



FACT SHEET: RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

What is the Renewable Energy Action Plan?

The Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out how Uralla Shire will prepare for and benefit from the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ). It reflects the views of more than 150 local residents and provides a coordinated roadmap across community, environment, infrastructure, economy, jobs and services.

Why Uralla needs a Plan

The NEREZ will deliver up to 8GW of renewable energy and attract up to \$24 billion in private investment.

Uralla will be the epicentre of construction activity, with a large workforce of temporary workers living locally at peak.

This brings major opportunities (jobs, business growth, infrastructure investment) and challenges (housing pressure, water demand, road impacts, ecological risk).

The Renewable Energy Action Plan ensures development strengthens, not undermines, Uralla's rural identity, social cohesion, and long-term liveability.

Community vision

Uralla is a thriving rural Shire where renewable energy development strengthens community life, supports local livelihoods and protects the Shire's unique identity.

The community wants:

- Reliable services (water, roads, waste, health)
- Affordable, diverse housing
- Healthy farmland and protected biodiversity
- Strong, inclusive community life
- A diverse economy with meaningful jobs and training pathways.



What's already underway

Uralla Shire Council is already progressing:

- Temporary worker accommodation planning
- Water security and long-term supply planning
- Recycling and waste diversion strategies
- Heritage, biodiversity and land use engagement
- Ongoing work with EnergyCo and neighbouring LGAs.

What happens next

- The Renewable Energy Action Plan will be embedded into Council's strategic and operational plans
- Regular reporting will keep the community informed
- Council will continue advocating strongly for local priorities - especially water, housing, roads, health services and nature protection
- The focus remains on ensuring lasting legacy benefits, not short-term impacts.

The Plan outlines outcomes, strategies and actions across six areas

Focus area	Outcome	Strategy
Community cohesion	United, inclusive community deeply connected to its heritage, celebrating First Nations custodianship and a strong shared identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the community as long-term partner Foster an inclusive community Deliver real community benefit from REZ-related investment.
Nature and agriculture	Protected biodiversity, farmland and rural way of life, with any development shaped by care for the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance agriculture Protect and enhance biodiversity
Infrastructure	Infrastructure, including roads, housing, water and waste services support community growth and daily life, protecting affordability, safety, local character, and environmental resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate and leverage infrastructure planning and investment Maintain and improve housing availability / affordability Improve water security Manage waste and recover resources
Local economy, business and innovation	Diverse, locally owned and innovative economy, with thriving main-street businesses, new industries and career pathways, and an affordable cost of living and doing business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise local economic participation in REZ delivery Strengthen the resilience and long-term diversity of the local economy
Jobs, skills and training	Stable, meaningful jobs supported by accessible local training pathways – creating opportunities for young people to stay in the community and benefit directly from renewable energy growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a skilled workforce
Health and community services	Reliable, well-resourced health, aged-care and community services that keep pace with a growing and changing population, with development actively supporting local wellbeing, safety and emergency readiness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to GP and allied health services Maintain a safe community environment

The Draft Renewable Energy Action Plan is on public exhibition for 28 days to give the community an opportunity to have its say. You can provide your feedback via our Have Your Say page:

yoursay.uralla.nsw.gov.au/draft-uralla-shire-renewable-energy-action-plan

Does your group want a briefing on the Renewable Energy Action Plan?

Call Council on 6778 6300 or email council@uralla.nsw.gov.au to arrange a presentation on the Plan for your group, at a time that suits you.