

REACT

RENEWABLE ENERGY AWARENESS AND CAREER TRAINING

What is REACT?

The Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training (REACT) project is a Dubbo Regional Council-led initiative designed to support workforce development and long-term economic benefits arising from the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ) and broader renewable energy development across regional NSW. REACT will be delivered in Wellington, NSW, at the heart of NSW's first Renewable Energy Zone, positioning the community to directly benefit from the energy transition through skills development, training infrastructure and employment pathways. Four industry partners; Squadron Energy, ACERES, Lightsource bp and Tilt Renewables were key funding partners for the business case provided to EnergyCo.

Purpose and Vision

REACT aims to support the renewable energy transition by strengthening the pipeline of skilled workers required by industry while maximising long-term benefits for Wellington and the wider region. Through funding of \$11.24 million from EnergyCo CWO REZ Community and Employment Benefit Program grant under Legacy Infrastructure Fund stream, Dubbo Regional Council will deliver a purpose-built renewable energy career training centre that enables industry aligned training to be delivered through partnerships with training organisations, tertiary institutions, VET providers and industry providers.

REACT is intended provide a fit-for-purpose training infrastructure and a collaborative platform for training delivery, enabling flexibility and responsiveness to industry and community needs.

Why REACT is Needed

The Central West Orana REZ is expected to attract up to \$20 billion in private investment and support thousands of construction and operational jobs over coming decades. While this represents a significant opportunity, without targeted local skills development there is a risk that local communities may not fully benefit from this investment.

REACT is intended to help capture intergenerational benefits for Wellington and the region by improving workforce readiness, supporting local participation in renewable energy and related industries, and reducing reliance on fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers. By aligning training infrastructure with industry demand, REACT helps ensure local people and businesses are better positioned to participate in the renewable energy transition.



Community and Workforce Outcomes

REACT will support a broad range of workforce cohorts, including existing tradespeople seeking to upskill, young people entering the workforce, Aboriginal community members, career-transition workers, disadvantaged and disengaged groups, and local businesses. Wellington has lower levels of educational attainment compared to the NSW average and REACT is intended to help address this gap by improving access to practical, industry-aligned training pathways that lead to sustained employment.

In parallel, REACT will support industry needs by helping address skills shortages, improving workforce availability, and creating a more reliable local labour pool for renewable energy proponents. This dual focus ensures REACT delivers value both to the community and to industry, supporting timely project delivery and long-term operational capability.

Economic Impact

REACT will deliver significant economic benefits for both the renewable energy sector and the Wellington community. A skilled local workforce improves industry productivity by reducing recruitment delays, minimising downtime, and supporting projects to be delivered on time and on budget. For communities, the economic impact extends well beyond direct jobs.

Ongoing renewable energy job generates a multiplier effect in regional communities, supporting additional employment in local services such as accommodation, hospitality, retail, transport and maintenance. In simple terms, when people live and work locally, they spend locally strengthening small businesses, increasing household income stability, and supporting long-term economic resilience.

By anchoring renewable energy training and skills development in Wellington, REACT helps convert major infrastructure investment into sustained local economic activity, ensuring the benefits of the energy transition are shared across the community over the long term.

LOCATION: 93 Simpson St, Wellington, NSW 2820

