

Central-West Orana Transmission Project



Who is ACEREZ?

ACEREZ, a partnership of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy, has been appointed network operator to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission network.

ACEREZ comprises three entities:

- Network Operator (NO) which will fund and operate the transmission network infrastructure
- Design and Construct (D&C) a joint venture between ACCIONA and COBRA to design and build the transmission network infrastructure
- Maintenance and Lifecycle (M&L) which will maintain the transmission network throughout the infrastructure lifecycle

Construction of the transmission network infrastructure over the next four years will be completed by ACEREZ D&C, a joint venture between ACCIONA and COBRA.

ACCIONA is a global leader in sustainable infrastructure solutions with a business that spans the entire value chain from design and construction through to operation and maintenance. In Australia, ACCIONA has evolved from a rich history of local companies which have been delivering complex, sustainable and iconic transport, energy and water projects for more than 100 years, including Sydney's WestConnex, Adelaide Desalination Plant, MacIntyre Wind Farm in Queensland and currently Stage 2 of the Western Harbour Tunnel.

COBRA celebrates more than 80 years as a world leader in the development, construction and management of energy infrastructure. With a global footprint in 45 countries, COBRA has financed, developed and delivered more than 30,000km of transmission line projects in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia, and has extensive experience in Public Private Partnerships.

Endeavour Energy is one of Australia's most efficient electricity networks, delivering safe, reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity to 2.7 million people living and working in NSW. This includes building, managing and maintaining the electricity network spanning over 25,000km from the border of the Central-West Orana REZ region to the Blue Mountains, Greater Western Sydney, Southern Highlands, the Illawarra and South Coast of NSW. Endeavour Energy is committed to decarbonising the grid by 2035 and is leading Australia's energy industry in integrating traditional and renewable energy sources to deliver a smarter, cleaner, affordable and more reliable energy system, with clear commitments and pathways to creating sustainable value for customers and communities.



EnergyCo

What is the project?

The Central-West Orana REZ transmission project will build new high-capacity transmission lines, energy hubs and supporting infrastructure to transfer power generated by solar and wind farms to electricity consumers. The new infrastructure is expected to be operational by 2028 and will initially unlock up to 4.5 gigawatts (GW) of new network capacity.

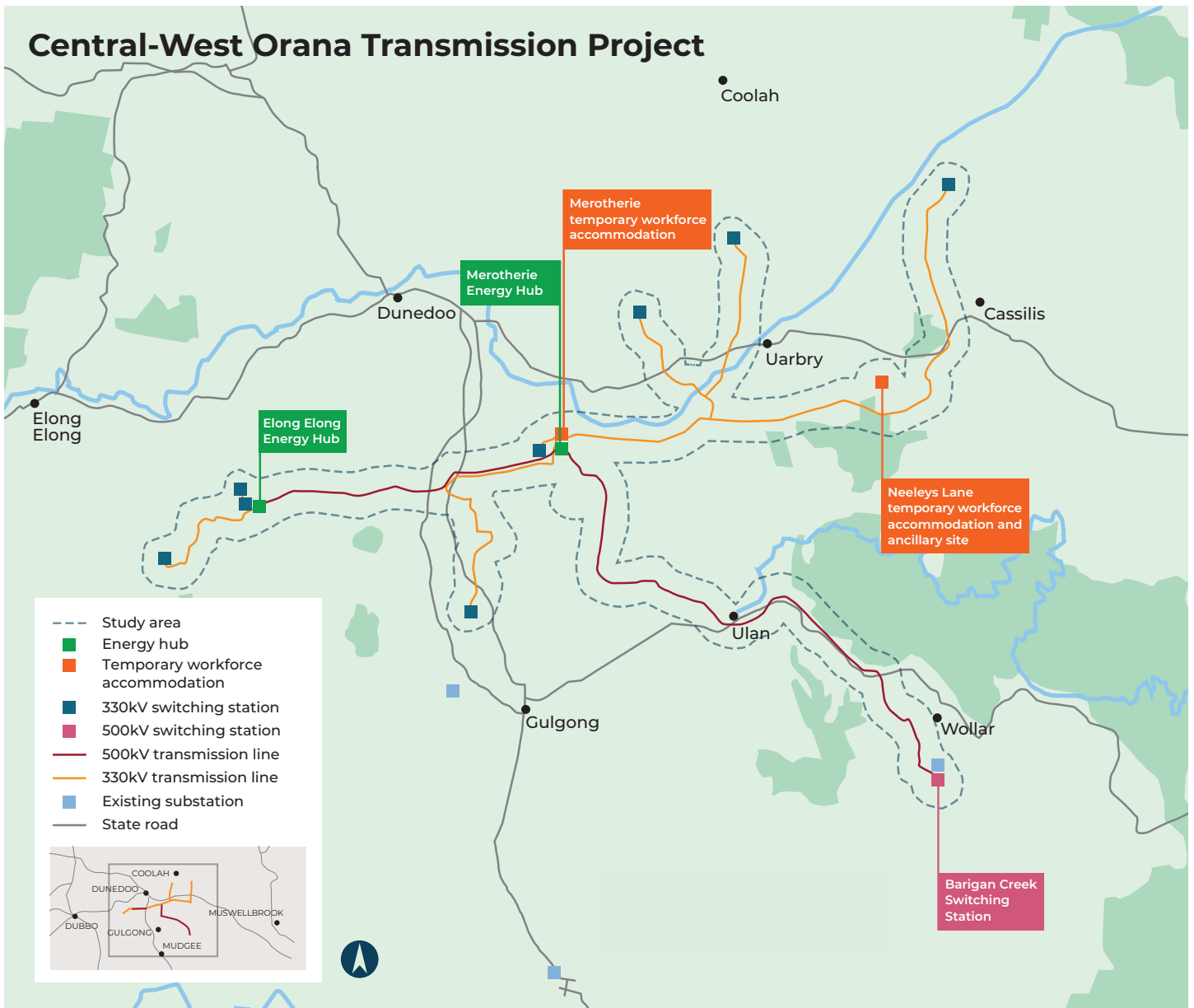
The project consists of 90km of 500kV overhead transmission lines and 150km of 330kV transmission lines for generator connections, stretching from Elong Elong in the west through to Barigan Creek in the east, via an energy hub at Merotherie. ACERREZ also has approval to construct two workforce accommodation facilities in Merotherie and Neeleys Lane, Cassilis for workers who will construct the project.

Project benefits

The Central-West Orana transmission project will:

- Enable a clean, affordable and reliable energy supply for NSW
- Initially unlock up to 4.5 GW of new network capacity
- Create new jobs and local employment opportunities during construction and operation
- Deliver dedicated funding for community benefit and employment initiatives to provide ongoing community value
- Support local jobs, local investment and attract new industries to regional areas
- Support a clean energy sector that will help reduce NSW's emissions by 50 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 and boost economic growth across NSW

Project map



An interactive map is also available on the EnergyCo website at: www.caportal.com.au/energyco/rez

Key project features

The Central-West Orana REZ transmission project includes:

- Energy hubs at Merotherie and Elong Elong to connect energy from nearby generation projects
- A new switching station at Barigan Creek to connect the project to Transgrid's existing Wollar Substation and into the National Energy Market (NEM)
- New twin double-circuit 500kV transmission lines and associated infrastructure to connect to the NEM
- Single and double-circuit 330kV lines to connect energy generation and storage projects within the Central-West Orana REZ to the energy hubs
- Two workforce accommodation sites, a 1200-bed site in Merotherie and a 600-bed site in Neeleys Lane, Cassilis, which will include recreational facilities for workers and onsite medical practitioners

When will work start?

Construction of transmission lines is expected to begin from mid-2025 and the lines are expected to become progressively operational by 2028.

We are progressing the detailed design for the transmission lines, associated infrastructure and other components including energy hubs, switching stations, workforce accommodation and road upgrades. The alignment has been divided into sections and the works will be sequenced and take place at different stages.

Environmental investigations are currently underway at various planned infrastructure installation locations. Procurement processes have also begun for long lead items, including synchronous condensers, power transformers, workforce accommodation, reactors, tower steel and circuit breakers.

Project stages

EnergyCo and ACEREZ sign a Commitment Deed

Environmental investigations commence

Landowner engagement on Deed of Agreement for Easement

Planning approval

Pre-construction activities commence including clearing for workforce accommodation site

Construction of transmission network infrastructure begins

Staged energisation and operations

Strategic Benefit Payments Scheme starts

We are here

Safety focus

Safety is at the forefront of everything ACEREZ does and is the number one priority for the community and our workers. We will implement a range of processes and procedures consistent with project approval and legislative requirements to meet our safety objectives for the project.

We are committed to ensuring we have safe workplaces for all our employees, sub-contractors and safe environments for landowners and communities.



Working with landowners and the community

ACEREZ will work with landowners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, local councils and the broader community to deliver the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project and ongoing benefits to the region. We are mindful of the impacts of an increased workforce in the project area and will work with the community to minimise impacts throughout construction and operations.

ACEREZ has approval for temporary workforce accommodation to support construction of the transmission project. Most of the construction workforce will be accommodated at a temporary, purpose-built facility within the Merotherie Energy Hub site, with a secondary accommodation facility in Neeleys Lane, Cassilis. These facilities will include:

- Workforce amenities
- Demountable accommodation and offices
- Temporary wastewater treatment plants
- Utilities for electricity and water

A medical room staffed by nurses will also be established at the accommodation sites to provide medical and emergency care to workers and minimise the need to use existing local services.

All workers and subcontractors working on the project and staying at the accommodation will be bound by a code of conduct. We will work closely with our project team to ensure we are good neighbours and show respect to the communities in which we work and live.

ACEREZ is dedicated to empowering the community, local businesses and its workforce through business forums, targeted training and capability development programs, fostering skill enhancement and promoting career opportunities throughout project delivery.

During construction

ACEREZ will minimise disruption to landholders, neighbours and the community as far as practicable.





Standard construction hours will be:

- Monday to Friday: 7am – 6pm
- Saturday: 8am – 1pm

Some activities may be required outside standard hours (known as “out-of-hours” work). Out-of-hours work will be carried out in line with the appropriate environmental approvals to manage impacts to neighbours and local communities. ACEREZ will keep the community informed before any out-of-hours work commences.

Environmental mitigation measures will also be in place to manage construction impacts including noise and vibration, heritage, biodiversity, water, air quality and waste.

More information

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