

CoREM Minutes / Summary of Discussions

3 August 2023

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Attendees:

- James Roncon, General Manager Armidale Regional Council
- Sam Coupland, Mayor, Armidale Regional Council
- Jane Redden, General Manager, Narromine Shire Council
- Craig Davies, Mayor, Narromine Shire Council
- Sharon Pope, Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Steve Reynolds, Mayor, Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Jason Linnane, General Manager, Singleton Shire Council
- Sue Moore, Mayor, Singleton Shire Council
- Rob Banham, Mayor, Glen Innes Severn Council
- Bernard Smith, General Manager, Glen Innes Severn Council
- Doug Batten, Mayor, Gilgandra Shire Council
- David Neeves, General Manager, Gilgandra Shire Council
- Brad Camm, General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council
- Russell Webb, Mayor, Tamworth Regional Council
- Paul Bennett, General Manager, Tamworth Regional Council
- Robert Bell, Mayor, Uralla Shire Council
- Phil Hood, Interim General Manager, Walcha Shire Council
- Eric Noakes, Mayor, Walcha Shire Council
- Ambrose Doolan, Mayor, Warrumbungle Shire Council

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- Alex Hall - EnergyCo
 - Mike Young - EnergyCo
 - Cara Inia - EnergyCo
 - Felicity Greenway - DPE
 - Clay Prenshaw - DPE
 - Matt Riley- DPE
 - Danijela Karac - DPE

1. Welcome by Chair of CoREM - Mayor Sam Coupland

2. Observer Council

The Chair welcomed Narromine Shire Council as an observer to CoREM group. Narromine Shire Council are seeking membership of the CoREM group.

3. Member updates:

Member councils provided an update on projects and events to date in each of their local government areas as it relates to developing renewable energy projects.

Many of the items discussed were addressed by EnergyCo and DPE where appropriate.

4. DPE Presentation:

Clay Preshaw

There is industry pressure to get projects through the planning system with concerns about the time taken to get approvals.

Improved developer applications that address community concerns as part of the planning process would expedite assessment and approval times.

Wind Energy Guidelines

- Developing new transmission guidelines
 - Consistent with Ag Commissioners review
- Decommissioning
 - Looking at should government intervene in same way as mining
 - Recognise this is an emerging issue – looking at holding a bond
- Since 23 June meeting
 - Discussed / tested the new framework with government and industry
 - Arriving at \$800 - \$1000 MW – is this coming in lower than what should be
 - Setting out to achieve 1.5% of CIV
 - Rate is tied to benefits and profits

5. EnergyCo Presentation

CWO REZ

- Declaration made in 2021 for 3GW
 - Potential capacity of transmission line
 - Therefore generation capacity needs to be higher
 - Legally required to increase the network capacity to 6GW
- REZ Access Scheme
 - First access auction for CWO back end of 2023
 - Planning approval for construction of REZ mid 2024 for CWO
 - Construction of CWO
- CWO Steering Committee – will be replicated in the other REZ's
 - Working parties
 - Housing
 - Transport
 - Environmental delivery
 - Social services / economic participation

NE REZ

- Published a draft/initial transmission line route; EIS process commencing now.

Hunter REZ

- 500 kva transmission line proposed.

Benefit Sharing Framework

- \$250k per year to CW REZ councils (for three years) as a contribution to councils to assist with costs associated with bringing the CW REZ online.
- Access fees/charges payable by developers will fund the regional benefit sharing scheme.
- Guidelines and a suite of policy documents to be developed as to how this will be administered.

Meeting closed at 6.02pm