

Appendix B - Consultation

Wired for good."





REF339 12 November 2024 145 Newcastle Road Wallsend NSW 2287 All mail to PO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T+61 2 131 525 www.ausgrid.com.au

Ken Liddell Cessnock City Council 62-78 Vincent Street Cessnock NSW 2325, Australia

Sent via email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ken,

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – Consultation under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021, & Application under Section 138 Consent Roads Act 1993*

I am formally notifying the Council about Ausgrid's proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook. Council is invited to review and submit feedback on the relevant HCC REZ infrastructure proposed in the local government area.

About the Project

EnergyCo is responsible for developing and overseeing the planning and approval processes for the REZ Infrastructure. After a competitive tender process, EnergyCo has selected Ausgrid as preferred network operator for the REZ. Ausgrid would design, build, finance, operate and maintain the REZ infrastructure.

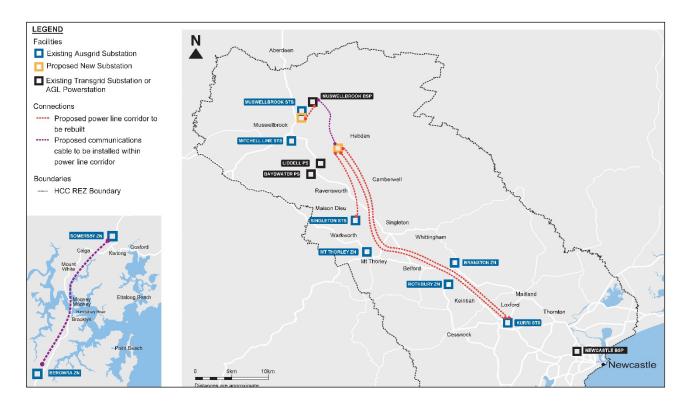
Ausgrid's proposed solution (shown in Figure 1) involves a major augmentation of Ausgrid's electricity network in the Hunter region to provide an additional one gigawatt of renewable energy transfer capacity by mid-2028. This would include works which span multiple LGAs comprising of:

- rebuilding subtransmission lines,
- · building two new substations; and
- augmenting several existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Hunter and Central-Coast areas.

The HCC REZ infrastructure would predominantly be constructed on land owned by Ausgrid or on public land. The subtransmission lines would be predominantly built within corridors of land known as subtransmission line easements. Ausgrid would use existing easements where possible; however, there would be the need to widen easements or acquire new easements in some sections.

Figure 1: Proposal location



Proposed infrastructure in Cessnock LGA

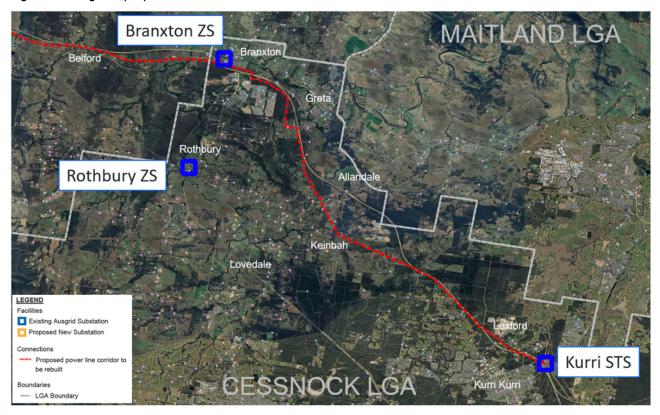
Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Cessnock LGA (shown in Figure 2) would include:

- Augmentations of two existing substations at Rothbury ZS and Kurri STS
- 24km overhead subtransmission powerline reconstruction within existing powerline corridor
- Minor interfacing works outside of powerline corridors.
- Minor upgrades at existing substations.

Related projects subject to separate environmental impact assessments include:

- Early works distribution 11kV/400V network relocations
- · Communication network upgrades

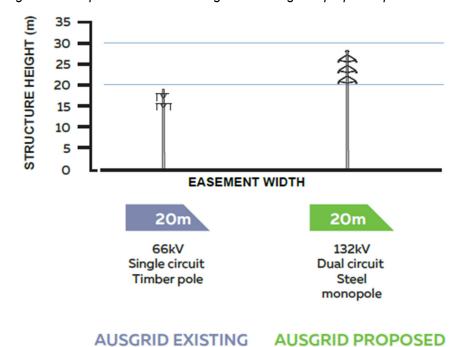
Figure 2: Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Cessnock LGA



Proposal alternatives

Several alternatives were considered for the proposed powerline route including building new feeders in greenfield areas. This option was not preferred as it would involve significantly more land/easement acquisition, vegetation removal, land disturbance and cost in comparison to the preferred option.

Figure 3: Comparison between Ausgrid's existing and proposed powerline corridor



Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity subtransmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

Community consultation

We are committed to the local communities we work with, ensuring local knowledge and skills are key inputs into our projects. We understand that the support and local knowledge of the communities in which we operate is crucial to successful clean energy development.

Ausgrid is undertaking a range of activities to ensure community members are aware of the proposed activities and have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project.

Community engagement activities proposed/undertaken for this proposal include:

- Individual engagement with landowners and near neighbours.
- · Project website.
- Public information sessions and pop-up/drop-in information sessions.
- Community newsletters sent to the local community at key stages of the project to notify them of the proposal and provide construction information and information on how to contact Ausgrid's project team.
- Briefings with key stakeholder briefings and State and local government agencies.
- · Briefings with elected officials
- Community and industry webinars.
- First Nations engagement.
- Reference group/s and technical working group/s
- Issuing of statutory notices under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.*

Environmental assessment

Ausgrid will be carrying out an environmental assessment for this project to meet the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.* Therefore, in addition to any submission, can you please advise of any information, on proposed developments or activities in the immediate area of Ausgrid's proposal, that Council is aware of which will assist us in considering all relevant issues and adequately assessing the environmental and cumulative impacts. Such information could include:

- specific zoning and consent requirements
- approved surrounding land uses
- any known environmental restrictions (e.g. environmental protection area etc)
- threatened or endangered flora or fauna species
- fire prone land
- stormwater
- Council infrastructure
- locally rare or protected flora or fauna or areas of critical habitat
- wetlands or flood prone areas
- · land contamination, potential or actual acid sulphate soils, soil instability or subsidence
- heritage items or relics, including Aboriginal heritage and sites
- · site access, traffic or parking restrictions
- adjacent sensitive sites
- potential community concerns of which Council may be aware
- other nearby development proposals likely to impact upon Ausgrid's proposal
- any other items that Council considers relevant.

The proposed activities would have environmental management safeguards to a suitable standard implemented in accordance with the assessment and <u>Ausgrid's Environmental Handbook for Construction</u> and <u>Maintenance</u> (NUS 174C).

Application under Section 138 Consent Roads Act 1993

The works would also include rebuilding subtransmission lines within a small section of Lovedale Road which is a classified regional road. Ausgrid seeks Council's consent to undertake the proposed works over this regionally classified road.

Submissions

Submissions and information for this project will be considered if received within 40 days of the date of this letter. The 40 days takes into consideration the 40 days as required by the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and 21 days as required under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021* concurrently. Submissions and information may be sent via e-mail (HCCREZ@ausgrid.com.au).

If no written correspondence is received by within 40 days from the date of this letter, we will consider that Council does not wish to lodge a submission, and we will proceed to schedule work after this date. Council can request a copy of the environmental assessment to be issued once it is completed. Please include in the submission for the proposal whether a copy is required, how many copies are required and the format type.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on 0414 192 495.

Yours sincerely,

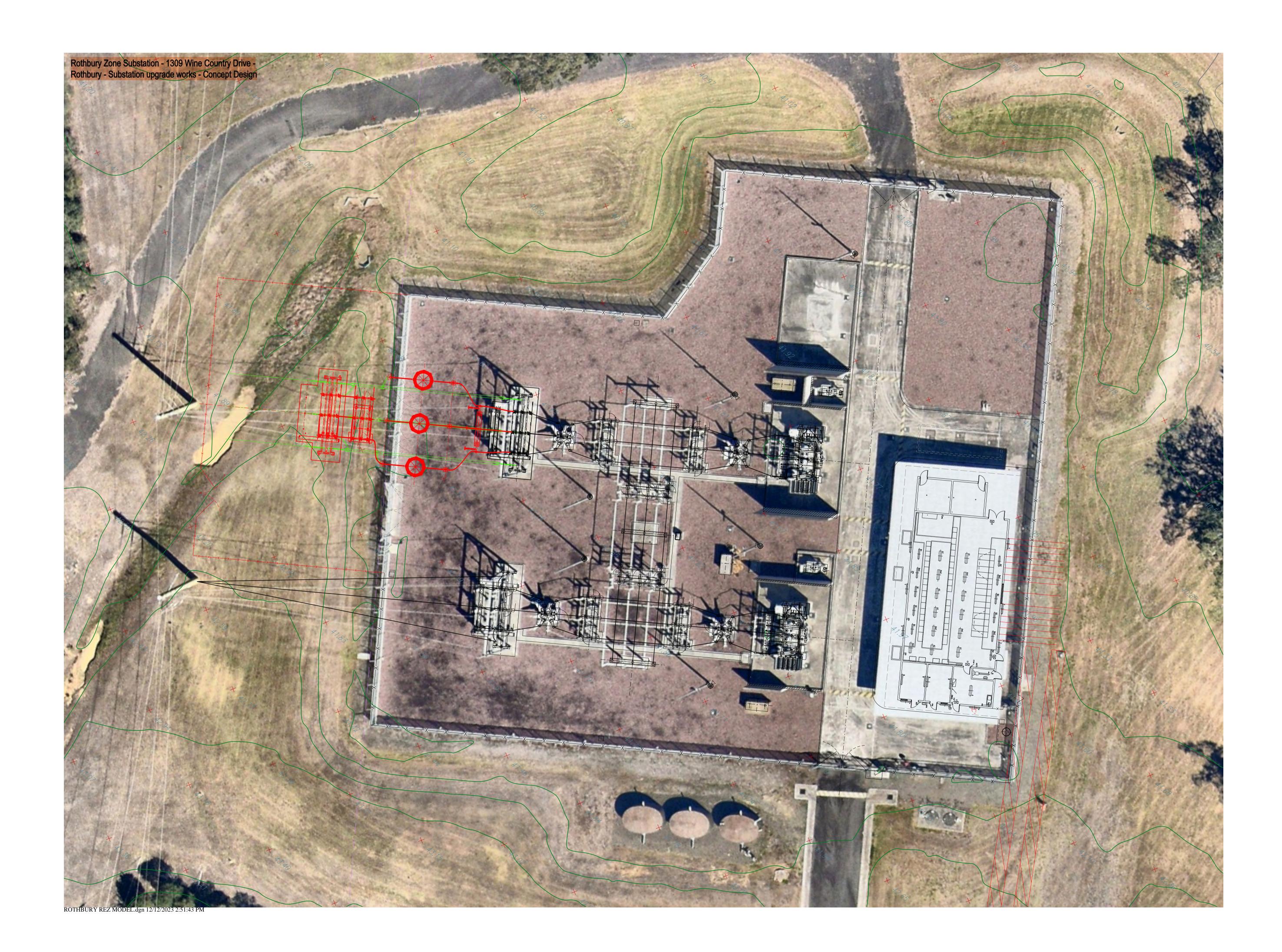
Jason Wall

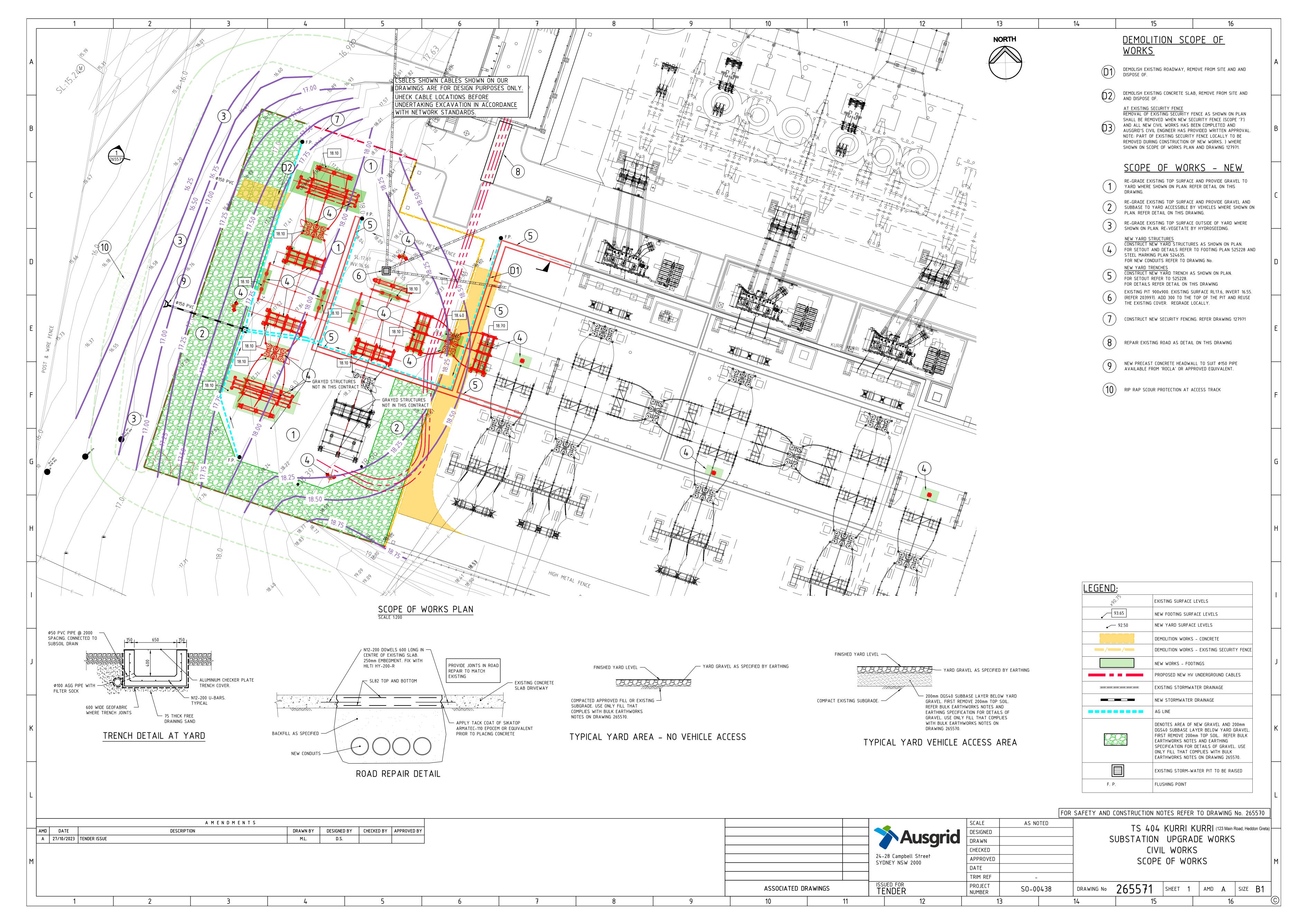
Project Director HCC REZ

Ausgrid

Attachments:

- 1. Rothbury Zone Substation Concept Design
- 2. Kurri STS Civil General Arrangement







REF339 5 November 2024 145 Newcastle Road Wallsend NSW 2287 All mail to PO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 131 525 www.ausgrid.com.au

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr Singleton Council 12-14 Queen Street Singleton NSW 2330

Sent via email to council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

Dear Justin,

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – Consultation under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021*

I am formally notifying the Council about Ausgrid's proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook. Council is invited to review and submit feedback on the relevant HCC REZ infrastructure proposed in the local government area.

About the Project

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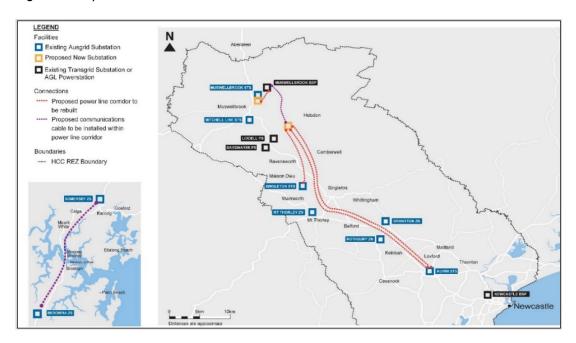
Ausgrid's proposed solution (shown in Figure 1) involves a major augmentation of Ausgrid's electricity network in the Hunter region to provide an additional 1 GW of renewable energy transfer capacity by mid-2028. This would include works which span multiple LGAs comprising of:

- · rebuilding subtransmission lines,
- · building two new substations; and
- augmenting several existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Muswellbrook and Newcastle areas.

The HCC REZ infrastructure would predominantly be constructed on land owned by Ausgrid or on public land. The subtransmission lines would be predominantly built within corridors of land known as subtransmission line easements. Ausgrid would use existing easements where possible; however, there would be the need to widen easements or acquire new easements in some sections.

Figure 1: Proposed location



Proposed infrastructure in Singleton LGA

Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Singelton LGA (shown in Figure 2) would include:

- 54 km overhead subtransmission powerline reconstruction within existing powerline corridors.
- Minor interfacing works outside of powerline corridors.
- Minor upgrades at existing substations.

Related projects subject to separate environmental impact assessments include:

- Early works distribution 11kV/400V network relocations
- Communication network upgrades

Figure 2: Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Singelton LGA



Proposal alternatives

Several alternatives were considered for the proposed powerline route including building of new feeders in greenfield areas. The greenfield option was not preferred as it would involve significantly more land/easement acquisition, vegetation removal, land disturbance and cost in comparison to the preferred option.

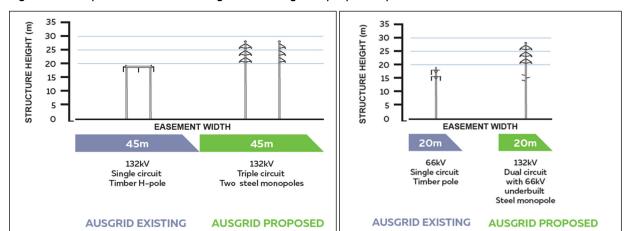


Figure 3: Comparison between Ausgrid's existing and proposed powerline corridor

Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity subtransmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

Community consultation

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- other nearby development proposals likely to impact upon Ausgrid's proposal
- any other items that Council considers relevant.

The proposed activities would have environmental management safeguards to a suitable standard implemented in accordance with the assessment and <u>Ausgrid's Environmental Handbook for Construction</u> and <u>Maintenance</u> (NUS 174C).

Application under Section 138 Consent Roads Act 1993

The works would also include rebuilding subtransmission lines along Broke Rd and Mt Thorley. These roads are classified regional roads as determined by Transport for NSW. In accordance with the enclosed General Concurrence from TfNSW (formerly Roads and Maritime Services) Ausgrid seeks Council's consent to undertake the proposed works over these regionally classified roads.

Submissions

Submissions and information for this project will be considered if received within 40 days of the date of this letter. The 40 days takes into consideration the 40 days as required by the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and 21 days as required under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021* concurrently. Submissions and information may be sent via e-mail (HCCREZ@ausgrid.com.au).

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Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on 0414 192 495.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Wall

Project Director HCC REZ

Ausgrid



Council Reference: 24/787274

13 December 2024

Jason Wall Ausgrid 145 Newcastle Road Wallsend NSW 2300

Dear Jason,

Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – Consultation under the Electricity Supply Act 1995 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021

Singleton Council acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 5 November 2024 regarding the proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Network Infrastructure. Please consider this letter Singleton Council's formal response in accordance with the *Electricity Supply Act*, 1995 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021.

Ausgrid as the Preferred Network Operator

Singleton Council notes that Ausgrid has been selected as the preferred network operator for the HCC REZ and looks forward to engaging and collaborating with your team throughout the project's development.

Limited Information and Concerns About Coordination

As you can appreciate, given the limited detailed information provided to Singleton Council to date, it is difficult to provide comprehensive feedback on the proposed infrastructure within the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA). However, we do wish to highlight several concerns related to the coordination of infrastructure, particularly the connections between the REZ infrastructure and private renewable energy providers.

It appears there is currently a lack of coordination between EnergyCo, network operators, and private energy providers, which raises significant concerns about the potential impacts on Council and the broader community. Without a coordinated approach, the responsibility for managing power generation facilities and the "last mile" will fall to each local council individually, rather than being managed in a holistic, regional manner. This fragmented approach could lead to a range of issues, including:

 Strain on Council Resources: The burden of managing infrastructure without adequate support or coordination will stretch Council's resources, both financially and operationally.

T 02 6578 7290 E council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

F 02 6572 4197 W singleton.nsw.gov.au

- Inconsistent Infrastructure Development: Lack of coordination could result in mismatched or incompatible infrastructure across different areas, leading to inefficiencies and disruptions.
- Community and Environmental Impact: The absence of a unified plan could increase negative impacts on the community, including traffic, noise, or environmental degradation, which may be difficult for Council to manage effectively.
- Lack of Local Input and Representation: Without a coordinated approach, councils may have limited input into the planning and development of infrastructure, potentially overlooking local needs and concerns.
- Challenges in Coordinating Infrastructure Upgrades: The fragmented approach may hinder the timely and efficient upgrading of essential infrastructure.

Request for Coordinated Approach

Considering the above, Singleton Council strongly advocates for a coordinated and integrated approach to the management of the connections between the REZ infrastructure and private renewable energy providers. Council considers this to be essential to ensure that the transition to renewable energy is both sustainable and beneficial to local communities within the REZ, with minimal risk to public safety, public infrastructure, and the environment.

Previous Engagement with EnergyCo

Singleton Council has raised these issues with EnergyCo on several occasions, and we encourage continued dialogue to address these concerns in the lead-up to the project's commencement.

Easement and Infrastructure Impact

It is understood that much of the HCC REZ infrastructure will be built within existing subtransmission line easements but there may be a need to widen these easements or acquire new ones as part of the project. To ensure early planning and mitigate potential impacts on Council's assets, we request that detailed information regarding any amendments to existing easements, or new easements that may affect Council's assets, be provided as early as possible.

Additionally, we request further details regarding the proposed interfacing works outside the powerline corridors, and the impact of these works on Council assets. Further clarification on the upgrades at existing substations and any impact these may have on local infrastructure and the community is also requested.

Distribution Network Relocations and Communication Upgrades

As part of the proposed works, we request more detailed information on the distribution 11kV/400V network relocations and communication network upgrades, including their potential impacts on Council assets and the local community.



Work Hours and Community Impact

It is noted that work is expected to commence in 2025, with completion in mid-2028 and that work hours would be 7am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am - 1pm on Saturday and that some work may be completed on a 7- day roster. Council requests further details as to what the predicted impacts will be to the community and the road network during the proposed works.

Consultation and Updates

Singleton Council requests to be fully updated throughout the project lifecycle. As a minimum, a formal briefing with Councillors is requested at your earliest opportunity to ensure the elected council is kept informed and engaged with the project's progress.

Request for Spatial Data and Land Use Information

Regarding your request for information relating to land and infrastructure in the immediate area of the proposal you will need to complete a spatial data request form and submit to Council. A data sharing agreement may be needed before this information can be provided. To proceed with the data request please contact Paul Smith, Executive Liaison Officer – Major State Government Projects either via email at psmith@singleton.nsw.gov.au or via phone on 0423 278750.

Section 138 Application for Works on Classified Roads

A formal application under Section 138 of the *Roads Act, 1993* will need to be made to Council to undertake the proposed works over any regionally classified roads located within the LGA. This is to be done through Council's website: Road Permits | Singleton Council (nsw.gov.au)

Environmental Assessment

Once the environmental assessment for the project is completed, Council requests that an electronic version (PDF) be provided for review.

Embedded Presence

For major infrastructure projects, such as the HCC REZ, Singleton Council places significant importance on the managing organisation having an embedded presence in the Singleton CBD to enhance project visibility and transparency, encourage stronger stakeholder engagement, improve local workforce integration and to assist in understanding the local context.

Accommodation and Employment

Singleton Council considers that an Accommodation and Employment Strategy is crucial for this project and should be developed in close consultation with Council. The Accommodation and Employment Strategy must:

- a. Propose measures to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development
- b. Consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant projects in the LGA
- Investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible (where local is defined as within one (1) hour commute)



- d. Include a program to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Strategy over the life of the development, including regular monitoring and review during construction
- e. Report on compliance with the Strategy annually.

It should be noted that generally Singleton Council, and the community, are opposed to the establishment of worker camps within the LGA and instead would look for more long-term solutions to accommodate workers, such as the use of local rental properties or the construction of new housing which would leave a lasting legacy of improved housing for the community after the project ends.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to working collaboratively with Ausgrid to ensure that the HCC REZ project delivers long-term benefits for both the energy sector and the community.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr

General Manager



Council Reference:

20 December 2024

Jason Wall Ausgrid 145 Newcastle Road Wallsend NSW 2300

Dear Jason,

Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone – Infrastructure in Singleton Council road reserve

I am writing further to my letter dated 13 December 2024 with respect to applications under Section 138 of the *Roads Act*, 1993 for works on Classified Roads.

At its ordinary meeting on 26 November 2024, Singleton Council resolved to refuse consent for the use of road reserves within the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA) for the installation of any private infrastructure to support renewable energy projects, unless authorisation is granted by the elected Council. This resolution effectively removes the delegated authority from council officers to approve applications under Section 138 of the *Roads Act, 1993*, for works associated with Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

Due to the resolution outlined above, all Section 138 applications that will be submitted by Ausgrid as part of the Hunter-Central Coast REZ will require a briefing to Council, either by Ausgrid or EnergyCo, followed by a formal resolution by Council.

Councillor briefing sessions are held every Tuesday throughout most of the year, with formal Council meetings occurring on the third Tuesday of each month. The briefing sessions provide a forum for information to be presented to Councillors on matters due to be considered at the upcoming Council meeting. These sessions allow Councillors to become better informed, and seek clarification on issues, before making decisions in the formal meetings.

Please note that no decision-making or voting takes place during the briefing sessions—they are for informational purposes only.

The minimum lead-in period for an item to be included in a Councillor briefing is 6 weeks, however agendas often fill quickly, and as such early submission is strongly recommended to ensure your timelines are met.

T 02 6578 7290 E council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

F 02 6572 4197 W singleton.nsw.gov.au

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Paul Smith, Executive Laision Officer – Major State Government Project on 0423 278750 or via email at psmith@singleton.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr General Manager



145 Newcastle Road Wallsend NSW 2287 All mail to PO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 131 525 www.ausgrid.com.au

REF339 5 November 2024

Derek Finnigan General Manager Muswellbrook Shire Council Campbell's Corner 60-82 Bridge St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Sent via email to council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Dear Derek,

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – Consultation under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021*

I am formally notifying the Council about Ausgrid's proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (**HCC REZ**) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook. Council is invited to review and submit feedback on the relevant HCC REZ infrastructure proposed in the local government area.

About the Project

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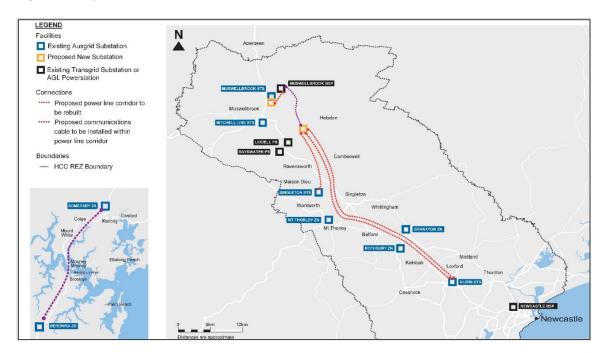
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- · rebuilding subtransmission lines,
- · building two new substations; and
- · augmenting several existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Muswellbrook and Newcastle areas.

The HCC REZ infrastructure would predominantly be constructed on land owned by Ausgrid or on public land. The subtransmission lines would be predominantly built within corridors of land known as subtransmission line easements. Ausgrid would use existing easements where possible; however, there would be the need to widen easements or acquire new easements in some sections.

Figure 1: Proposal location

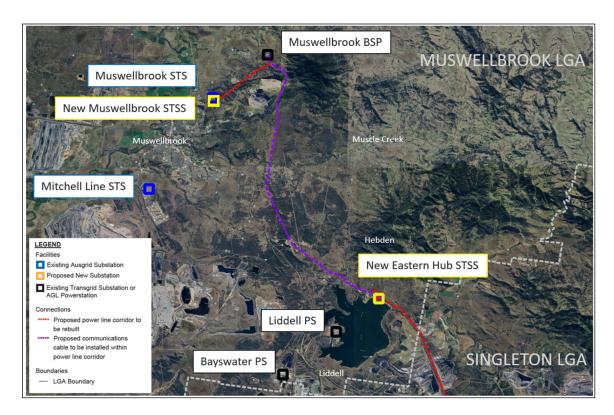


Proposed infrastructure in Muswellbrook LGA

Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Muswellbrook LGA would include:

- Two new 132kV subtransmission switching stations (STSS).
- 18 km underground fibre optic communications cable installation in within existing powerline corridor.
- 7 km overhead subtransmission powerline reconstruction within existing powerline corridors.
- Minor interfacing works outside of powerline corridors.
- Minor upgrades at existing substations.

Figure 2: Ausgrid's proposed solution within the Muswellbrook LGA



Related projects subject to separate environmental impact assessments include:

- Early works distribution 11kV/400V network relocations.
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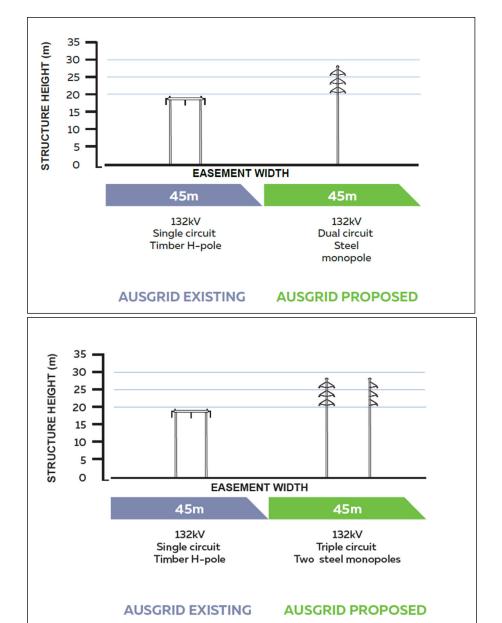
Proposal alternatives

Several alternatives were considered for the proposed subtransmission route including the do-nothing option and building of new feeders in greenfield areas. The greenfield option was not preferred as it would involve significantly more land/easement acquisition, vegetation removal, land disturbance and cost, in comparison to the preferred option.

Nine options were considered for the proposed new Eastern Hub STSS (see enclosed Civil GA). Following initial investigations, the proposed site on the northern side of Lake Liddell was chosen because the site has no significant environmental or geotechnical constraints, favourable acquisition pathway, and can accommodate the required substation footprint and transmission line interfaces.

The Muswellbrook STSS (see enclosed Civil GA) site was chosen as it is located on Ausgrid owned land in immediate proximity to the Muswellbrook Subtransmission Station and existing Ausgrid network feeders. No other options were considered.

Figure 3: Comparisons between Ausgrid's existing and proposed powerline corridor



Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity subtransmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

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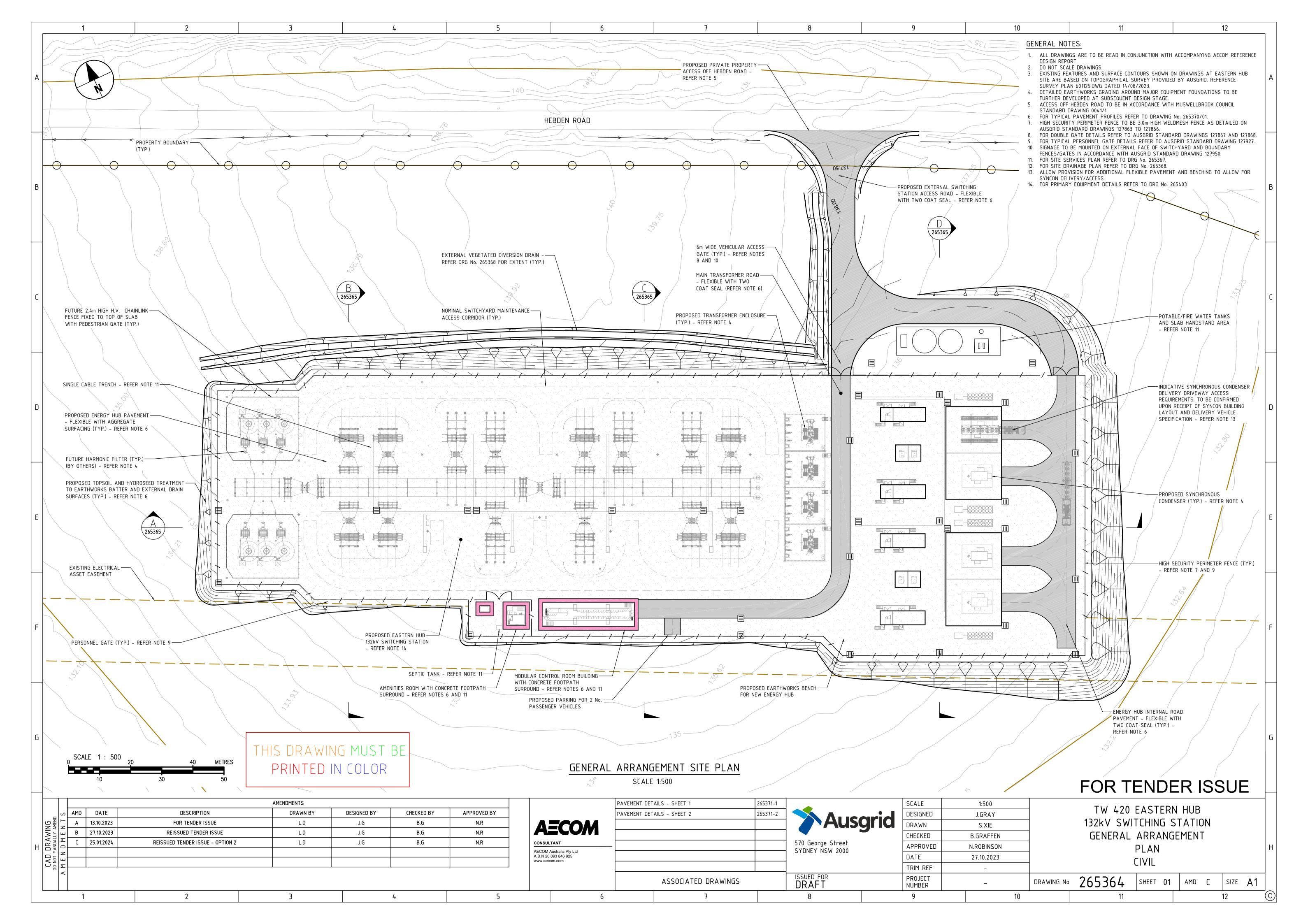
Jason Wall

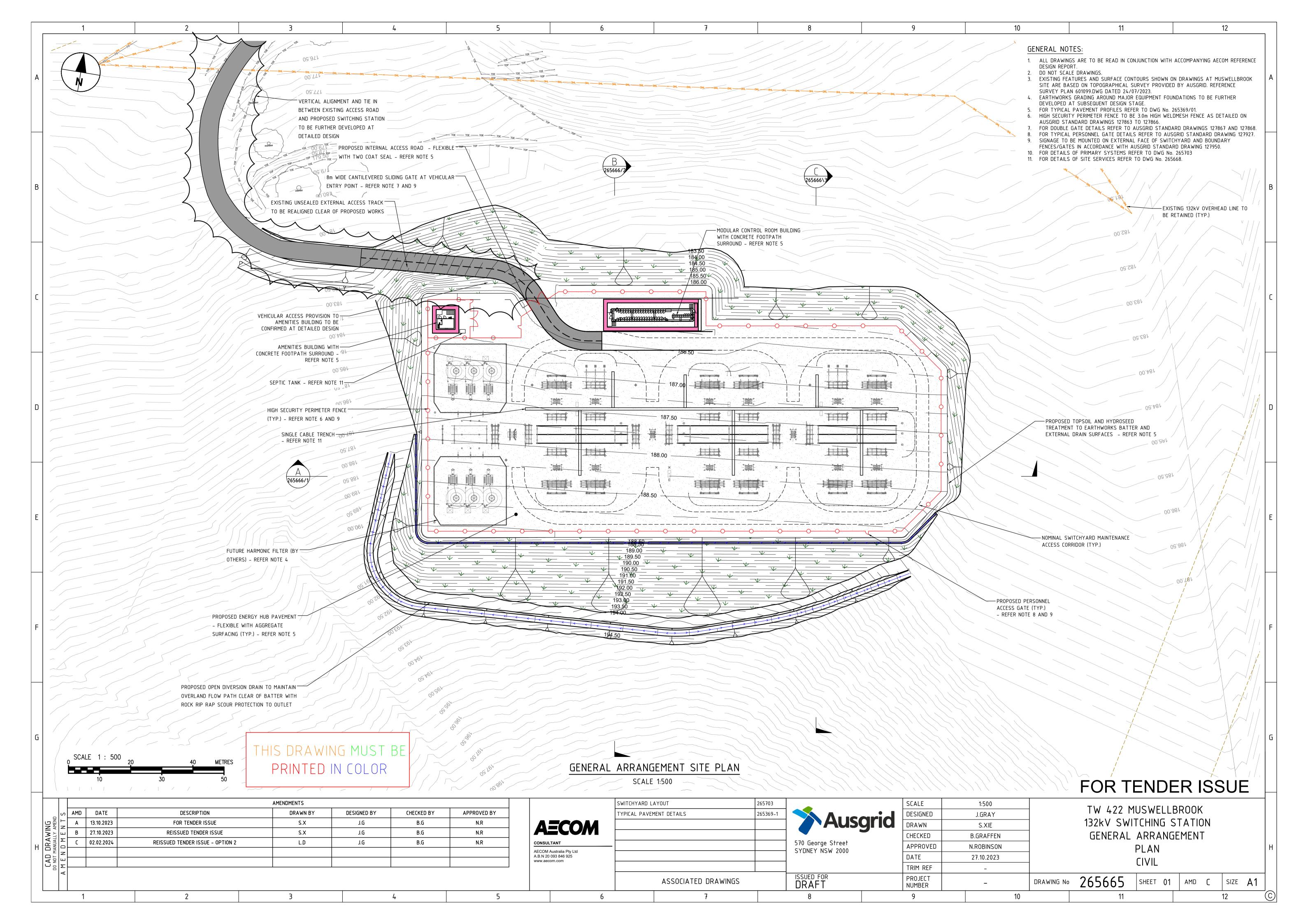
Project Director HCC REZ

Ausgrid

Attachments:

- 1. Eastern Hub STSS Civil General Arrangement
- 2. Muswellbrook STSS Civil General Arrangement







Enquiries

Please ask for Theresa Folpp Direct 02 6549 3700 Our reference CM 25/4223

29 January 2025

Jason Wall Project Director HCC REZ Ausgrid

Dear Mr Wall

Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network – Muswellbrook Shire Council (Staff) comments on infrastructure plans

Reference is made to your email dated 05 November 2024, requesting feedback on the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Infrastructure Plans (Infrastructure Plans).

Staff have reviewed the Infrastructure Plans and provide the following feedback.

Hebden Road / New England Highway Intersection

Data is limited for the Hebden Road and New England Highway intersection, however TfNSW have objected to development at the Liddell Recreation Area in the recent past due to concerns about this intersection. Staff are particularly concerned with the right-hand turn from Hebden Road onto the New England Highway.

Ausgrid should do a traffic safety audit for this intersection, and for Hebden Road from the New England Highway intersection to the proposed development site, including an assessment of the safety and functionality of the right-hand turn onto the New England Highway (including the cumulative impact of traffic movements combined with the proposed Hunter Transmission Project).

Condition of Hebden Road

Hebden Road is a rural sealed road of variable standard, generally one lane of traffic in each direction but there are a few sections where only one lane of traffic is possible. Road shoulders are not always present. Most of the road has clear line markings but there are some sections that are unmarked or where the markings are difficult to see. The posted speed limit is 80km/hour.

In addition to the traffic safety audit, Ausgrid should prepare a Traffic Assessment for the proposed section of the road intended for use by the Project (including the cumulative impact with the proposed Hunter Transmission Project) to assess its suitability, recommend upgrades and traffic management options.

Temporary Workers' Camp

It is noted that this Project details provided do not include the proposed Construction Support Site (temporary workers accommodation). We assume the temporary accommodation will form part of the Hunter Transmission Project.

Securing accommodation within the Muswellbrook or Singleton LGA's is challenging due to high demand for short stay accommodation from contractors and temporary workforces, accommodation needs should be addressed by Ausgrid.



Removal of vegetation at Liddell Recreation Area

It is assumed that the Proposed New Eastern Hub Substation will be located on Lot 9 DP 250890 (as this is unclear from the letter provided). In 2022, the Lake Liddell Recreation Area Reserve successfully secured a Landcare Grant through Council to plant a diverse selection of up to 800 native flora species adjacent the fence line on this lot. The initiative aimed to restore endemic vegetation to previously overgrazed farmland. Lake Liddell Rec Area have also separately secured funds from AGL Macquarie and volunteers hours from AGL staff to do plantings in this area.

Construction of the Proposed New Eastern Hub Substation should be designed to avoid impacting this planting area.

Any trees that must be removed for the Project should be replaced in consultation with the Lake Liddell Recreation Area Reserve to ensure appropriate species selection and alignment with the original planting objectives. The Landcare Grant was awarded to introduce endemic species and improve the land's ecological value. Removing the trees without replacement would conflict with the grant's goals.

Visual Impact

Staff are concerned about the combined landscape and visual impact of the presence of coal mines/electricity transmission lines/industry adjacent to the New England Highway and how they impact the perception of Muswellbrook.

It is important that Lake Liddell and its surroundings present a visually appealing landscape, contributing positively to the region's image and potential future uses.

Staff request that the Project includes a visual impact assessment and measures to mitigate visual impacts.

Proposed New Muswellbrook Substation

The location of the proposed New Muswellbrook Substation (outlined approximately within the yellow polygon in the image below) is situated in an area that may hold potential for future residential expansion.

Staff would prefer the new substation is placed to the east or north of the existing substation so that it does not inhibit residential expansion.



Environmental Assessment

Staff will provide comment on the dot points outlined in the "Environmental Assessment" section when an environmental assessment has been received and reviewed.

Council staff appreciate the opportunity to comment and would be pleased to provide additional information if requested. Should you need to discuss the above, please contact Theresa Folpp, Environmental Planning Officer on 02 6549 3700 or email council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Pope **Director Environment and Planning**



17 February 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Dear Resident

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – consultation under State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

I am writing to provide formal notification, with the opportunity to review and make a submission, in relation to an Ausgrid proposal to undertake upgrade works at the Kurri Sub-transmission Substation (STS) at 123 Main Road, Heddon Greta, as required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Study Area

The Kurri STS site is on Lot 1 DP 858171, 123 Main Road, Heddon Greta. Land use in the local area is dominated by the Hunter Expressway, Powerline Easements, and bushland.

The proposal

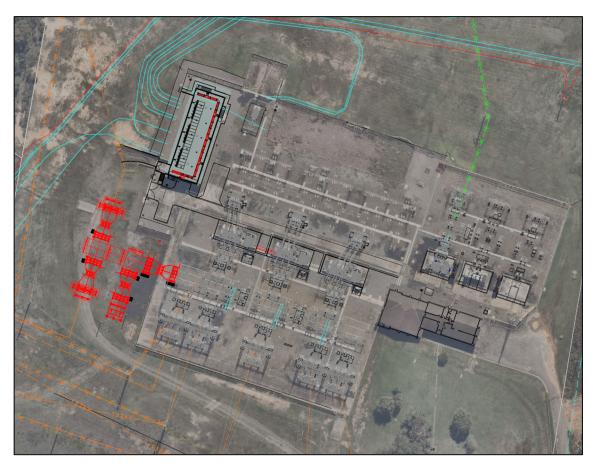
The overall Ausgrid proposal is to construct, operate and maintain REZ network infrastructure (RNI) required to achieve the 1GW network capacity to facilitate future connection of renewable energy projects in the Upper Hunter Valley.

The Kurri STS upgrade involves:

- An additional outdoor 132kV busbar,
- Two feeder bays allocated for network connections, provisions for one spare feeder bay
- Fencing, landscaping and driveways,
- Associated 132kV feeder connections.



Figure 1: Proposed Kurri STS Upgrade



Background and need

The NSW energy system is undergoing a major transformation to transition its reliance on coal-fired power to renewable energy. By 2040, the remaining four of NSW's coal-fired generators will have been retired, while increasingly higher demand for electricity will be required. The construction of new and upgraded network infrastructure is required to ensure energy can be transferred from Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) to major load centres in NSW.

Proposal alternatives

The design and location of the proposal is limited by available space to house the new feeder bays.

Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.



Proposed timing

Work is expected to commence in January 2026 and would take approximately 30 months to complete. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday.

Council notification

Ausgrid has notified Cessnock City Council regarding the proposed location of this project.

Environmental assessment

Minimising the impact our works have on the environment is of paramount importance to Ausgrid. These proposed works will be assessed under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to the community.

Submissions

Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007, Ausgrid welcomes written comments on this proposal within 21 days from the date of this letter. Please send comments to Ausgrid via email HCCREZ@ausgrid.com.au.

Your feedback is important to us, and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. If no feedback is received, we will proceed with the proposed design and the construction phase will begin in due course.

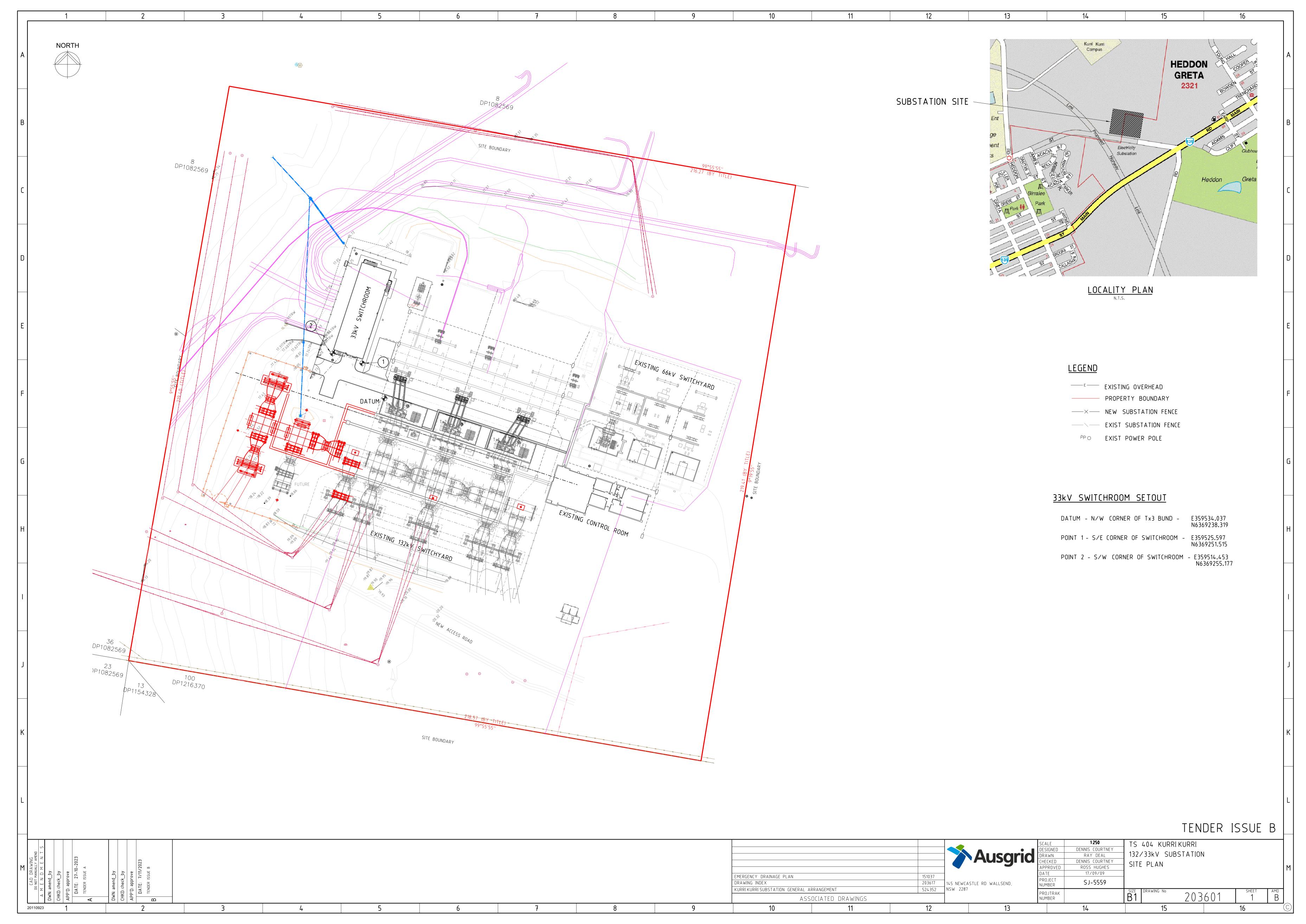
Should you have any questions in relation to the proposed works, please contact (02) 1800 955 635.

Regards,

Jason Wall

Project Director HCC REZ

ATTACHMENT: Kurri STS Site Plan





17 February 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Dear Resident

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – consultation under State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

I am writing to provide formal notification, with the opportunity to review and make a submission, in relation to an Ausgrid proposal to construct a new inductor at the existing Rothbury Zone substation, as required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Study Area

The Rothbury Zone Substation site is on Lot 4 DP 598847, 1309 Wine Country Drive, Rothbury. Land use in the local area is dominated by agriculture and rural living.

The proposal

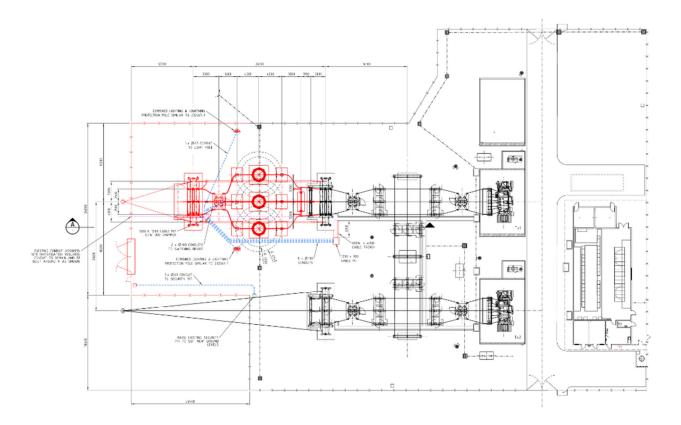
The overall Ausgrid proposal is to construct, operate and maintain REZ network infrastructure (RNI) required to achieve the 1GW network capacity to facilitate future connection of renewable energy projects in the Upper Hunter Valley.

The Rothbury zone upgrade will comprise:

- Extension to one of the existing feeder bays for the installation of a new series inductor and associated equipment
- Extended access road including new drainage and access onto Old North Road
- · New fencing around extended sub yard.



Figure 1: Proposed Rothbury Zone Layout





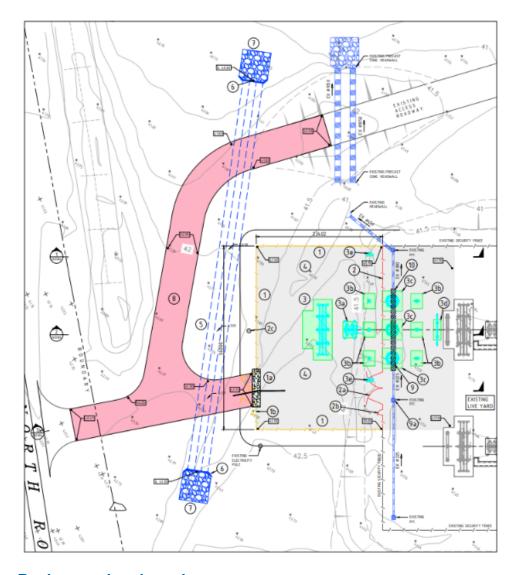


Figure 2: Proposed Access Road changes

Background and need

The NSW energy system is undergoing a major transformation to transition its reliance on coal-fired power to renewable energy. By 2040, the remaining four of NSW's coal-fired generators will have been retired, while increasingly higher demand for electricity will be required. The construction of new and upgraded network infrastructure is required to ensure energy can be transferred from Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) to major load centres in NSW.

Proposal alternatives

The design and location of the proposal was limited by the available space to locate the required infrastructure along with the orientation of the existing substation.



Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Work is expected to commence in January 2026 and would take approximately 30 months to complete. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday.

Council notification

Ausgrid has notified Cessnock City Council regarding the proposed location of this project.

Environmental assessment

Minimising the impact our works have on the environment is of paramount importance to Ausgrid. These proposed works will be assessed under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to the community.

Submissions

Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007, Ausgrid welcomes written comments on this proposal within 21 days from the date of this letter. Please send comments to Ausgrid via email HCCREZ@ausgrid.com.au.

Your feedback is important to us, and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. If no feedback is received, we will proceed with the proposed design and the construction phase will begin in due course.

Should you have any questions in relation to the proposed works, please contact (02) 1800 955 635.

Regards,

Jason Wall

Project Director HCC REZ



17 February 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Dear Resident

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – consultation under State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

I am writing to provide formal notification, with the opportunity to review and make a submission, in relation to an Ausgrid proposal to construct a new sub-transmission switching station (STSS) known as Antiene STSS at Hebden Road, Liddell, as required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

Study Area

The proposed Antiene site is on crown land at Lot 9 DP 250890 Hebden Road, Muswellbrook. The land is bounded by Lake Liddell to the south, Hebden Road to the north, Liddell recreation area to the west and vacant land to the east. Land use in the local area is dominated by mining activities including restoration and offset land.

The proposal

The overall Ausgrid proposal is to construct, operate and maintain REZ network infrastructure (RNI) required to achieve the 1GW network capacity to facilitate future connection of renewable energy projects in the Upper Hunter Valley.

The Antiene STSS will comprise:

- An outdoor 132kV busbar, modular control room and amenities.
- Eight feeder bays allocated for network and generator connections, provisions for seven spare feeder bays
- Auxiliary power supplies.
- Fencing, landscaping and driveways,
- Fire hydrants and firefighting water storage
- Associated 132kV feeder connections.
- Underground fibre optic connections





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Figure 1: Proposed Antiene STSS Layout

Background and need

The NSW energy system is undergoing a major transformation to transition its reliance on coal-fired power to renewable energy. By 2040, the remaining four of NSW's coal-fired generators will have been retired, while increasingly higher demand for electricity will be required. The construction of new and upgraded network infrastructure is required to ensure energy can be transferred from Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) to major load centres in NSW.

Proposal alternatives

The design and location of the proposal resulted from an options investigation. Alternatives considered include maintaining current supply infrastructure, a greenfield route option and an existing easement route option (preferred option, this proposal). Nine options were considered for the proposed new Antiene STSS.

Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.





Proposed timing

Work is expected to commence in January 2026 and would take approximately 30 months to complete. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday.

Council notification

Ausgrid has notified Muswellbrook Shire Council regarding the proposed location of this project.

Environmental assessment

Minimising the impact our works have on the environment is of paramount importance to Ausgrid. These proposed works will be assessed under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to the community.

Submissions

Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007, Ausgrid welcomes written comments on this proposal within 21 days from the date of this letter. Please send comments to Ausgrid via email HCCREZ@ausgrid.com.au.

Your feedback is important to us, and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. If no feedback is received, we will proceed with the proposed design and the construction phase will begin in due course.

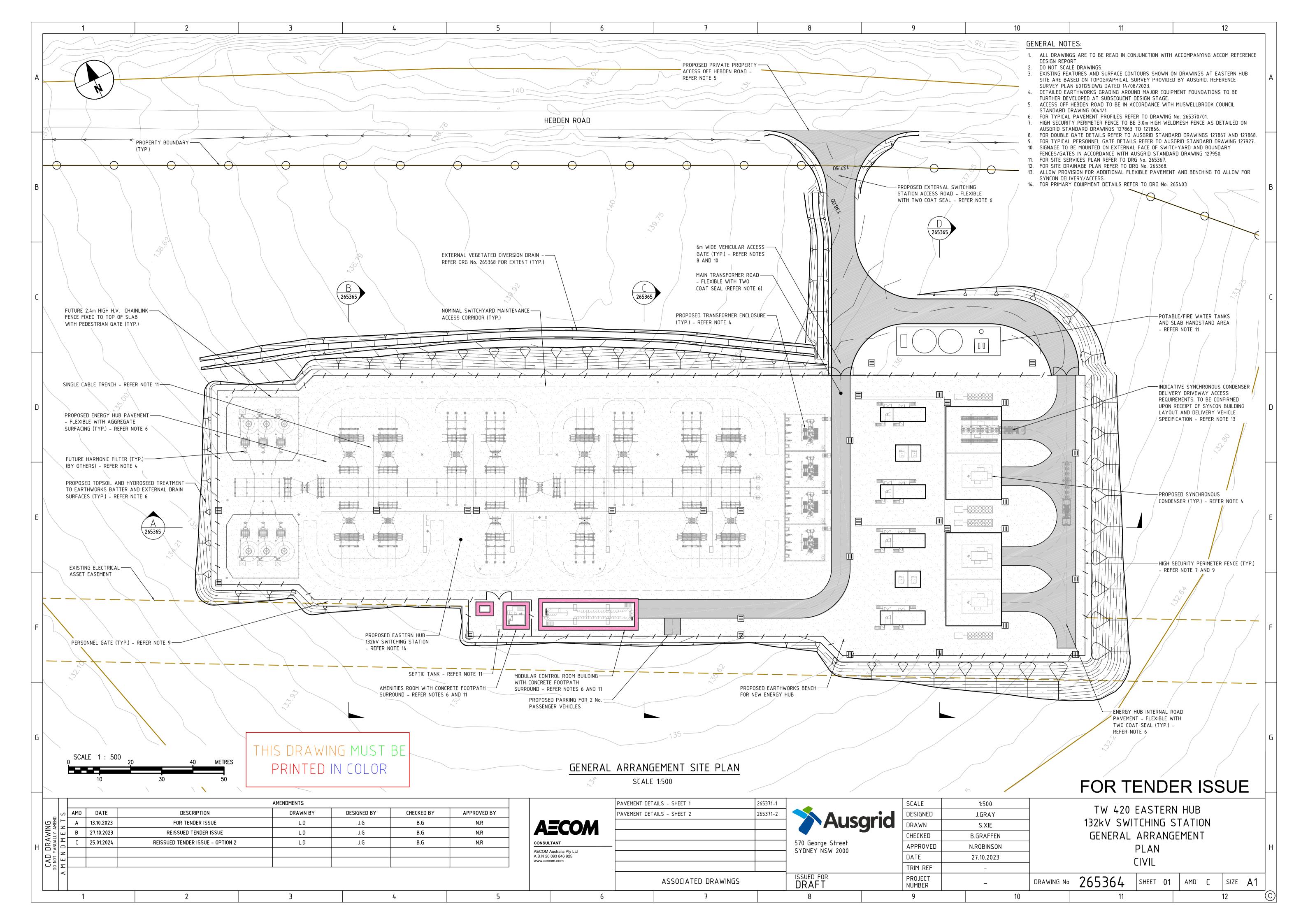
Should you have any questions in relation to the proposed works, please contact (02) 1800 955 635.

Regards,

Jason Wall

Project Director HCC REZ

ATTACHMENT: Antiene STSS Civil General Arrangement





10 March 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Mark James Transport for NSW Level 6, 6 Stewart Avenue Newcastle West, NSW 2302

Via email to roadaccess.north@transport.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mark

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – request for consent under S138 of the Roads Act 1993.

I am writing to request consent under Section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*, in relation to an Ausgrid proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook.

About the Project

EnergyCo is responsible for developing and overseeing the planning and approval processes for the REZ Infrastructure. After a competitive tender process, EnergyCo has selected Ausgrid as preferred network operator for the REZ. Ausgrid would design, build, finance, operate and maintain the REZ infrastructure.

Ausgrid's proposed solution (shown in Figure 1) involves a major augmentation of Ausgrid's electricity network in the Hunter region to provide an additional 1 GW of renewable energy transfer capacity by mid-2028. This would include works which span multiple LGAs comprising of:

- rebuilding existing sub-transmission lines;
 - building two new substations; and
 - augmenting two existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Muswellbrook and Newcastle areas.

The HCC REZ infrastructure would predominantly be constructed on land owned by Ausgrid or on public land. The sub-transmission lines would be predominantly rebuilt within existing sub-transmission line corridors and easements. Ausgrid would use existing easements where possible; however, there would be the need to widen easements or acquire new easements in some sections.

The attached KMZ files show the proposed overhead sub transmission alignment and the location of proposed overhead powerline crossings. If this information format is unsuitable or if you require further detail, please let us know.





Figure 1: Proposal geographic location

Proposed works within State Classified Roads

The proposed HCC REZ will intersect with State Classified Roads at the following locations:

Identifier	TfNSW Crossing	Longitude	Latitude	Construction Timing
SP2-1	M15 Hunter Expressway	151.497	-32.8056	Jan-26
SP2-2	M15 Hunter Expressway	151.4844	-32.8009	Jan-26
SP2-4	M15 Hunter Expressway	151.4691	-32.7897	Jan-26
SP2-6	M15 Hunter Expressway Slip Road	151.358	-32.6689	Jan-26
SP2-7	M15 Hunter Expressway	151.3583	-32.6675	Jan-26
SP3-1	A15 New England Highway	151.067	-32.4596	Jul-26



Identifier	TfNSW Crossing	Longitude	Latitude	Construction Timing
SP4-1	M15 Hunter Expressway	151.3419	-32.662	Jul-26
SP4-4	B84 Golden Highway	151.2319	-32.6429	Jul-26
SP4-7	B84 Golden Highway	151.176	-32.6319	Jul-26
SP4-8	B84 Golden Highway	151.1648	-32.6337	Jul-26
SP4-9	B84 Golden Highway	151.1614	-32.634	Jul-26
SP5-4	Broke Rd	151.1254	-32.6245	Jan-27
SP5-6	B84 Golden Highway	151.1039	-32.6174	Jan-27
SP5-8	B84 Golden Highway Slip Road	151.1018	-32.6164	Jan-27
SP5-9	B84 Golden Highway Slip Rd	151.1031	-32.6159	Jan-27
SP6-2	B84 Golden Highway	151.0879	-32.5875	Apr-27
SP6-3	B84 Golden Highway	151.0771	-32.5832	Apr-27

Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity sub transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in late 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

Environmental assessment

Ausgrid will be carrying out an environmental assessment for this project to meet the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Therefore, in addition to any submission, can you please advise of any information, on proposed developments or activities in the immediate area of Ausgrid's





proposal, that TfNSW is aware of which will assist us in considering all relevant issues and adequately assessing the environmental and cumulative impacts.

The proposed activities would have environmental management safeguards to a suitable standard implemented in accordance with the assessment and Ausgrid's Environmental Handbook for Construction and Maintenance (NUS 174C).

Ausgrid is aware of the Port to REZ project being led by EnergyCo and will be coordinating with that project team.

Submissions

Ausgrid requests consent under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993 in relation to the proposed works.

Your feedback is important to us and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on the details below. I also welcome the opportunity to present the details of the project to you in person or via online meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Wall

Project Director - HCC REZ

(02) 9269 7133

Jwall@ausgrid.com.au



14 March 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Todd Adamson Transport for NSW 2/16 Isles Drive Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450

Via email to navigationadvicenorth@transport.nsw.gov.au

Dear Todd

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – notification under

I am writing to provide formal notification, with the opportunity to review and make a submission, an Ausgrid proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook, as required by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.

About the Project

EnergyCo is responsible for developing and overseeing the planning and approval processes for the REZ Infrastructure. After a competitive tender process, EnergyCo has selected Ausgrid as preferred network operator for the REZ. Ausgrid would design, build, finance, operate and maintain the REZ infrastructure.

Ausgrid's proposed solution (shown in Figure 1) involves a major augmentation of Ausgrid's electricity network in the Hunter region to provide an additional 1 GW of renewable energy transfer capacity by mid-2028. This would include works which span multiple LGAs comprising of:

- · rebuilding existing sub-transmission lines;
- · building two new substations; and
- augmenting two existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Muswellbrook and Newcastle areas.

The HCC REZ infrastructure would include a crossing of the Hunter River at Warkworth. The existing 20m high poles will be replaced with 30m high poles powerline crossing will be upgraded with taller poles. While design has not been completed, all efforts will be made to maintain the existing clearance over the river.

The attached KMZ files show the proposed overhead sub transmission alignment. If this information format is unsuitable or if you require further detail, please let me know.





Figure 1: Proposal geographic location

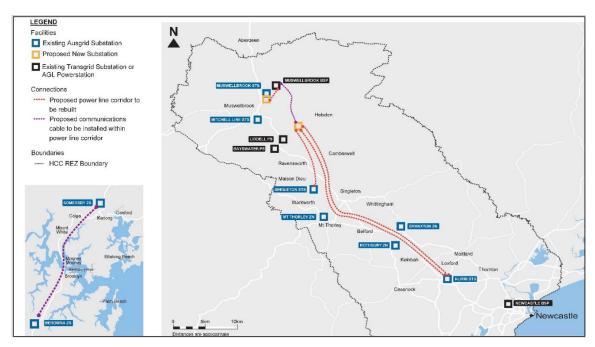


Figure 2: Proposed crossing of Hunter River.





Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity sub transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in late 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

Environmental assessment

Ausgrid will be carrying out an environmental assessment for this project to meet the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Therefore, in addition to any submission, can you please advise of any information, on proposed developments or activities in the immediate area of Ausgrid's proposal, that TfNSW is aware of which will assist us in considering all relevant issues and adequately assessing the environmental and cumulative impacts.

The proposed activities would have environmental management safeguards to a suitable standard implemented in accordance with the assessment and Ausgrid's Environmental Handbook for Construction and Maintenance (NUS 174C).

Ausgrid is aware of the Port to REZ project being led by EnergyCo and will be coordinating with that project team.

Submissions

Your feedback is important to us and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on the details below. I also welcome the opportunity to present the details of the project to you in person or via online meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Wall

Project Director - HCC REZ

(02) 9269 7133

Jwall@ausgrid.com.au



14 March 2025

42 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle NSW 2300 All mail to GPO Box 487 Newcastle NSW 2300 T +61 2 13 13 65 ausgrid.com.au

Cherie Colyer-Morris
NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development | Fisheries
Port Stephens Fisheries Institute | Taylors Beach Road,
Taylors Beach, NSW 2316

Via email to cherie.colyer-morris@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cherie

Re: Proposed Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure – notification under

I am writing to provide formal notification, with the opportunity to review and make a submission, an Ausgrid proposal to build, operate, and maintain the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ) Infrastructure between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook.

About the Project

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Ausgrid's proposed solution (shown in Figure 1) involves a major augmentation of Ausgrid's electricity network in the Hunter region to provide an additional 1 GW of renewable energy transfer capacity by mid-2028. This would include works which span multiple LGAs comprising of:

- rebuilding existing sub-transmission lines;
- building two new substations; and
- · augmenting two existing substations.

This work would facilitate the connection and transfer of power generated by batteries, pumped hydro, solar and wind farms to electricity consumers in the Muswellbrook and Newcastle areas.

The construction access for the HCC REZ infrastructure project may require upgrades of crossings of waterways mapped as Key Fish Habitat. However, this level of detail has not been scoped at this stage of the project. Some examples of crossing designs likely to be used are attached.

The attached KMZ files show the proposed overhead sub transmission alignment. If this information format is unsuitable or if you require further detail, please let us know.



Existing Ausgrid Substation
Proposed New Substation
Existing Transgrid Substation or AGI. Powerstation
Connections
Proposed power line corridor to be rebuilt
Proposed communications cable to be installed within power line corridor
Boundaries
HCC REZ Boundary

Marketterson

Boundaries
HCC REZ Boundary

Marketterson

Boundaries
HCC REZ Boundary

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Figure 1: Proposal geographic location

Project justification

The proposal is driven by the transition of electricity generation from coal to renewables. The electricity sub transmission network must be ready to connect and distribute new sources of renewable energy to where it is needed.

Proposed timing

Subject to assessment and approval, work is expected to commence in late 2025 and would be completed in mid-2028. Generally, work hours would be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday. To facilitate the delivery timeframes required some parts of the works would be completed on a 7-day roster, where there would only be minor impacts to the surrounding landowners and community.

Council notification

Ausgrid has notified Cessnock, Singleton and Muswellbrook Councils regarding the proposed location of this project.

Environmental assessment

Minimising the impact our works have on the environment is of paramount importance to Ausgrid. These proposed works will be assessed under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to the community.



Submissions

Your feedback is important to us and all comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on the details below. I also welcome the opportunity to present the details of the project to you in person or via online meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Wall

Project Director - HCC REZ

(02) 9269 7133

Jwall@ausgrid.com.au

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



C25/263 07 April 2025

Richard Dunnicliff Ausgrid rdunnicliff@ausgrid.com.au

Re: Ausgrid s199 Consultation - Hunter - Central Coast REZ - Network Infrastructure

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your referral dated 14 March 2025 regarding the above stated matter. This notification complies with s.199(1)(a) of the *Fisheries Management Act* (FM Act) concerning the proposed dredging and reclamation activities.

DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPIRD Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the FM Act (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)* (referred to herein as the P&Gs.) DPIRD Fisheries is also responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves in NSW.

DPIRD notes the works will likely require the construction of temporary waterway crossings and potentially permanent waterway crossings within key fish habitat. DPIRD Fisheries recommends that the following general assessment requirements and environmental mitigation measures be implemented during design and construction:

- Please note and refer to section 3.2.2 (including checking for indicative mapping of threatened species habitat), section 3.3, and chapter 4 of the P&Gs, available at: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0005/634694/Policy-and-guidelines-for-fish-habitat.pdf
 when developing your REF for the project.
- Permanent and temporary waterway crossings should be designed and constructed in accordance with Chapters 4.1 and 4.2 of the P&Gs and national guidelines entitled 'Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings' (Fairfull and Witheridge 2003). This document can be access via the website at this link: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0004/633505/Why-do-fish-need-to-cross-theroad booklet.pdf

- 3. Erosion and sediment mitigation devices are to be erected in a manner consistent with current Best Management Practice (i.e. Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction 4th Edition Landcom, 2004) to prevent entry of sediment into the waterway prior to any earthworks being undertaken. These are to be maintained in good working order for the duration of the works and subsequently until the site has been stabilised and the risk of erosion and sediment movement from the site is minimal:
- 4. There is to be no complete blockage of fish passage during the works;
- 5. Any material removed from the waterway that is to be temporarily deposited or stockpiled on land is to be located well away from the waterway and to be contained by appropriate erosion and sediment control devices;
- 6. On completion of the works all disturbed soil is to be levelled, smoothed and sown with a mixture of sterile/native grass seeds to encourage rapid revegetation and planted out with native endemic riparian vegetation;
- 7. Machinery is not to enter or work from the waterway unless in accordance with the proposed works;
- 8. Only clean rock (no fines) is to be used during these works;
- 9. Prior to use at the site and/or entry into the waterway, machinery is to be appropriately cleaned degreased and serviced. Spill kits are to be available on site at all times during the works;
- 10. Works are to be undertaken during low flows in the waterway;
- 11. Any rock scour protection at the culvert inlet and outlet must abut the aprons at the same level and the stream bed at the same level to ensure that there is no drop in elevation at the joins. This is to maintain fish passage and minimise impact on the morphology of the creek
- 12. "Removal of large woody debris from NSW rivers and streams" is listed as a key threatening process under Part 7A of the FM Act. A snag is considered to be any piece of woody debris that is both greater than 3m in length and 300 mm in diameter, or any rock larger than 500 mm in two dimensions, that is located within a waterway (either fresh, estuarine or marine) and is, or would be, wholly or partly submerged at a 'bank-full' flow level or highest astronomical tide level. As a general principle for timber snags, lopping should be considered as the first priority for the management of snags. Where lopping will not solve the immediate problem, re-alignment should be considered as the next possibility, followed by relocation. Removal of a snag is the least desirable option and should only be adopted as a last resort. Proposals for snag removal should be accompanied by a 7 part test and/or Species Impact Statement where proposed in areas that are TYPE 1 aquatic habitats (see Table 1 and section 2.6.9 of DPIRD's *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management* (2013).).
- 13. Any dewatering should not involve pumping the water directly downstream without adequate treatment to remove suspended solids. Dewatering must not result in a visible turbid plume or additional sedimentation into the adjacent environment. Dewatering should incorporate the following:
 - a. Dewatering at the worksite is to be undertaken consistent with accepted Best Management Practice (i.e. Landcom [2004], Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction [4th Edition]). In addition, mitigation controls such as a sediment fence between the sump water release outlet and the waterway are to be employed to ensure that downstream water quality is not adversely affected.
 - b. Dewatering at the worksite is to be undertaken with a screen around the pump inlet possessing mesh no greater than 6 mm. Netting and removal of fish should be undertaken at late stages of

- dewatering regardless of any positive identification of fish. Any fish captured via netting should be released unharmed into adjacent waters downstream of the worksite.
- c. a visual inspection of the waterway is to be conducted at all times during dewatering operations to ensure that no visible plumes are generated within the waterway from dewatering operations; and
- 14. DPIRD Fisheries (1800 043 536) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (131 555) are to be notified immediately if any fish kills occur in the vicinity of the works. In this situation, all works other than emergency response procedures are to cease until the issue is rectified and approval is given by DPIRD Fisheries and/or the EPA for the works to proceed.

For any further information, please contact me at cherie.colyer-morris@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

Cherie Colyer-Morris

C. Clyenhoris

Fisheries Manager – Coastal Systems (Central)

DPIRD Fisheries

From: <u>Matthew Faferko</u>
To: <u>Richard Dunnicliff</u>

Subject: FW: 20250304 - Acknowledge receipt of application - Subtransmission Line Rebuild Application Kurri Kurri to

Muswellbrook - TBA25-00625

Date: Wednesday, 9 April 2025 4:23:03 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png

FYI

Kind regards

Matthew Faferko 0431 942 170

For Official use only

From: Matthew Faferko

Sent: Friday, 21 March 2025 12:26 AM

To: subsidencedevelopment <subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au> **Subject:** RE: 20250304 - Acknowledge receipt of application - Subtransmission Line Rebuild

Application Kurri Kurri to Muswellbrook - TBA25-00625

Hi Shaloo

Please find the attached link to our tender plan drawings. These are currently being refined.

Given their size, I've included the relevant sheets in each drawing package.

HCC REZ STL Plans

Kind regards

Matthew Faferko 0431 942 170

From: subsidencedevelopment < <u>subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Monday, 17 March 2025 11:36 AM

To: Matthew Faferko < <u>MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au</u>>

Cc: subsidencedevelopment <<u>subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Subject: RE: 20250304 - Acknowledge receipt of application - Subtransmission Line Rebuild

Application Kurri Kurri to Muswellbrook - TBA25-00625

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organisation. Exercise caution

when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Hi Matthew.

I am the review officer for your application. Thanks for submitting the application.

While assessing the application, I find that the layout drawing for sub-transmission Line is not submitted.

To verify the locations of the transmission lines with our maps, we require the layout drawing of entire stretch.

Could you please provide the layout drawing, for our assessment purpose.

Kind Regards, Shaloo Puri Senior Risk Engineer Subsidence Advisory NSW

E <u>subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>

P: (02) 4908 4300 |



Department of Customer Service

Subsidence Advisory NSW

To report a mine subsidence safety issue, please call our 24 hour emergency hotline on 1800 248 083.



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

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From: subsidencedevelopment < <u>subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Tuesday, 4 March 2025 9:07 AM

To: Matthew Faferko < <u>MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au</u>>

Subject: 20250304 - Acknowledge receipt of application - Subtransmission Line Rebuild

Application Kurri Kurri to Muswellbrook - TBA25-00625

Good Morning and thank you for your email.

An application has been manually lodged for these works, under reference TBA25-00625 and will

be reviewed by an assessing officer.

In the meantime, could you please provide an approximate cost for these works, for our delegation purposes.

Kind regards,

Kayleigh Swallow Customer Service Support Officer Subsidence Advisory NSW

T (02) 4908 4300 E subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory

Working days Monday to Friday



Subsidence Advisory NSW

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From: Matthew Faferko

Sent: Tuesday, 4 March 2025 7:18 AM

To: subsidencedevelopment

Cc: subsidenceadvisory; Richard Dunnicliff

Subject: HCC REZ - Mine Subsidence Board - Subtransmission Line Rebuild Application

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Morning David

Further to our correspondence last year, EnergyCo (NSW Government Dept) has awarded Ausgrid funding to rebuild existing powerline corridors between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook. Ausgrid's proposal is associated with the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone (HCC REZ).

I'm reaching out to get your feedback on how Ausgrid should progress this proposal through the NSW Subsidence Advisory.

Ausgrid's proposal is to knock down and rebuild 40km powerlines within mine subsidence districts (MSDs) in the Hunter Valley. The rebuilt powerlines would be installed within the following three MSDs:

- 1. Greta MSD
- 2. Patrick Plains MSD
- 3. Muswellbrook MSD

Compared to the existing polelines, the proposal will comprise of:

- steel monopole construction;
- taller and larger diameter poles;
- different pole spacing; and
- additional conductors.

The proposed footing arrangement is to direct embed the pole 3-4m into the native ground and backfill with concrete. At this stage, no complicated foundations are proposed.

I've attached:

- A revised application form.
- Kml files identifying where the new powerlines would be rebuilt within the MSDs.
- Drawing 178123 Standard footing arrangement.

Kind regards

Matthew Faferko

0431 942 170

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From: subsidencedevelopment <<u>subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 8:02 AM

To: Matthew Faferko < <u>MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au</u>>

Cc: subsidenceadvisory < <u>subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Ausgrid Powerline Renewal Project - Upper and Lower Hunter Region

Hi Matthew

All pole replacements of existing poles are considered exempt development by Subsidence Advisory NSW.

Regards

David Sedgman

Senior Building Assessment Officer

Subsidence Advisory NSW

T 02 49084300 E subsidencedevelopment@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

www.nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory



Subsidence Advisory NSW

To report a mine subsidence safety issue, please call our 24 hour emergency hotline on 1800 248 083.



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present.

I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

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From: Matthew Faferko < MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au >

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 4:15 PM

To: subsidenceadvisory < <u>subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Ausgrid Powerline Renewal Project - Upper and Lower Hunter Region

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Hi Brooke

Thanks. Please see attached.

We are seeking confirmation the works are exempt, as per the attached list.

Kind regards

Matthew Faferko

0431 942 170

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From: subsidenceadvisory < <u>subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 4:04 PM

To: Matthew Faferko < MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au >

Subject: RE: Ausgrid Powerline Renewal Project - Upper and Lower Hunter Region

Good Afternoon Matthew Faferko,

Thank you for your email regarding Ausgrid Powerline Renewal Project - Upper and Lower Hunter Region

We kindly ask that you fill in this Application form to the best of your ability and return at your earliest convenience.

Appreciate your assistance,

Brooke, N

Customer Service Support Officer | Performance & Operations

Subsidence Advisory NSW

T 02 4908 4300 E subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

www.nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory



Department of Customer Service

Subsidence Advisory NSW

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From: Matthew Faferko < MFaferko@ausgrid.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:48 PM

To: subsidenceadvisory < <u>subsidenceadvisory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</u>> **Subject:** Ausgrid Powerline Renewal Project - Upper and Lower Hunter Region

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[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.]

Good afternoon

Ausgrid is planning some powerline upgrades between Kurri Kurri and Muswellbrook.

Our intention is to remove power poles and install new power poles along the route of existing powerlines. With only a few power poles deviating from the route to cater for the connection from one powerline to another and enter into substations.

It appears that our works, are exempt works. However, I wanted to confirm if this is the case.

Kind regards

Matthew Faferko

0431 942 170

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