RECORD OF CRG Meeting Questions from Community,	
via Sal Edwards	Answer
17 Apr 2023 Email Could EnergyCo provide an outline on how and what the IPC decision process might look like for projects that are required to be reviewed by the IPC, inc. time-lines etc?	The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is an independent body which operates separately to the Department Planning and Environment and other NSW Government agencies. The IPC review would not apply to the REZ transmission network because the Minister for Planning is the consent authority SSI / CSSI projects. The IPC process would apply to SSD projects where there are more than 50 public submissions objecting to the application, or where the Council within whose are the application is located objects to the project, or where the applicant makes a reportable political donation.
	The IPC has information available on their website to explain their role and the process they follow in planning decisions:
	<ul> <li>The IPC's responsibilities</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Their role in the planning system</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Their decision-making process</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Frequently asked questions</li> </ul>
	EnergyCo understands the timing of the IPC process can vary depending on the complexity of the project. However, because the IPC review typically involves holding a public meeting, and in some cases a public hearing, including the requirement to publicly notify these events, it may add 2-3 months to the process.  Further advice can be requested by contacting the IPC on 02 9383 2100 or by emailing <a href="mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au">ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au</a> .
17 Apr 2023 Email Request an update from EnergyCo on the Community Info Webinar that was postponed? Is this to be rescheduled? Will this include information on impacts as well as community benefits?	EnergyCo has no plans to reschedule a community webinar at this stage, however we will consider webinars for future rounds of engagement.
	For context, at the time of cancellation, there were 38 webinar registrations and about two thirds of these were from industry stakeholders such as renewable energy developers rather than members of the community.
17 Apr 2022 Email Poquest an undate from Energy Co	
17 Apr 2023 Email Request an update from EnergyCo on their review into how they engage with communities eg. Coolah	EnergyCo is not carrying out a specific review into how communities are engaged in the REZ. However, we welcome ongoing feedback to help improve our engagement activities.
	As an example of how we are listening to community feedback on our engagement, we have recently started a program of pop-up events to increase our presence in local communities.

17 Apr 2023 Email EnergyCo Website: There are two main sections of the EnergyCo website applicable to the CWO REZ, the CWO REZ Section (Under Renewable Energy Zones) and the CWO Transmission Project (Under Projects). Much of the information included under the Transmission Line Project section SHOULD be under the REZ Section Eg. CRG Minutes, Project updates etc. The CRG is not a Transmission Line Project CRG, it is a REZ CRG. Access to information for community is difficult due to the scale of the project and the lack of collaboration between REZ Stake-Holders for providing this information, it is vital that all REZ information is easily accessible. Q: Could EnergyCo please review the structure of the Website and placement of associated information, having these TWO separate sections of information is confusing. And incorrectly placing information and updates is also preventing this from being accessible. The Transmission Line Project information, should all be located under the REZ page, and all REZ information should be located under the REZ section, not the transmission line project page.

We have followed up this matter with EnergyCo internally and have been advised that unfortunately, these two sections of the website are unable to be integrated at this time. There may be future revisions to the website however none are planned in the short-term. This feedback will be considered for future website changes.

In the meantime, EnergyCo has updated the CWO REZ page to include information about the Community Reference Group under the heading 'community consultation'. There are new links added to help direct users to the relevant information.

17 Apr 2023 Email Conflicting Maps of Corridor: Having had conflicting maps of corridor location online and on the IPad at Community Info Sessions, could EnergyCo please step out the communication process and timing of communications in regards to potential acquisition for landholders that may have been included on those maps?

Consultation with affected landowners has been ongoing since early 2022 when EnergyCo announced a revised study corridor for the REZ transmission project. EnergyCo initially contacted landowners via letter, with subsequent engagement being managed via our dedicated Land Acquisition Managers based in the region.

In the scoping report released in September 2022, there was a deviation in the corridor in the vicinity of Ulan Road at Turill. The most up to date version of the study corridor was presented in the maps shown at EnergyCo's September information sessions and on our online interactive map. This amendment was done to align with the previous alignment planned by Tilt Renewables for the development of the 330kV transmission line to the Liverpool Range Wind Farm. EnergyCo's land team contacted impacted landowners prior to the scoping report being released. It is important to note that the corridor has been subject to further development and refinement since this time as a result of ongoing design investigations and landowner consultation.

We expect to begin the process of acquiring transmission easements over the coming months (Q2 2023). This will include issuing opening letters to affected property owners as the first step in the formal acquisition process.

The final transmission route will be presented in the Environmental Impact Statement which is planned for public exhibition in Q3 this year. The alignment will take into account a range of factors, including landowner

feedback, distance to dwellings, geography, design constraints, environment and other impacts. 17 Apr 2023 Email Detailed findings of Cumulative Further information about proposed initiatives resulting impact studies (6): When will the detailed findings of from EnergyCo's research will be provided later this the cumulative impact studies be released to year via an Implementation Plan (mid-2023 TBC). We community? Noting that the content of the will notify the community once this is available. Coordinating community impacts and benefits in the A further update on this topic will be provided in the REZ report released March 2023 is primarily a summary CRG presentation. and contains key findings in a very broad context and details where EnergyCo is continuing consultation or consolidating information etc but lacks detailed specifics in regards to the impacts identified and solutions being acted upon. 17 Apr 2023 Email EnergyCo announcement of land EnergyCo has purchased, on-market, a block of land at procured for Worker's Camps: Is it true that EnergyCo 118 Neeleys Lane, Cassilis. EnergyCo is developing plans for the proposed ancillary site which will be subject to has been in contact with neighbouring landholders to land that EnergyCo has acquired for Worker's Camps to assessment and approval as part of the Environmental advise of purchase and purpose for land? If yes, would Impact Statement. Neighbouring residents have been this not be helpful information to advise CRG member's informed of the purchase, however no public of? I have received two phone calls asking me of my announcement has been made. EnergyCo is carrying out knowledge of this, to which I have replied - nothing? further investigations to confirm how the site would be used prior to carrying out further engagement with the community. 17 Apr 2023 Email Workers Camp strategy and Plan of The transmission Network Operator is expected to **Delivery:** As with previous question regarding detail require multiple temporary workforce camps to support around cumulative impact findings and solutions, could construction of the REZ transmission network. While EnergyCo provide information regarding the Worker's land has been purchased at Cassilis for potential use as Camp strategy for the Transmission Line project and the a temporary work camp (subject to planning approval), Plan of Delivery? And also clarify, how this Worker's we need to carry out further investigation work over Camp strategy has been evaluated from a REZ the coming months to confirm the overall strategy for perspective on Workforce Accommodation? workforce accommodation and other proposed camp sites. The Environmental Impact Statement will provide a detailed assessment of proposed workforce accommodation camp sites for the transmission project. The EIS will be displayed for public exhibition in Q3 this year. In terms of workforce accommodation across the REZ, EnergyCo is continuing to consult with Candidate Foundation Generators and the Department of Planning and Environment to investigate potential joint workforce accommodation solutions. There are a number of constraints being assessed including planning regulations, industrial relations, commercial risks and other issues. As an action for the July CRG meeting, EnergyCo will provide a detailed update on temporary workforce accommodation. 17 Apr 2023 Email In regards to OSOM traffic and Community consultation has not yet been carried out Merriwa and the Golden Highway, could EnergyCo list

the community stakeholders they working with in

Merriwa and the Upper Hunter?

on oversize and over-mass (OSOM) vehicle movements

between the Port of Newcastle and the REZ. For context

on timing, OSOM movements are expected to start from 2025. We are still in the initial planning stages for

OSOM deliveries and we are consulting with key stakeholders to understand the community impacts from these activities. Discussions are in progress with Transport for NSW, the Department of Planning and Environment and Candidate Foundation Generators to confirm the scope, approval pathway and delivery of this work. Consultation will be carried out with affected communities once further details are confirmed. 17 Apr 2023 Email Community Access to EnergyCo: EnergyCo is not considering a presence at proponents' Would EnergyCo consider a regular presence at say a offices at this time. project proponent's office in community to answer However, we recently implemented a schedule of community questions in person? Eg, Tilt or ACEN office monthly pop-up events at local venues so people can in Coolah, once a month or once a fortnight for a day? speak with our team face-to-face. Upcoming events are Also, question for both EnergyCo and Proponents, would you consider regular interview times on Local as follows: Radio for the sharing of information etc. Eg. Three Saturday 29 April, Gilgandra Show Rivers Radio Saturday 13 May, Wellington Show Monday 15 May, outside Dunedoo Newsagency, 10am to 2pm Tuesday 16 May, outside Coolah IGA, 10am to 2pm Wednesday 17 May, outside Gulgong IGA, 10am to 2pm Monday 19 June, outside Dunedoo Newsagency, 10am to 2pm Tuesday 20 June, outside Coolah IGA, 10am to 2pm Wednesday 21 June, outside Gulgong IGA, 10am to 2pm If the CRG can share an email address for Three Rivers Radio, we will add them to EnergyCo's media distribution list to ensure they receive future media announcements about the project. In addition, we would also be happy to add any local media outlets to our e-newsletter distribution list to ensure they receive our latest project updates via email. Local media outlets are welcome to pass on interview requests and we will forward them to EnergyCo's media unit to coordinate a response. For context, the project team is not authorised to provide comments directly to the media, so any requests must be managed via the media unit.

<b>30 January 2023, Meeting #3</b> Recommended that the Community Benefit Survey not close until after the findings reports of cumulative impacts is released. To allow community to respond with knowledge of those findings.	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 Noted.
<b>30 January 2023, Meeting #3</b> Could the CRG see an overview of the milestones for the year?	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes) <b>Action</b> to be provided with the minutes Upcoming milestones: - Q2 2023: o Preferred Network Operator identified o Community feedback report released for community benefit consultation - Q3 2023: o Public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement
30 January 2023, Meeting #3 Is the CRG meeting the terms and objectives of the CRG?	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes)  LA read out the terms and objectives of the CRG.  SE: The meeting prior to the scoping report release was constructive and perhaps meetings should be scheduled around project milestones and/or important information. LA noted that quarterly meetings are planned in line with the terms of reference and that some quarterly CRG meetings may provide more information than others. LA reiterated that just because meetings are set, members don't have to wait to bring up queries. There is also the option of extraordinary meetings. LA reiterated questions may be sent in anytime for EnergyCo to answer for distribution to the group.
30 January 2023, Meeting #3 How will traffic impacts be mitigated through Merriwa town centre?	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes) EnergyCo is discussing with Transport for NSW about what upgrades may be required for the Golden Highway to facilitate oversize/overmass vehicle movements. Looking at options such as alternative routes however this requires further engagement with Transport for NSW, councils and generators to coordinate the approach. We know Denman is one of the constrained areas that is being looked at closely.  No specifics for Merriwa, numerous stakeholders.
<b>30 January 2023, Meeting #3</b> Comment – that Community want to know the extent of cumulative impacts before deciding how Community Benefit Funds should be spent	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes)
30 January 2023, Meeting #3 What is the process around developer Community Benefit Funds?	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes) EnergyCo advised this is a separate process via developers and Councils, but EnergyCo is looking to coordinate efforts across a number of stakeholders.
<b>30 January 2023, Meeting #3</b> Could details of the Community Benefits Survey be included in the minutes	30/1/22 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes) <b>Action</b> Details to be included in the minutes
30 January 2023, Meeting #3 About 55 people from the CWO REZ completed EnergyCo's stakeholder listening survey, does EnergyCo find this acceptable?  23 Jan 2023, Email	30/1/23 – Meeting #3 (See Minutes) EnergyCo acknowledged the low numbers from CWO and that this would not be highly representative of views in the REZ 28/1/22 Email 1. Question from community: Why
1. Question from community: Why weren't the proponents invited to the Coolah Panel discussion?	weren't the proponents invited to the Coolah Panel discussion? Would a similar Panel discussion inviting proponents be considered?

Would a similar Panel discussion inviting proponents be considered?

- 2. Feedback from community: Merriwa/ Golden Highway impacts through town? Considerations and mitigation plans?
- 3. Findings from Cumulative Impact Studies? Timing of release of findings/updates and CRG Meeting? Does this promote effective feedback to, or representation of the community?
- 4. Could EnergyCo please clarify what the role of Turnpike Advisory Pty Ltd is in the rollout of the CWO REZ?
- 5. Recommend and consider regular attendance from NSW Planning Department members?
- 6. Check-in with the CRG Purpose and Objectives. Being mindful of those members who volunteer their time to attend. Is the CRG meeting these objectives effectively?
- 7. Update re potential LALC CRG Members?
- 8. Process for considering lessons learned through the development of the CWO Rez and avoiding them in future REZ developments. CWO REZ is a pilot REZ is it not? Eg. Community consultation by EnergyCo and by proponents avoiding burnout of community with multiple events and consultations, multiple Social Impact Surveys etc. Timing of events and submissions etc? How to conduct these in a way that recognises the time given by the community and meets the legislative requirements? Process for consideration whether legislation needs to be reviewed given the number of proponents within each REZ? Avoiding the SILO approach.
- 9. Update on Merotherie Hub

This was a one-off event held in response concerns raised via Coolah District Development Group that the community was unclear about EnergyCo's roles and responsibilities under the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. On this occasion only, generators were not included so as to keep the discussion focussed on this topic. I note that generators have participated in all of EnergyCo's previous community information sessions, and have been invited to participate in our upcoming community meetings in mid-February.

- > 2. Feedback from community: Merriwa/ Golden Highway impacts through town? Considerations and mitigation plans? *An update on road upgrades will be provided at the CRG meeting.*
- > 3. Findings from Cumulative Impact Studies? Timing of release of findings/updates and CRG Meeting? Does this promote effective feedback to, or representation of the community? *An update will be provided at the CRG meeting*.
- > 4. Could EnergyCo please clarify what the role of Turnpike Advisory Pty Ltd is in the rollout of the CWO REZ?

Turnpike Advisory is a consulting firm engaged by the NSW Government on the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. Turnpike is one of a number of service providers engaged to support EnergyCo in delivering the REZs.

- > 5. Recommend and consider regular attendance from NSW Planning Department members?
  At this stage, EnergyCo is not intending to invite the Department of Planning to attend the CRG on an ongoing basis. However they may be invited as guest participants where appropriate.
- > 6. Check-in with the CRG Purpose and Objectives. Being mindful of those members who volunteer their time to attend. Is the CRG meeting these objectives effectively? **For discussion at the CRG.**
- > 7. Update re potential LALC CRG Members?
  LALCs were invited to participate in the CRG however this was at their discretion, and none took up the invitation. For reference, targeted engagement with LALCs is carried out via other avenues to inform the development of the project, such as through the CWO First Nations Working Group and consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). EnergyCo is mindful that LALCs are engaged on matters across the REZ and may not choose to participate in all engagement forums.
- > 8. Process for considering lessons learned through the development of the CWO Rez and avoiding them in future REZ developments. CWO REZ is a pilot REZ is it not? Eg. Community consultation by EnergyCo and by proponents avoiding burnout of community with multiple events and consultations, multiple Social Impact Surveys etc. Timing of events and submissions etc? How to conduct these in a way that recognises the time given by the community and meets the legislative

requirements? Process for consideration whether legislation needs to be reviewed given the number of proponents within each REZ? Avoiding the SILO Similar questions were raised at the Coolah community meeting in December. This topic can be raised for further discussion at the CRG. > 9. Update on Merotherie Hub EnergyCo has no further updates to provide since the last meeting, as property negotiations are continuing for energy hub properties. The location and layout of energy hubs (and associated impacts for neighbouring landowners) will be detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement which will be displayed for public exhibition in Q3 this year. 1 Dec 2022, Email Have spent most of today 5 Dec 2022, Email Yes, this is an issue with how our researching all the projects in the REZ and have only website is set up. I'm following up with the EnergyCo team managing the website to see if we can provide just now come to realise that the CRG details are only listed under the Transmission project part on some cross links to ensure people find the generator EnergyCo's website and not under the CWO REZ. I information easily if they're on the CWO REZ page. couldn't figure out why I could find them one minute and not the next. Could I suggest that the details also be included under the REZ, not just the Transmission project? That would be make it much more accessible. 29 Nov 2022, Meeting #2 noted the lack of certainty for 29/11/22 – (See Minutes) EnergyCo explained that energy hub neighbours on how they will be impacted discussions are still being carried out with potential host by the infrastructure. landowners to confirm the hub sites, which mean we are currently unable to provide certainty to adjacent landowners. The final layout and design of the hubs will be detailed in the EIS. 29 Nov 2022, Meeting #2 Why is there a requirement 29/11/22 – (See Minutes) EnergyCo explained that the for 1500 acres of land for the Merotherie Energy Hub? energy hub itself would be around 90 hectares however a larger area of land is under investigation due to the need to facilitate transmission lines coming in and out of the hub. By contrast, a simple switchyard would be about 10 hectares. 29 Nov 2022, Meeting #2 Update requested on 29/11/22 – (See Minutes) A high level overview was EnergyCo's stakeholder listening survey. provided, with an Action for a further update on the survey results to be given at the next meeting. 29 Nov 2022, Meeting #2 - Do the REZ's overlap in 29/1/22 – (See Minutes) The Hunter Central Coast REZ their construction time-frames? (Discussion around has some crossover in the delivery schedule. After this, Cumulative Impacts and Workforce shortages etc) it would be the connection from Bayswater to New England REZ. 24/11/22 – Email, We will work with the agency who 24 Nov 2022, Email - Please refer to attached photos. As previously highlighted, these adverts are not big manages the NSW Government advertising to see if we enough or clear enough. Look at the Ad above the REZ can make this larger and more prominent in future. one, for a support driver... very clear. These ads need to Please be assured it's not a conscious decision, it's just be full page and highlight COMMUNITY INFORMATION that they follow a standardised format for these types SESSION .... PANEL DISCUSSION of print advertisements. This one could state that it will be a panel for community to ask questions from? Leave it with us and thanks again for flagging it. These are state significant developments and as We discussed last time, anything less than a full page is not

enough. Eg when Ram Sales, School news and Community events have full pages... a part column advert that has the CWO REZ as the main heading... it doesn't work. There are many who would question if this was a calculated decision to limit attendance?

I understand the need to be present in many papers, but it needs to be prominent because of the importance of this project.

Is there anything further I can do, to make sure this choice of advertising is avoided in the future?

**16 Nov 2022, Email -** Any feedback or news from the potential LALC Members?

**16 Nov 2022, Email, 29 Nov Meeting #2** - Can I use my name followed by "EnergyCo Community Reference Group - Community Representative" title as the name for a FB page. I understand that these communications will abide by the Code of Conduct and the Terms of Reference too.

29/11/22 (See Minutes) EnergyCo requested that the page not have "EnergyCo" in the name so as to avoid community confusion about who maintains the page.

## 12 Sep 2022, Email, 29 Nov 22 Meeting #2 - Promotions/Media around the upcoming sessions.

Other than the September Project Update, I haven't seen any other Media promoting these sessions? Could you advise what media channels have been utilised to promote these sessions. I would like to recommend that local media outlets be utilised, as standard practice (if they haven't already) to promote these sessions. Eg. Dunedoo District Diary, Coolah Diary, Gulgong paper, Community Facebook pages etc

**12/9/22** As you may be aware, the scoping report is now live on the NSW Planning Portal via this link: https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/central-west-orana-rez-transmission-project

Please see below summary of our engagement activities to support the release of the scoping report:

Advertisements placed in local papers starting last Wednesday 7 September: Coolah District Diary, Merriwa District Diary, Dunedoo District Diary, Wellington District Leader, Wellington Times, Mudgee Guardian, Dubbo Daily Liberal, Western Magazine

Direct contact made to landowners within the refined transmission corridor last week

Project update distributed to 5,500 letterboxes from today via Australia Post (see attached - the details of our Gulgong sessions have been updated due to the public holiday next Thursday)

Media release issued today to local and regional media outlets

E-newsletter distributed this morning to registered community and key stakeholders

Information published on our website: https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/projects/centralwestorana-transmission-project

We have shared information with generators so they can disseminate via their networks.

29/11/22 Meeting #2 (See Minutes)
EnergyCo noted that they would look at improving artwork for the next round of advertising.

**12** Sep **2022**, Email - re timing, given the size of the Scoping document. What are the thoughts around hosting the Community Consultation sessions the week following the release of the Scoping document? Given

**12/9/22** Regarding consultation sessions, we are planning to host a number of drop-in sessions next week so the community has an opportunity to meet with the project team and discuss the scoping report

there is no formal presentation/ and a walk in structure for the community to ask questions. I'm wondering if it is thought that there is adequate timing between the release of the document and the Community Consultation sessions?

and the refined transmission alignment. Several developers of major generation projects will be joining us at the sessions. If community members are not available to attend the sessions or need more time to consider the report, we are happy to meet with people on an individual basis at their convenience. This engagement period does not constitute formal consultation (i.e. there is no submissions process) however we welcome community feedback at any time on any aspect of the project. Our next period of consultation will be held in Q1 next year specifically around community benefit initiatives, and then a major consultation process will be carried out mid next year for the exhibition of the EIS.

Being a new government authority, EnergyCo does not currently have any social media pages so unfortunately we haven't been able to provide targeted social media advertising to the community as would normally be done for government infrastructure projects. This feedback is important however and I will feed it back through to EnergyCo. Please also let me know if there are any individuals in your networks who would be interested in posting information to community Facebook pages as I can invite them to be registered on our distribution list. This will ensure they receive our future updates and announcements.

12 Sep 2022, Email – Is it definite that ALL LANDHOLDERS within the revised corridor are aware of the location of the corridor in relation to their land? I know this was asked at the meeting and it was answered non-specifically, with a focus on the engagement process. Might you be able to clarify for me please, if ALL landholders are aware?

12/9/22 To answer your third point, EnergyCo has carried out an extensive program of landowner engagement since March this year to gauge landowner sentiment, and this has informed the proposed transmission route. I can confirm that all landowners have been informed that they are in the study corridor. Over the past week, our land team has made contact with landowners within the refined corridor to give them advance notice about the release of the scoping report

**1 Sep 2022, Meeting #1** (See minutes) Will community have their say on cumulative impact strategies?

1/9/22 - Community will be invited to provide their feedback in Q1 2023. Due to the interest from the CRG in the cumulative impact strategies, it was suggested that this be listed as an **Action** and to be put on the agenda for Meeting #2, November 2022