

Terms of Reference for Review

Review of the adequacy of the existing framework to manage issues and opportunities from the forecast growth in the renewable energy and the agricultural sector in NSW.

Purpose:

Recognising the importance of both the agricultural and renewable energy sectors to the State's prosperity and growth, review the adequacy of the framework associated with the development of renewable energy projects in NSW (focusing on wind and solar projects) to address emerging issues and opportunities associated with the forecast growth of both sectors over the next 20 years.

Terms of Reference

The Taskforce is to conduct a review in accordance with the following terms of reference:

1. Provide an overview of the growth in renewable energy projects (focusing on wind and solar projects) under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, and the role of these renewable energy projects in providing affordable, reliable energy for NSW under those policies.
2. Evaluate the issues and opportunities for the agricultural sector and regional communities of the forecast growth in the renewable energy projects including, but not limited to:
 - a. the overall impact on the NSW agricultural sector and regional communities;
 - b. the benefits and opportunities of the growth in renewable energy for the agricultural sector and regional communities, including income diversification and job creation;
 - c. the potential land use issues and opportunities for coexistence between renewable energy projects and agricultural activities; and
 - d. any other issues associated with provision of infrastructure and services that support the agricultural sector, including the workforce availability, supply chains, and housing supply.
3. Summarise the existing framework governing the planning, approval, construction and operation of renewable energy projects as it relates to managing potential impacts and opportunities on the agricultural sector and regional communities, including consideration of current reforms proposed under applicable NSW planning and energy legislation and policies.
4. Consider whether there are any additional measures required to improve or be incorporated into the existing framework to address issues and opportunities arising from the growth of the renewable energy and agricultural sectors in NSW, focusing on:
 - a. providing adequate workforce, supply chains and housing supply;
 - b. minimising land use conflicts and promoting coexistence; and
 - c. maximising the economic benefits for farmers and regional communities.

Delivery:

Taskforce to be led by the NSW Agriculture Commissioner supported by a nominee of the Minister for Planning, the Minister for Energy, the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade and the Minister for Regional NSW.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will support the Commissioner in conducting the Review.

The Taskforce will need to consult with key parts of the NSW Government in undertaking this review, including the Department of Planning and Environment, the Energy Corporation of NSW, Department of Regional NSW and Investment NSW.

An initial report to be provided to Ministers within six months and a final report within nine months.