

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA REZ TRANSMISSION

Delivering affordable, reliable and clean energy to customers

FACT SHEET

Transgrid is working with the NSW Government to plan new transmission infrastructure for Australia's first coordinated Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the State's Central-West Orana region.

Why is the project needed?

Investment in new transmission infrastructure will allow renewable energy generators and storage projects in the region to connect to the grid and provide affordable, reliable and clean energy for NSW customers.

What is the project?

Transgrid is planning new 330kv and 500kv transmission lines, substation(s) and related infrastructure to support the delivery of the Central-West Orana REZ.

The proposed transmission lines will run north-west from the existing network near Merriwa, passing south of Dunedoo before connecting to the existing network east of Wellington. The study corridor (shown on the map overleaf) also includes an option to extend further south near Lake Burrendong.

Transgrid's existing substation at Wollar will also be upgraded.

The project is receiving funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

The Central-West Orana REZ is expected to:

- Unlock at least 3,000 megawatts of new electricity capacity by the mid-2020s and \$5.2 billion in private sector investment into the Central-West Orana region.
- Support around 3,900 construction jobs at its peak in the local region.
- Deliver affordable and reliable energy to help replace the State's power stations as they retire over the next 15 years.

The project builds on the NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy, delivers a key element of the NSW Electricity Strategy and Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, and supports the implementation of the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2020 Integrated System Plan.

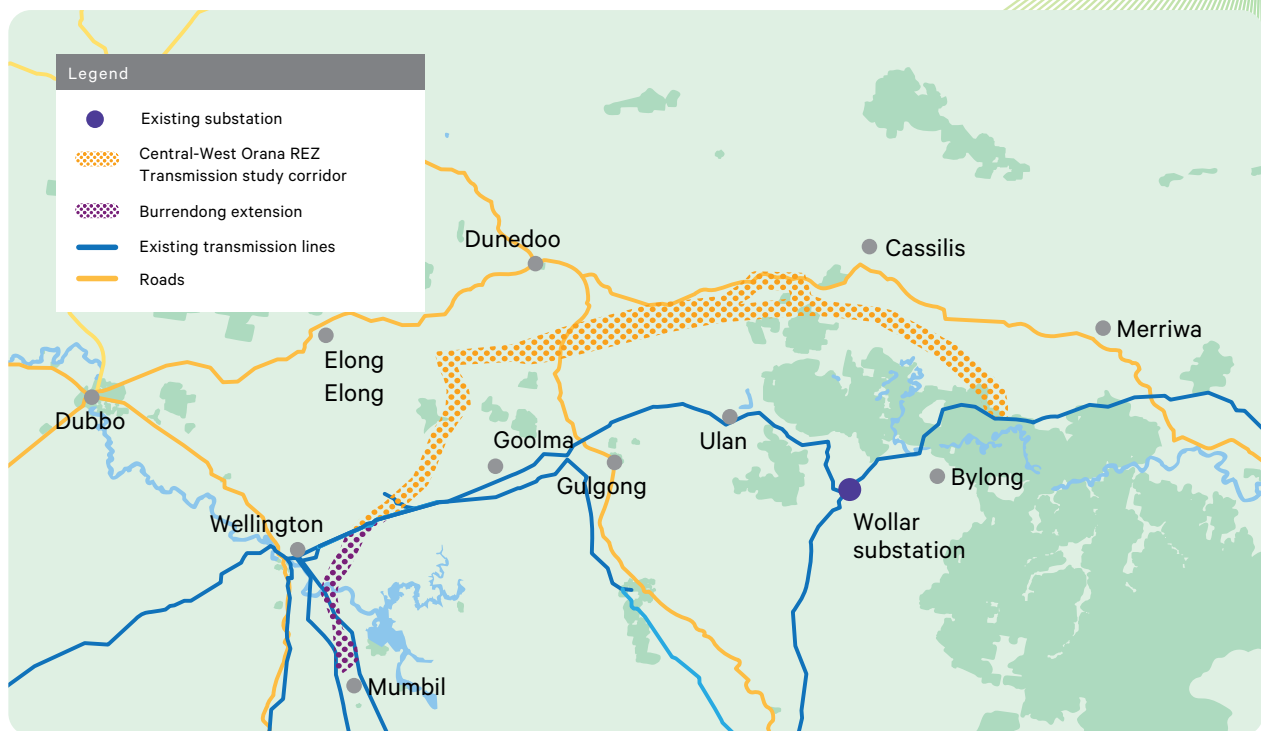
What are the project benefits?

- Lower wholesale electricity costs – placing downward pressure on customer bills through increased competition
- Improved reliability – by delivering large amounts of new energy supply
- New local jobs – opportunities for local workers and businesses during procurement and construction
- Reduced emissions and a greater mix of renewable energy in the National Electricity Market.

What is a Renewable Energy Zone?

REZs are the modern-day equivalent of traditional power stations, combining large scale generation (such as solar and wind), transmission, connection infrastructure and storage to ensure secure, affordable and reliable energy.

Project map



Next steps

We are working with landowners and local communities to discuss constraints and opportunities within the study corridor.

From September 2021, ecology surveys are planned to start on public and private land located within the study corridor, COVID-19 restrictions permitting. This information will help identify existing animal and plant species and their habitats within the study corridor.

An environmental assessment process is now underway. This includes the preparation of an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new transmission lines, new substation(s) and related infrastructure (i.e. shared network infrastructure).

A separate ESR has been prepared and submitted for the Wollar substation works component. The preparation of an EIS will follow.

About Transgrid

Transgrid operates and manages the high-voltage network in NSW and the ACT.

Our safe, reliable and efficient high-voltage grid connects electricity generators to one in three Australians.

We are building the future grid to enable greater renewable integration and drive down wholesale electricity prices.

Key project dates

