

Meeting summary

Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee (SteerCo)

Friday, 20 October 2023

Online and in person at Executive Meeting Room, Dubbo Regional Council, Corner of Church and Darling Street, Dubbo

Attendance

Category	Attendees
Steering committee members	<p>Local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murray Wood, Chief Executive Officer, Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) (MW) • Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) (BC) • Roger Bailey, General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council (WSC) (RB) <p>NSW Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities, EnergyCo (MY) • Clay Preshaw, Executive Director Energy & Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) (CP) • Harriet Whyte, Executive Director Regional Development, DRNSW (HW)
EnergyCo representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cara Inia, CWO Director Community and Place, EnergyCo (CI) • Brian Cullinane, CWO Planning & Environment Lead, EnergyCo (BC) • Adam Clarke, Manager Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (AC) • Thomas Watt, Director of Planning and Policy, EnergyCo (TW) • Kate Hunter, CWO Community and Stakeholder Project Manager, EnergyCo (KH) • Megan Jones, Council and Community Interface Manager CWO REZ, EnergyCo (MJ)
Other local and NSW government representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Cutler, Director Housing Supply Policy, DPE (DC) • Julian Geddes, Director Operations, MWRC (JG) • Gerry Collins, Director Orana Far West, DRNSW (GC) • Lisa Grisinger, Executive Assistant, DRC (LG)
Ministerial attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, Minister for Energy (Minister PS) • Mr Dugald Saunders, MP, Member for Dubbo (DS MP)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Baker, Chief of Staff (Ministerial office) • Tamar Jacobs, Policy Advisor Energy (Ministerial office) • Phoebe Fuller, Media Advisor (Ministerial office) • Mayor Mathew Dickerson (Dubbo Regional Council) • Mayor Ambrose Doolan (Warrumbungle Shire Council) • Josh Black representing The Hon. Stephen Lawrence, MLC
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Swann, CWO Project Director, EnergyCo (CS) • David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary Development and Assessment, DPE (DG) – delegated to CP • Garry Hopkins, Director Western, DPE (GH)

Project groups

Group	Chair
Transport and logistics	Adam Clarke
Economic participation and development	Thomas Watt
Housing and accommodation	Dan Cutler (co-chair) Garry Hopkins (co-chair)
Environmental delivery coordination	Julian Geddes
Social services	Gerry Collins

Agenda items

Item	Details	Responsibility
1	Project group updates	Project group chairs
2	Data sharing solution	Project group chairs
3	General business	BC
4	Ministerial meeting	MY

Meeting minutes

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
1	Project group updates Project groups presented an update on their draft action plans to SteerCo.		
1.1	Housing and accommodation	DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC provided an update on the housing and accommodation project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — key issues identified include accommodation demand data, cumulative impacts of all major projects in the REZ, guidance for worker camp construction and planning pathway for temporary workforce accommodation — potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ employing a Central-West Orana REZ housing coordinator ○ establishing a requirement for all major projects to provide a robust Accommodation and Employment Strategy ○ developing a best practice guide for temporary workforce camps ○ finalising the Temporary and Seasonal Workers Accommodation Planning Toolkit.
1.2	Transport and logistics	AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC provided an update on the transport and logistics project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — key issues identified included access to base line data for road use, availability and suitability of alternate roads during construction, and road safety and communication — potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carrying out a traffic study on state and local roads and intersections ○ developing a communication framework for delivering local road work in the REZ ○ identifying priority local roads for upgrades. • ACTION: Transport and logistics – EnergyCo to provide an update on the Port to REZ program at the next SteerCo meeting.

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
1.3	Environmental delivery coordination	AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JG provided an update on the environmental delivery coordination project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — key issues identified include access to baseline data, water (both construction and potable), waste regional landfill capacity, subcontractor compliance — potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carrying out a study on water demand and available alternative water sources for all projects in the region ○ engaging with DPE / NRAR Water NSW on water licencing frameworks ○ carrying out a study for effluent disposal and effluent re-use of construction water ○ implementing policy change to include no waste to landfill and minimum recycling standards.
1.4	Economic development and participation	TW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW provided an update on the economic development and participation project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — key issues identified included worker skills shortages, culturally appropriate training for First Nations workers, length of apprenticeship programs, local business readiness to participate in available work packages, and inadequacy of social infrastructure to service larger population — potential initiatives identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing a ‘Renewable Energy Skills Legacy Program’ ○ employing local job coordinators ○ hosting a ‘REZ Ready’ business roadshow ○ establishing consortia of smaller businesses to bid for work packages ○ ‘Spend Local’ campaign ○ publicising procurement opportunities and upcoming work packages ○ employing an Economic Development Manager.
1.5	Social services	GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC provided an update on the social services project group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — key issues identified included lack of communication and community understanding on development timeframes in the REZ and lack of accurate data on REZ workforce and delivery timeframes to inform service planning — potential initiatives identified include:

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing best practice guidelines for temporary workforce camps including mental health and telehealth services ○ establishing bonded health scholarships for residents in the REZ to encourage increase skill and service levels.
2	Data sharing solution	SJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ presented on the REMPLAN planning portal which is subscribed to by DRC, MWRC and WSC. The REMPLAN platform can be used to record data for all projects in the REZ and can update project details to suit the needs of SteerCo and project groups • REMPLAN is currently developing an integrated data solution with Gladstone Council which will include health professionals, education professionals and emergency services data and build in modules for investment and housing data • SteerCo agreed to consult further with REMPLAN to understand data presentation possibilities and potential financial implications. DPE and EnergyCo stated this platform appears to be complimentary to existing platforms used by the two agencies • ACTION: DRC to report back on the financial implications and functionality of REMPLAN.
3	General business	BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC presented data from a study on predicted accommodation requirements for the future state significant project workforce living in the Mid-Western Regional local government area ACTION: MWRC to share workforce map with SteerCo which was presented at the meeting. • BC discussed anecdotal evidence of the current housing situation in MWRC including one room being used to house more than six people, mine sites requiring an additional 45 beds over the next two years, and daily posts in local Facebook groups from people looking for accommodation. • SteerCo discussed how project groups will engage with generators for REZ-wide coordination. ACTION: EnergyCo to determine process for project groups to engage with generators. • Next SteerCo meeting scheduled for Monday 20 November 10:00am – 1:00pm. ACTION: Project group draft action plans to be circulated to SteerCo by Friday 20 October. SteerCo to provide feedback by Monday 6 November. Project group leads to present final action plans at next SteerCo meeting. • ACTION: EnergyCo to present to SteerCo on the Central-West Orana REZ community and stakeholder engagement (CSE) strategy for REZ coordination.
4	Ministerial meeting	MY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project leads provided an update to the Minister for Energy on draft action plans • The Minister will announce \$128 million downpayment to communities in the Central-West Orana REZ over the next four years to deliver community projects and employment opportunities.

Item.	Description	Lead	Updates
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="936 172 2132 233">• The Minister closed the SteerCo meeting noting support for the intergovernmental collaboration and appreciation of the work done to date.

Project group actions

No.	Action	Status
1	Transport and logistics – EnergyCo to provide an update on the Port to REZ program at the next SteerCo meeting.	Pending next meeting
2	EnergyCo to engage with CFGs on draft action plans, with a focus on coordination for housing.	In progress

Steering committee actions

No.	Action	Status
1	Members to provide feedback on project group draft action plans by 6 November.	In progress
2	DRC to report back on the functionality of REMPLAN and potential financial implications.	Pending next meeting
3	EnergyCo to present on the CSE strategy.	Pending next meeting
4	MWRC to share workforce map which was presented at this meeting.	Completed
5	Next steps to finalise draft action plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 October – draft action plans to be shared with SteerCo for feedback• 3 November – deadline for SteerCo members to submit feedback• 6 November – SteerCo feedback issued to project leads• 17 November – updated draft action plans issued to SteerCo• 20 November – finalise draft action plans (at next SteerCo meeting)	In progress

Next meeting

Date: 20 November

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Online and at Executive Meeting Room, Dubbo Regional Council, Corner of Church and Darling Street, Dubbo