 635

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm



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Ausgrid HCC REZ

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