

# Project Update



A new way of delivering energy  
see page 2



Benefits to Gippsland  
see page 2

Gippsland is experiencing a renewable energy boom, with more than 11GW of early-stage renewable energy projects. This has the potential to more than double the current renewable energy production for Victoria and fast track our transition to a clean energy future. ▽



Help shape G-REZ  
see page 3



Next steps  
see page 3

Gippsland is at the forefront of the renewable energy transformation, with its sunshine and abundant wind resources making it the ideal location for development. There are a number of large-scale solar, onshore and offshore wind projects and batteries in planning or construction in Gippsland.

This unprecedented growth in renewable energy presents significant opportunities for Victoria and Gippsland but is not without its challenges, including how to transport the energy from where it's generated to where it's needed.

An industry-led initiative to develop Victoria's first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in Gippsland will see the region become one of the state's major hubs for renewable energy. A REZ is essentially a new type of power station, that coordinates the delivery of renewable energy from multiple large-scale generators to the electricity grid. It will involve developing the right electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity to create a secure, affordable and reliable energy system to connect to the grid.

AusNet Services is leading the Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone™ project (G-REZ™) which will unlock 3-4GW of renewable energy by 2027 – enough to power two million homes. It will play a vital role in delivering affordable, clean and reliable energy, and will help prepare Victoria for the retirement of coal-fired power stations.

G-REZ will ensure Gippsland continues to play an important role in Victoria's energy future by attracting more than \$70 million in investment. It will support around 2,100 local jobs during peak construction of new energy projects related to G-REZ and 140 local jobs during operations with benefits across the local supply chain. ▽



## Project highlights



Approximately \$500m project



Enough clean energy to power 2 million homes



Reducing 3.6 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually



Unlocking 3-4GW of renewable energy



Improving reliability and diversity of Victoria's energy supply



Securing the future of Gippsland's renewable energy industry



## A new way of delivering energy

A REZ is a new way of coordinating the delivery of renewable energy from multiple large-scale generators to the electricity grid. It involves developing the right infrastructure and capacity to supply clean energy from the region's solar and wind farms to the grid. By connecting multiple renewable energy projects to the grid via shared infrastructure, G-REZ will reduce the amount of transmission infrastructure needed in the region. This will minimise the environmental, cultural and community impacts.







Gippsland is the ideal location to progress the development of a REZ as there is an abundance of natural energy resources, including solar and wind, and is ideally located on the existing Victorian transmission superhighway.

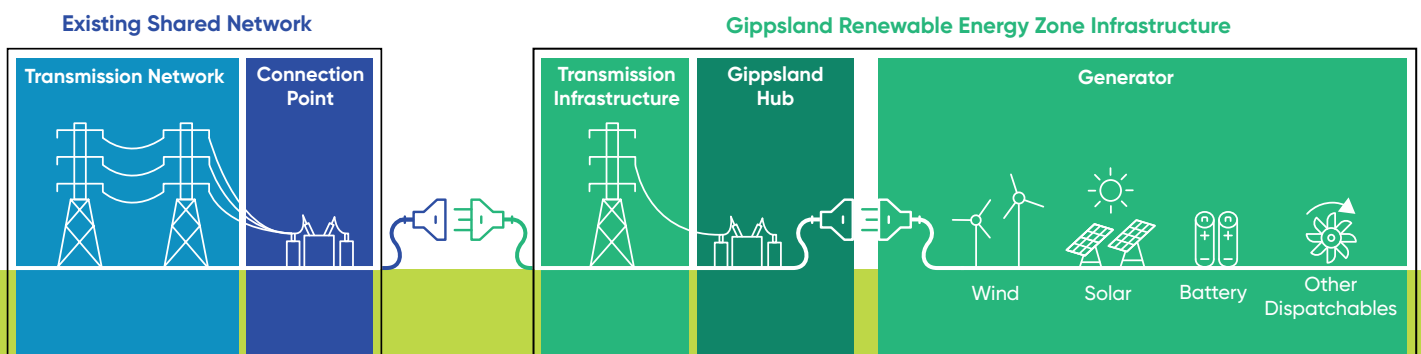
G-REZ will involve building new transmission infrastructure to connect multiple renewable energy developments to the Victorian electricity grid – effectively extending the power cord from existing infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley to new renewable developments in Gippsland.

To make sure we deliver the best solution, AusNet is committed to working with the community and stakeholders as we develop this important project to connect these green energy projects to the grid. ▽

### Bringing benefits to Gippsland

G-REZ will deliver the following benefits to Gippsland:

-  More than \$70 million direct investment to the Gippsland economy
-  Around \$2.6 billion of investment in renewable projects in the region
-  Around 2,100 jobs supported during peak construction of new energy projects related to G-REZ
-  Around 140 long term jobs supported by G-REZ and related new energy projects
-  Economic benefits across the local supply chain
-  Supporting Gippsland's transition from coal to renewable energy ▽





Share your  
ideas ▾



## Help shape G-REZ

As we continue planning for Victoria's first industry-led REZ project in the Gippsland region, we want to hear from you. You can share your ideas about different aspects of the project, including:

- Areas of significance and value to the local community
- What are the challenges and opportunities we need to be aware of?
- Engagement and communication methods
- Local business opportunities

We will also be asking for additional community feedback as we further develop the project.

To get in touch with the project team, email [info@grez.com.au](mailto:info@grez.com.au) or call 1300 360 795.

## Next steps

### Landowner engagement and site investigations

To help us deliver the best solution for the project, we need to undertake further site investigations to understand the potential impacts and technical challenges. These may include:

- Initial site walks and environment surveys followed by targeted fauna and flora, cultural heritage, noise and vibration, air quality, and geotechnical investigations.
- A social and economic impact assessment to understand risks and opportunities for the community and landowners.
- Surveys of property boundaries and specific property features such as sheds, trees, farming operation areas and other infrastructure of importance as identified during our discussions with landowners.

To enable these investigations, our land team has been in touch with relevant landowners to discuss the project and land access.

Landowners to date have been willing to engage with the project team to learn more about G-REZ and we'd like to thank them for their interest and openness in these discussions. There are many more conversations to be had in the weeks and months ahead and we look forward to these continuing.

### Planning and environmental approvals

AusNet will refer the project to the Victorian Minister for Planning to determine if it will require an assessment through an Environment Effects Statement (EES). An EES assesses the potential environmental, economic, heritage and social effects of the project, including how these effects can be avoided, minimised and managed, and the evaluation of feasible project alternatives.

We will also refer the project to the Federal Minister for Environment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and expect the project to require formal assessment under the EPBC Act.

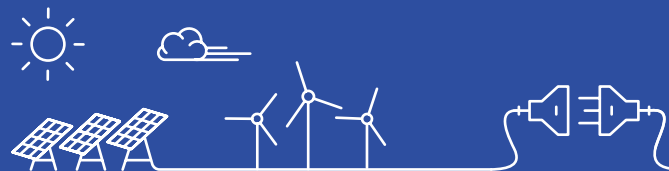
We will continue to keep you updated as the project progresses and advise of opportunities to provide feedback, including through formal processes.



## Project timeline

The project is in the development stage with future stages subject to the outcomes of initial investigations, community feedback and securing the required government approvals. The figure below provides an overview of the key stages and indicative timeframes. Landowner, stakeholder and community engagement will take place throughout project development.

We are here



### Contact Us

For more information, or to speak to a member of our team, please get in touch with us:

1300 360 795 | [info@grez.com.au](mailto:info@grez.com.au)

AusNet

