

Case Study: The Illawarra REZ

Lessons in grid coordination and regional collaboration

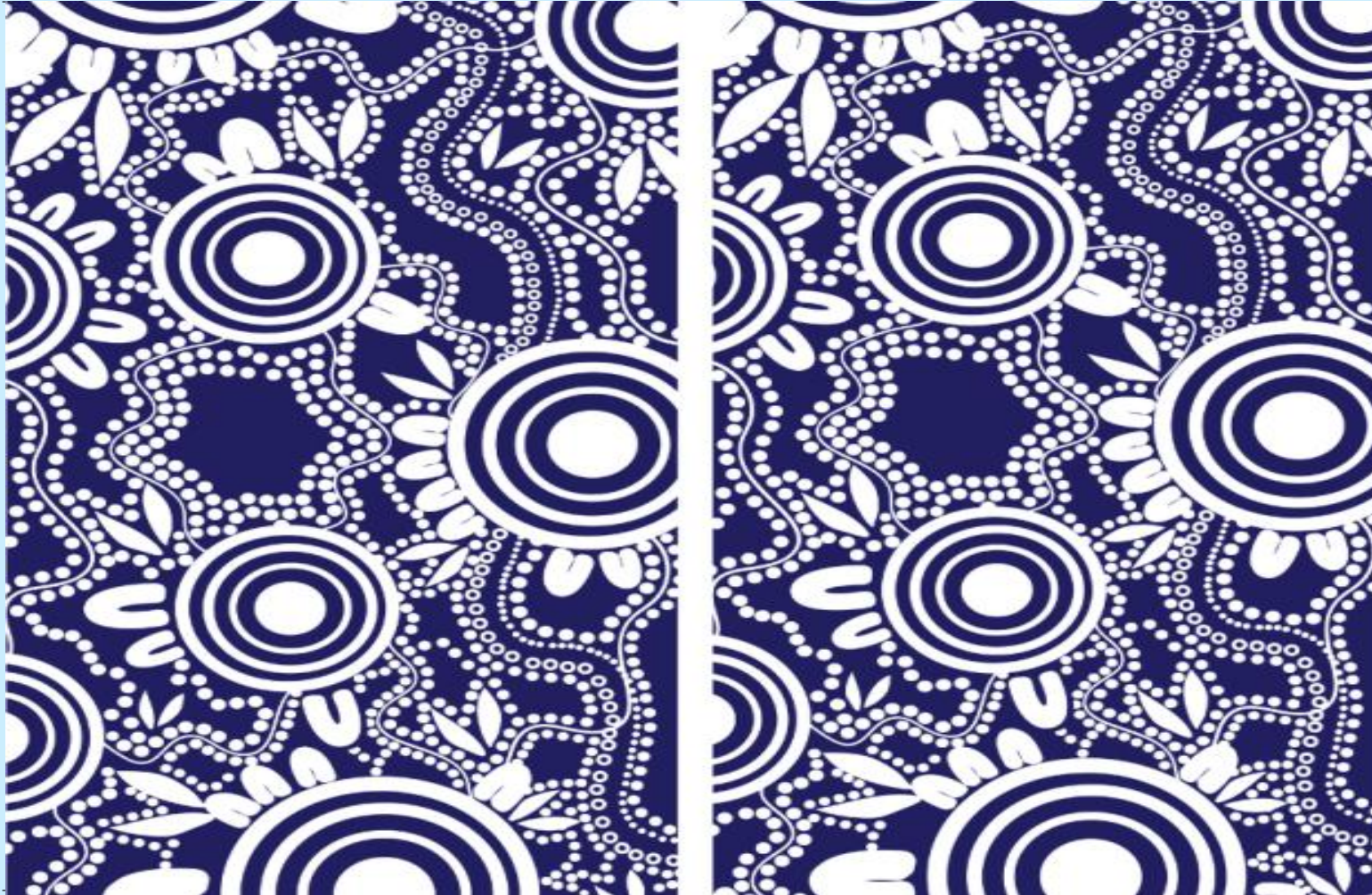
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Co-Directors, Network Recommendations



EnergyCo

The Energy Corporation of NSW

Acknowledgement of Country



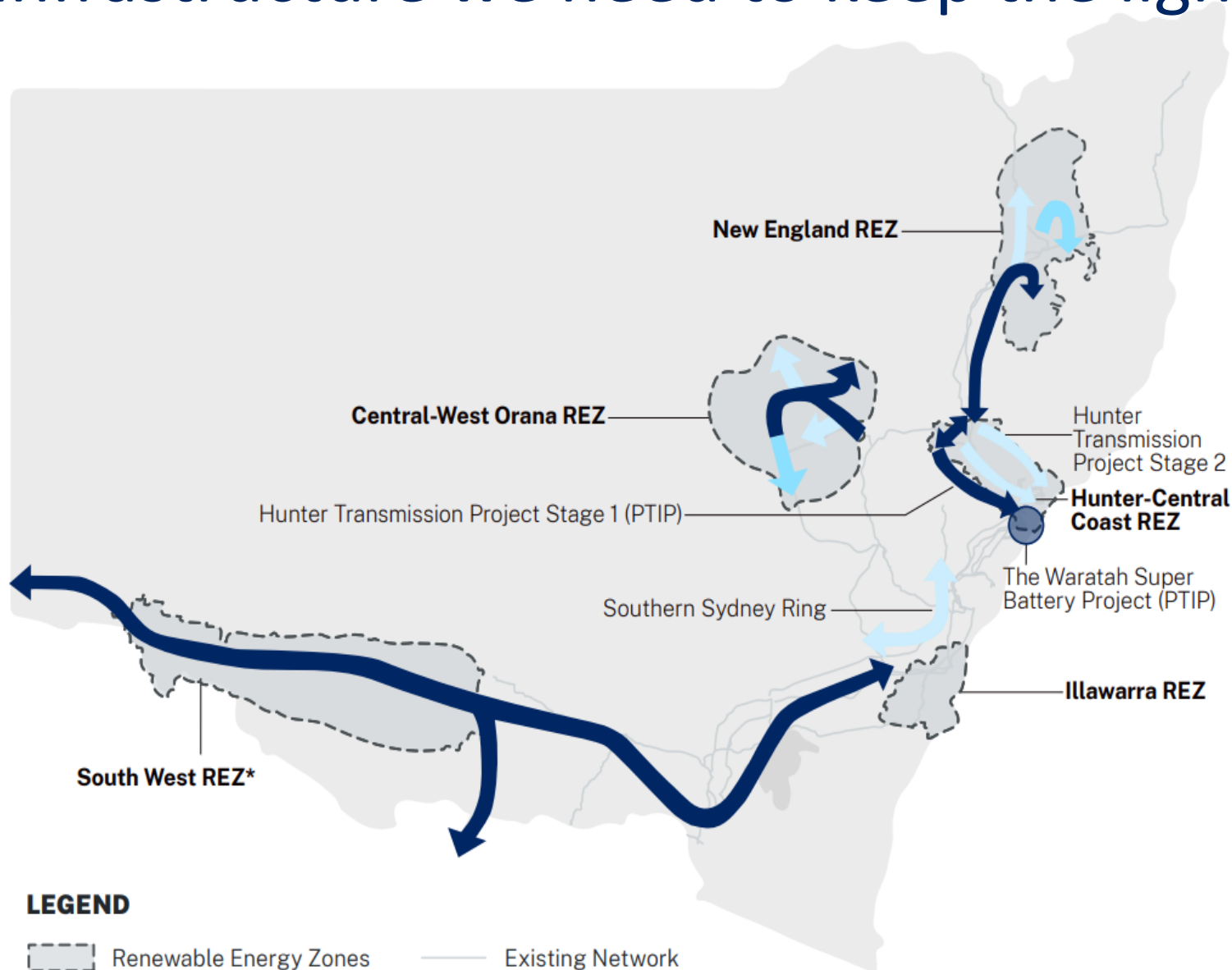
STANDING TOGETHER

Standing Together is a powerful visual representation of unity, strength, and connection. The artwork features interwoven connection lines linking people, places, and pathways—symbolising how we are all joined together, standing as one.

At its heart, this piece celebrates the idea that together, we are stronger. Each connection reflects the importance of collaboration, community, and shared purpose—values that sit at the core of both cultural practice and modern progress. It acknowledges the shared responsibility of caring for the land, respecting Traditional Owners, and working in partnership with communities towards a more sustainable future.

Through its symbols, and connection lines, Standing Together is a reminder that true strength lies in standing side by side—with each other, with Country, and with culture.

Coordinating the generation, storage and network infrastructure we need to keep the lights on



Central-West Orana REZ network infrastructure under construction

Hunter Central Coast REZ network final revenue determination reached

Over 10GW of new generation secured (CWO and SW REZs)

New England REZ RfP released

Waratah Super Battery operational

What is an urban REZ?

Manages increasing demand and peak demand in an urban centre

Prioritises 'non-network solutions'

Integrates consumer energy resources

Underpins the growth of low-carbon industries and industry decarbonisation



The Illawarra REZ

The intended network capacity for the Illawarra REZ is 1 gigawatt.

The Illawarra region has unique features that make it ideal for a REZ:


- major energy, port and transport infrastructure already in place
- skilled workforce ready to support renewable energy projects
- potential for future renewable energy projects




There is strong community interest in the Illawarra REZ




Local stakeholder interests




Community and equity




CER and electrification



Storage



Industrial de-carbonisation



Role of Government

Themes raised by the community (Roundtable, May 2025)

1




Understanding the unique regional context of the Illawarra is critical.

2




Lowest cost & reliable energy is critical for local industry, jobs and economic growth.

3




Opportunity to unlock innovation.

4




Coordinated CER, reformed DUOS and local markets are essential to defer transmission costs and improve grid resilience.

5




Coordination across government levels and clear regulatory pathways are crucial for success.

6



Inclusion and equity should underpin the REZ development and implementation.

7

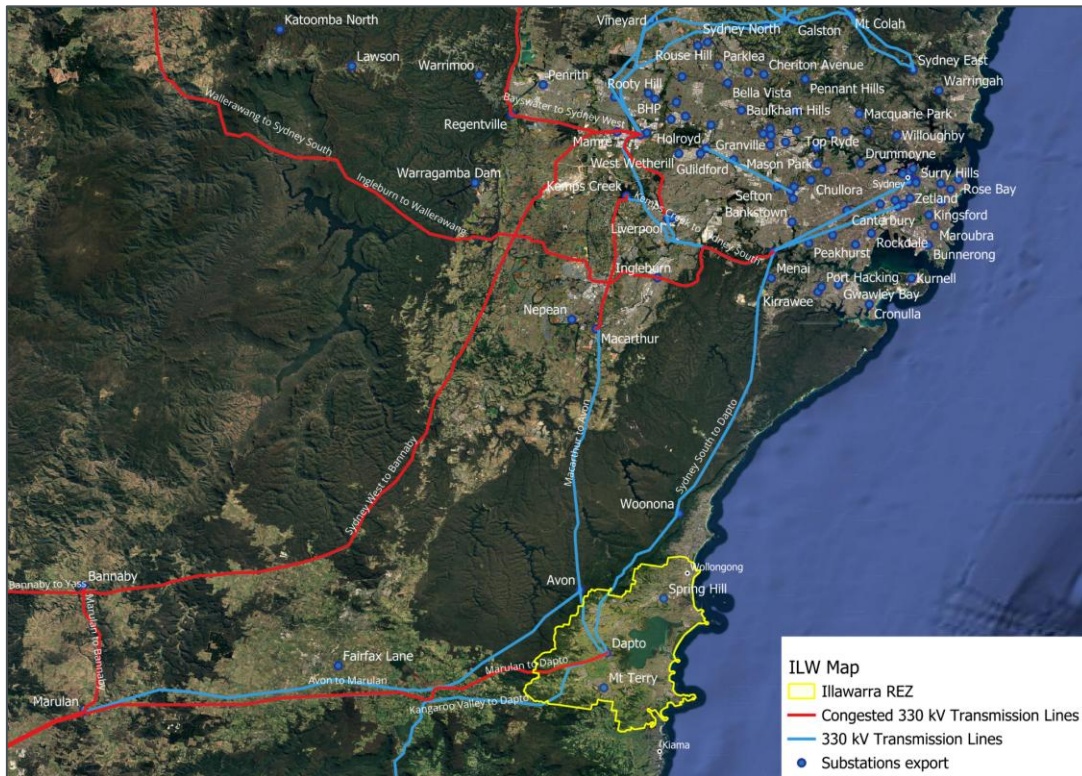


Communities need to be activated through clear and simple communication to gain trust and engage in the energy transition.

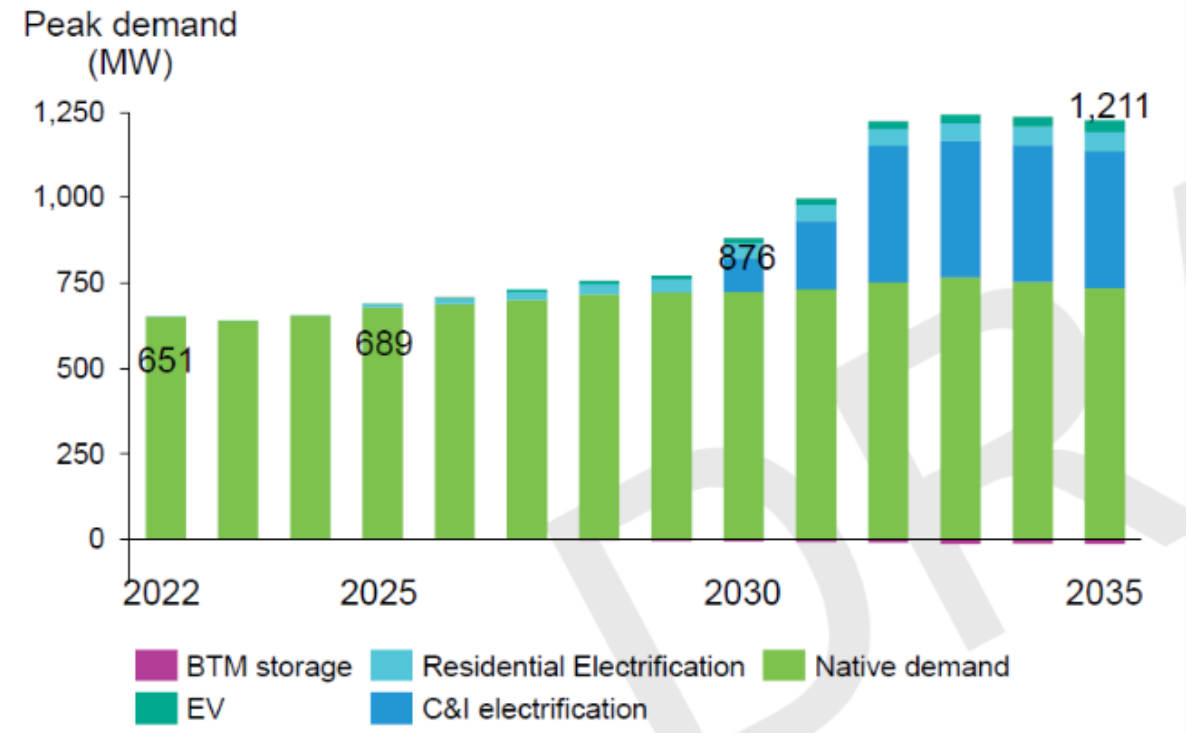
The Illawarra has grid congestion and increasing industrial demands

Congested transmission lines

Increasing industrial demands



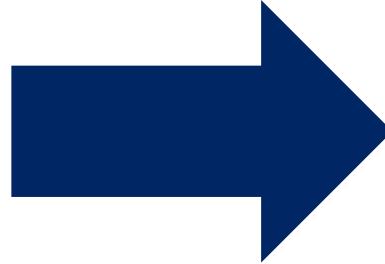
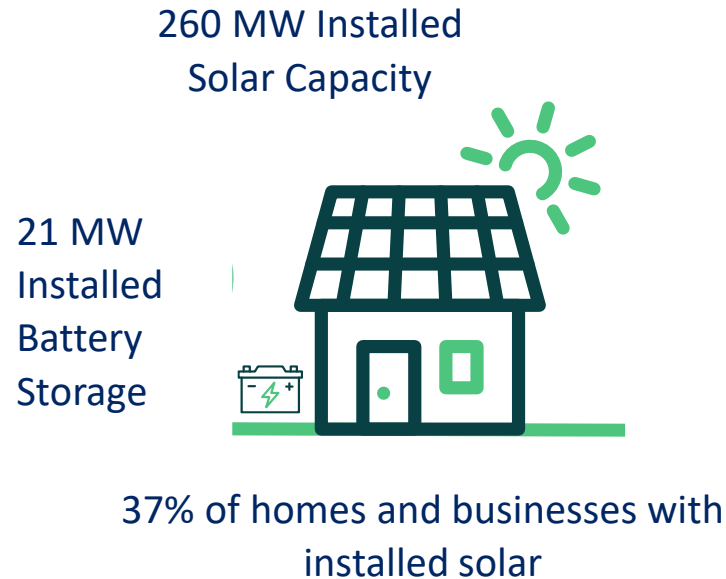
Transmission assets



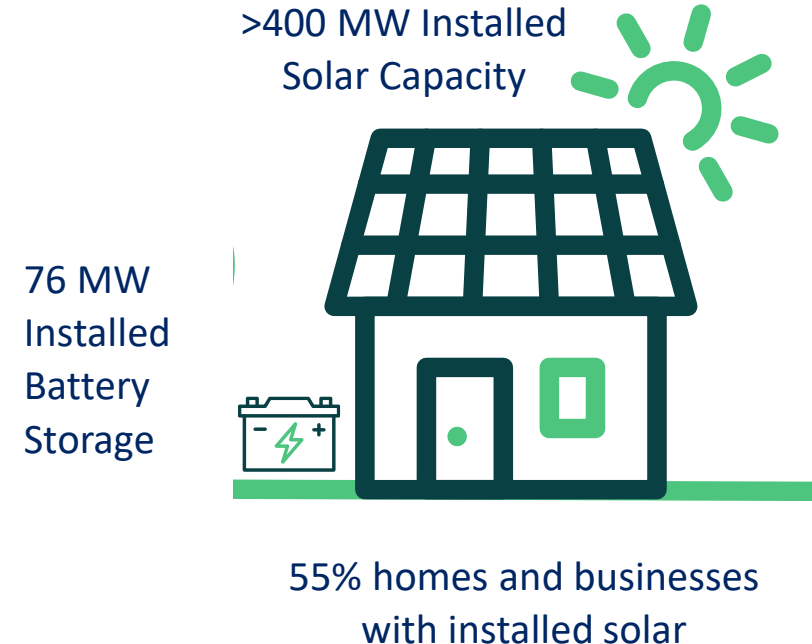
Illawarra REZ Peak Demand forecast (source: Endeavour Energy)

Consumer energy resources are growing

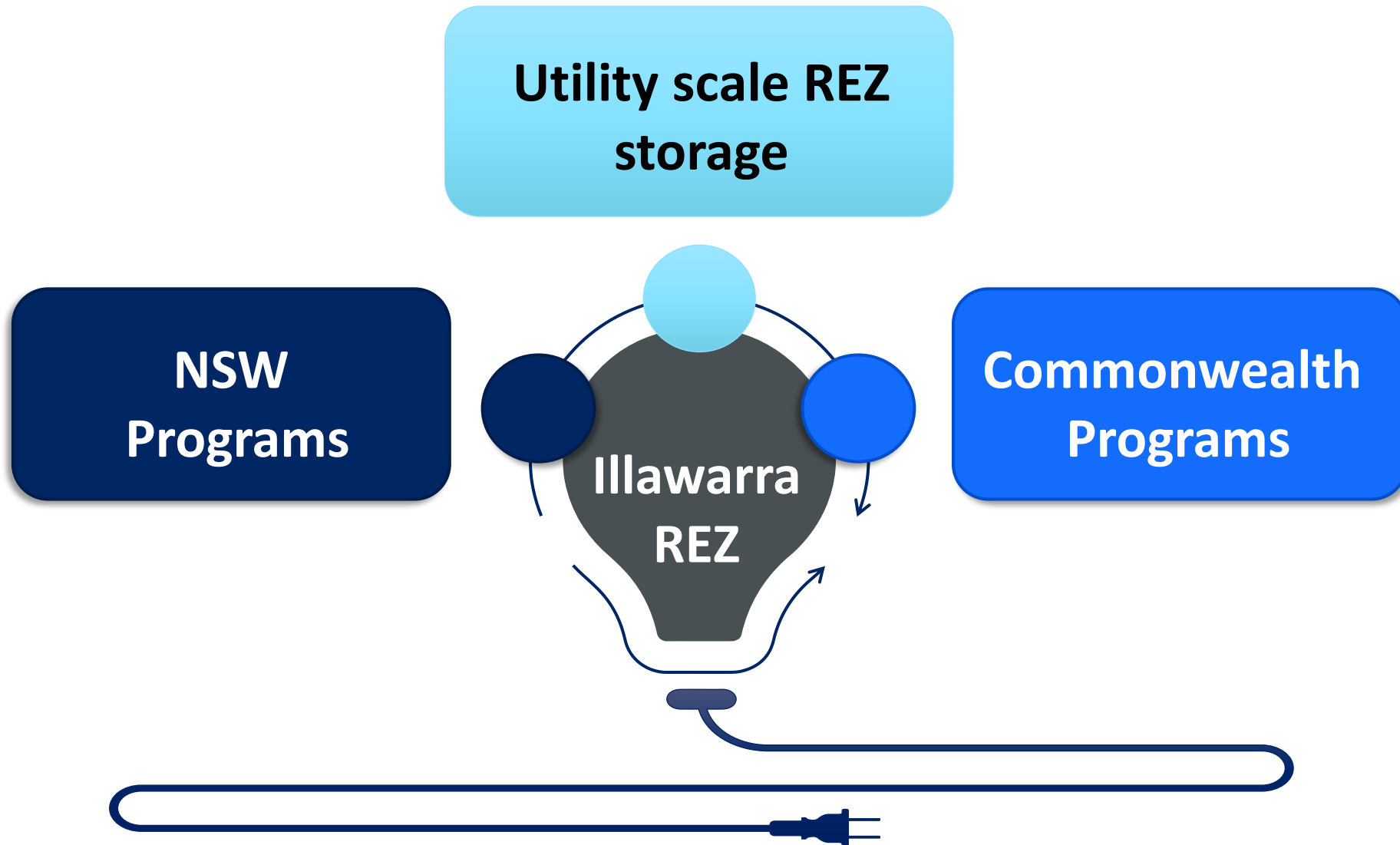
Current



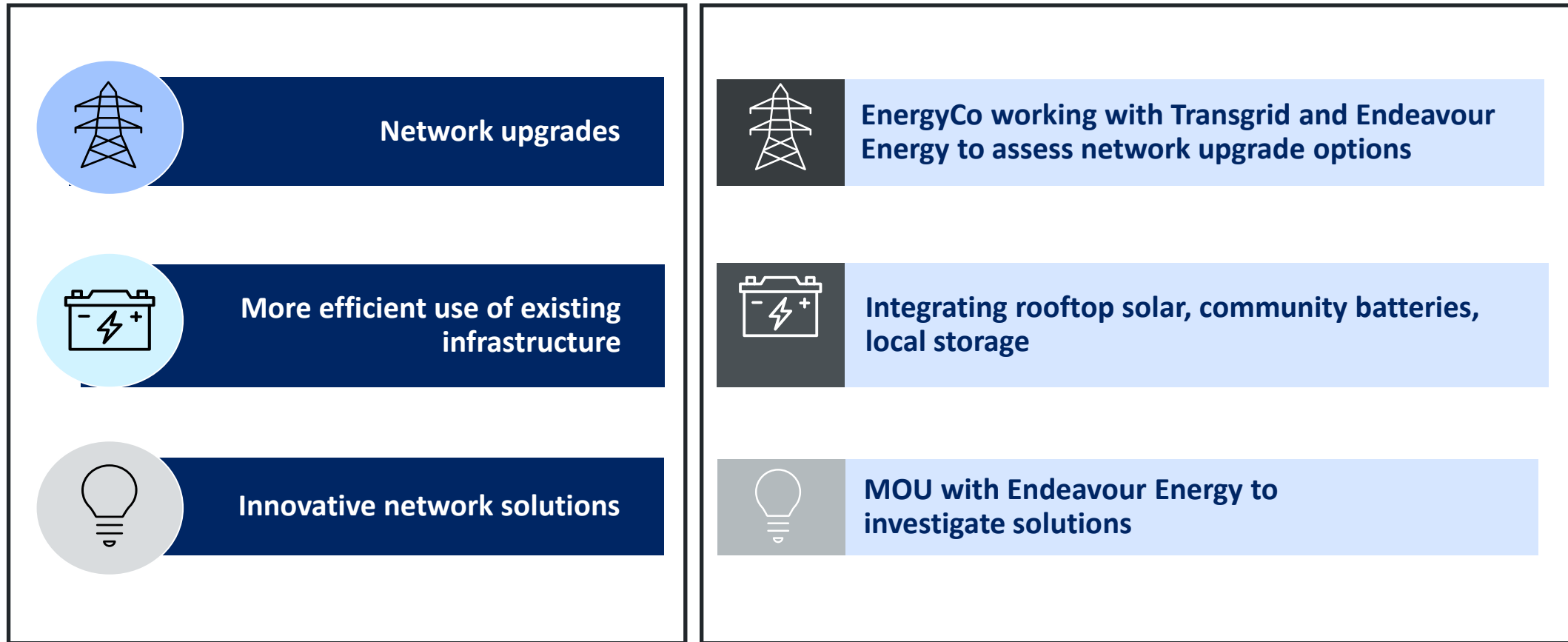
2030 (projected)



The Illawarra REZ will benefit from integrated solutions



EnergyCo is considering a range of REZ options



What have we learnt so far?

Community and industry appetite

- Roundtable Reconnect in December 2025 – to continue the conversation

Opportunity and strong foundations

- Joint Planning with Transgrid and Endeavour Energy
- BlueScope Project Delivery Group

Innovation - evolving the REZ concept for an urban setting

- New partnerships for fresh ideas



What are the lessons from your own experience in grid coordination and regional collaboration?

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