

Temporary workers accommodation facility

ACEN Australia is investing in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone

ACEN Australia is planning several projects in the NSW Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) in the coming years. Through this work, we have committed to sustainable development in the region. We are working with stakeholders and communities to balance the impacts and opportunities that a growing renewable energy industry can bring.

We want to maximise local employment and business opportunities and deliver the most appropriate accommodation solutions for our workforce.

Our preference and priority is to employ locally first. Many stakeholders, including the NSW Government and developers, are focused on investing in skills and training so that more local people can benefit from the opportunities created by renewable energy.

Studies* by the NSW Government have indicated that skills and labour shortages are a considerable barrier in this region alongside the ability to attract and retain staff. A large portion of the construction workforce for projects in the CWOREZ will need to be sourced from outside the region. This will significantly increase the demand for accommodation and housing.

To limit the use of short-stay and/tourist accommodation in the region, ACEN Australia is planning to build temporary workers accommodation facility to service its projects in the CWOREZ.

This option will:



Limit the impact on regional housing availability and affordability



Enable the region's thriving tourism industry to flourish



Offer contracting and employment opportunities for local providers for the construction and servicing of a facility



Maintain the current social fabric of communities, including security and traffic by limiting the majority workforce to one location



Offer a positive health and well-being experience for workers through appropriate accommodation design



Potentially provide local government or other entities with accommodation facilities that can be re-used to meet community needs in the future

We have been engaging with stakeholders to consider accommodation options

ACEN Australia are consulting with key stakeholders, including the Mid-Western Regional Council, Warrumbungle Shire Council, with local communities, EnergyCo, and others to understand:

- The needs of local communities
- What accommodation solutions are appropriate for local communities and our projects and their anticipated workforce
- How we could re-purpose our temporary worker accommodation – or invest in other ways in the local community – to improve the liveability and sustainability of impacted regional communities

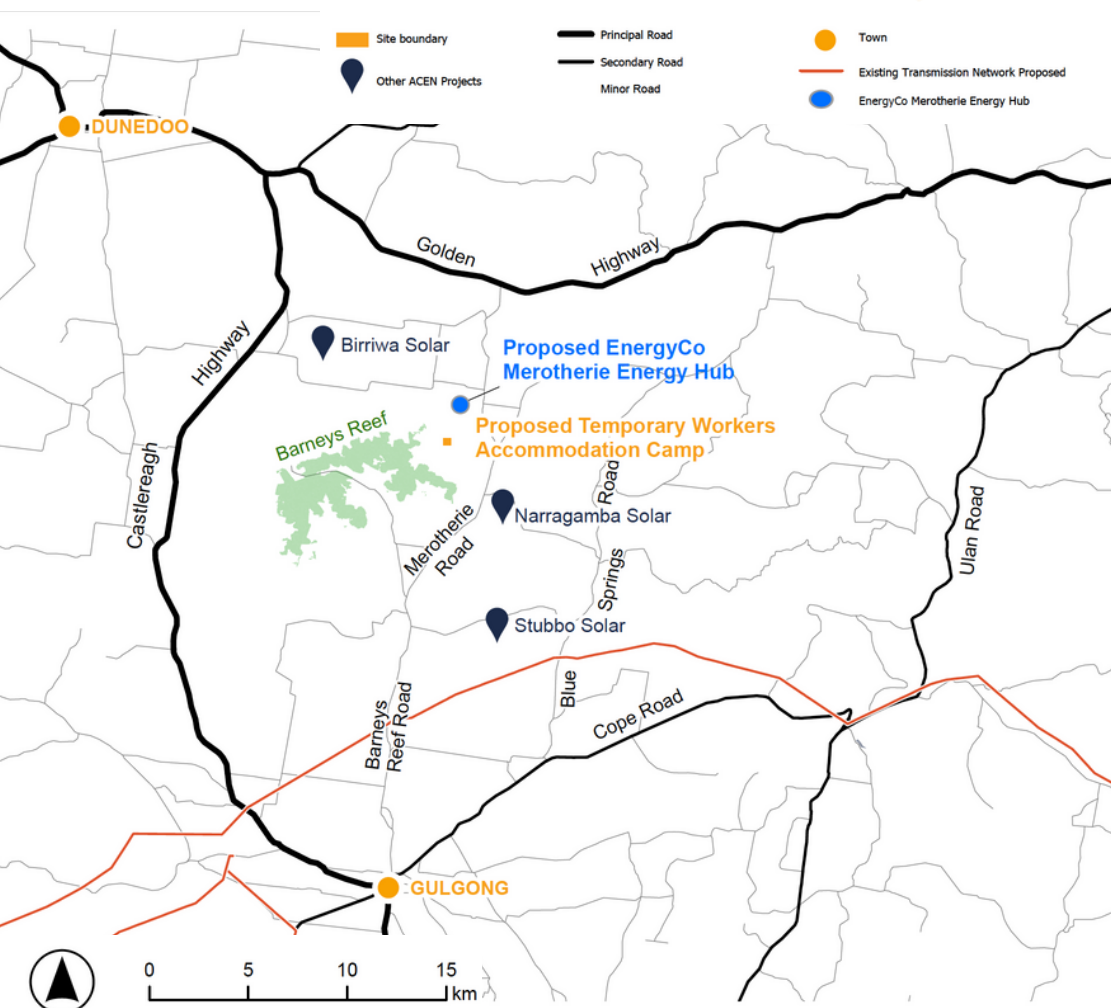
This consultation, along with relevant planning guidelines, underpinned the selection criteria used to assess potential accommodation sites. The criteria, developed with an independent external consultant, included:

- Land use zoning
- Proximity to townships
- Presence of biodiversity values and heritage items
- Visual impacts on neighbouring properties
- Accessibility via public roads
- Development readiness of the site

A temporary workers accommodation facility on the south-eastern side of Barneys Reef is our preferred option. It would be located approximately 1km south of EnergyCo's Merotherie hub.

The facility would have a scalable capacity and will be designed and developed to consider both workers' and the community's needs, including health, safety, and social and cultural cohesion.

Our current view is a likely capacity of 500 workers, with a potential maximum capacity of 1,000 workers. The facility would be used during construction of ACEN Australia's projects in the CWOREZ. It would be decommissioned when the site is no longer required to house workers. After decommissioning, the site will be assessed for re-purposing or dismantling based on environmental factors and community needs.



Our proposal is in the early planning stages with stakeholder and community consultation, and assessment studies currently underway.

We remain committed to hearing your feedback and thoughts on our proposal, and will continue to update the community as our plans progress.

