

Renewable Energy Internal Resource

1.

Author: Manager Community & Economy

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the expenditure of \$250,000 received from EnergyCo under the Letter of Agreement for Council activities associated with the South West Renewable Energy Zone.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

2. Natural environments: Respected and healthy natural environments

2.3 Climate Change Response

4. Economy: Strong, Diverse and Sustainable

4.1 Agriculture and Industry Value - add sector development

4.2 Workforce and Jobs

4.3 Business Development, Promotion and Entrepreneurship

4. BACKGROUND

Edward River Council has entered into a Letter of Agreement with EnergyCo to support the development and acceleration of the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ). This initiative is part of the NSW Government's broader strategy to transition to renewable energy and ensure regional communities are actively involved and benefit from the transformation.

Under the agreement, Council has been allocated funding to undertake a range of activities that contribute to the planning, consultation, and implementation of renewable energy infrastructure and associated community benefits.

5. PROPOSAL/DISCUSSION

To deliver on the objectives of the Letter of Agreement with EnergyCo, it is proposed that Edward River Council approve the expenditure of the allocated funding to undertake the following Council Activities:

- review and provision of advice on the renewable energy zone related transmission, infrastructure and energy generation projects; reviewing, providing information and data for cumulative impact studies and analysis;
- services related to planning and delivery for infrastructure upgrades and/or to implement recommendations from cumulative impact studies, such as preparing cost estimates, project scoping, project delivery agreements;
- preparing project documentation for infrastructure upgrades, for example, road infrastructure agreements;
- participating in forums, workshops, or making submissions or applications for funding in relation to community and employment benefit program;
- participating and/or hosting community meetings, renewable energy project and NSW Government consultation sessions and workshops; preparation and submission of Quarterly Reports to EnergyCo; and

other services or activities that are directly related to the development and acceleration of the Project, including attending meetings with EnergyCo.

These activities are essential to ensure Edward River Council plays a proactive role in the planning and implementation of renewable energy infrastructure in the region. The funding will enable Council to contribute

meaningfully to the development of the South West Renewable Energy Zone, while ensuring local communities are informed, consulted, and benefit from the transition.

6. RISK AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legislative and Policy

This report is prepared in accordance with Clause 211 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW), which requires Council approval and voting of funds prior to incurring expenditure.

6.2 Financial

Under the Letter Agreement with EnergyCo, Edward River Council has been allocated \$250,000 (GST free) to undertake activities that support the development and acceleration of the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SW REZ).

7. OFFICER'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

As the author of this report and in providing this advice to Council, I have no interests to disclose in relation to this report.

8. ATTACHMENTS

NIL