



Sally Edwards &lt;sal.communitybuilding@gmail.com&gt;

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## Response from EnergyCo

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Lisa Andrews &lt;lisaandrews.ic@gmail.com&gt;

2 November 2022 at 09:47

To: Sally Edwards &lt;sal.communitybuilding@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Sally

Thank you for your email of 25/10/22 providing feedback and raising a number of issues concerning the CWO REZ CRG, communication strategy, etc.

Further to your questions, I have received the following response from EnergyCo. I will also forward your questions and subsequent response to all CRG members for their information.

1. Re Item 3 from Minutes - when will the CRG Group names and emails go onto the EnergyCo website? The CRG documents and member details are planned to go on the EnergyCo website and this is currently in progress. EnergyCo will provide an update as soon as this has been completed. We apologise for the delay in actioning this and thank you for your patience.
2. Re Item 5 Interactive Map on EnergyCo website - is this available online now? If not, estimated time for it to go live? The interactive map was recently published and is available via a link on the EnergyCo home page, or by visiting this link: <https://caportal.com.au/energyco/rez>
3. Will the CRG Minutes be published online? Apologies, I can't remember if this was discussed. Yes, the minutes will be published on the website. EnergyCo is working to update the website as soon as possible.
4. Next Community Engagement sessions planned for REZ - what activities, if any, are planned for the remainder of 2022? EnergyCo's engagement for the remainder of 2022 is largely focused on consultation with landowners to refine the corridor for the REZ transmission project and this is being done through direct engagement with affected landowners. EnergyCo is also continuing its program of engagement with Councils, generators, government agencies and key stakeholders to inform various aspects of the project, including a series of studies into cumulative impacts. In terms of wider community engagement, this is planned for January/February 2023 and will involve public forums such as drop-in sessions and meetings (the exact format is still to be determined). The focus of this engagement will be on community benefit initiatives in the REZ. While the next period of formal consultation is planned early in the new year, we welcome feedback and suggestions from the community at any time as we develop the project. I would like to note that there is a substantial increase in a) conversation, b) community apprehension and c) negative sentiment in the Coolah and surrounding communities re the TILT Modification and also EnergyCo's revised corridor. EnergyCo notes this feedback and is committed to working closely with landowners to resolve these concerns as we refine the transmission study corridor.
5. Further to my questions previously raised about landholder awareness. I note, that at the Community Information Session held in Coolah, there were indeed (and potentially still are) landholders that did not know that they were in the revised corridor. The landholders that have unsuccessfully been contacted to date - how does EnergyCo plan to make successful contact and bring awareness to these landholders within the revised corridor? EnergyCo has contacted all landowners to inform them they are in the study corridor. Where contact by post, email or phone has been unsuccessful, we have left calling cards in mailboxes to provide our contact details. In some instances, landowners have chosen not to engage with us, as they are entitled to do. For background, EnergyCo first began engaging with landowners in the revised study corridor February 2022 to understand their sentiment for hosting transmission infrastructure. In September 2022, prior to the release of the scoping report, EnergyCo contacted landowners to advise that they were in the refined transmission corridor as presented in the scoping report. We are continuing discussions with affected landowners to provide further detail on the proposed transmission route. This work is being carried out by EnergyCo's Land Acquisition Team and Place Managers who are based in the region. EnergyCo acknowledges that some landowners do not feel they were adequately engaged prior to the release of the scoping report, and we have taken this feedback on board. We encourage any community members to contact us if they have concerns or wish to discuss the potential impacts to their land as a result of the REZ transmission project.
6. What negotiation process is EnergyCo undergoing with concerned landholders within the revised corridor? As outlined above, EnergyCo is engaging directly with affected landowners to inform the transmission

route selection process. We are seeking to come to a mutually acceptable agreement with landowners in the first instance on the locations for transmission infrastructure. Property negotiations will continue through to next year, with the final transmission alignment to be presented in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in mid-2023.

7. What changes is EnergyCo making in response to community concerns? The transmission route is still being developed and may be subject to further changes and refinements in the coming months in response to ongoing investigations and landowner discussions, with the final alignment to be presented in the EIS in mid-2023.

8. In acknowledging the rise in distress in the community, do EnergyCo have any suggestions or tools/resources to assist community at this time? EnergyCo's project team is available to speak with members of the community at any time about any questions or concerns they may have about the REZ transmission project and the broader REZ. Our community team is contactable at [cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cwo@energyco.nsw.gov.au) or by calling 1800 032 101. We are happy to meet face-to-face with community members at their properties or by appointment at our office in Dubbo. To stay informed about the latest project updates, we encourage people to contact us so they can register for email updates. Project information and an interactive map is available on EnergyCo's website at [energyco.nsw.gov.au](http://energyco.nsw.gov.au).

9. Nov Agenda Item: Community Listening Survey - Questions, results eg. no. of participants, findings etc.- EnergyCo recently carried out its Community Listening Survey as the first of a range of community consultation activities that EnergyCo is planning out as part of its Listening Program. This survey is in addition to EnergyCo's standard consultation with the community on its projects. EnergyCo has not yet confirmed plans to make the survey results publicly available, but we will endeavour to provide an update at the November CRG meeting as requested.

I look forward to seeing you at the next CRG.

Best regards

Lisa

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