

Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund

Central West Expert Panel Meeting No.3 - Summary

Details

Location: Mudgee Stables
82 Market Street
Mudgee NSW 2850

Date/time: 17 April 2023
09:30am to 12:30pm

Chairperson: Brad Cam

Panel members in attendance

1. Graeme Osborne
2. Kerrie Edwards
3. Neil Perry
4. Wendy Mason

Meeting Summary

1 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Chair, Mr Brad Cam, welcomed all participants and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Wiradjuri country.

2 Expert Panel Meeting - Opening and update since last meeting

The Panel endorsed the minutes and noted the actions from the previous meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

The Chair called for declarations of interest. The Panel noted a declaration from a member of the Panel and a new Interests Declaration and Undertaking form will be completed. The Panel noted this does not currently present a conflict but will need to be monitored.

4 Central West Baseline Report

Astrolabe Group, provided a presentation on the draft Central West Baseline Report.

5 Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo), presented on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), giving an overview of the REZ, and focussing on skills and workforce. EnergyCo discussed:

- the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, Renewable Energy Zones and the role of EnergyCo.
- the role and work of the Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate and studies completed on work and skills requirements.
- the Central West Orana REZ Skills and Workforce Working Group and the Interagency Working Groups being established and the scope of work.
- funding from access fees and the strategic benefits scheme.

The Expert Panel agreed to obtain up to date strategy documents and projections on the required workforce and skills for construction and operational phases of the Central West Orana REZ.

6 Overview of coal resources and mining in the Central West Region

Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW, presented on coal resources and mining in the Central West Region.

The projected lifespan for current mines in the Western coalfields (based on current project approvals) were discussed, as well as the current and projected future workforce requirements.

7 Strategic planning discussion

The Expert Panel discussed potential strategic themes to guide the immediate work of the Panel, including:

1. Industry mapping and skills analysis for the Central West region
2. Examining impediments to relocation of skilled workers to the Central West region
3. Consultation methods for engagement with key stakeholders about the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund
4. Methods for increasing Indigenous representation on the Central West Expert Panel, as well as multi-industry representation.

8 General Business

The Department noted that the Government has confirmed its support for the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund and Expert Panels and the future opportunities to create new jobs, drive new investment and activate opportunities for future workers within affected coal mining regions.

9 Actions and close

The Chair thanked the Expert Panel members and closed the meeting.