

The Hon. Mark Banasiak MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW
Via email: portfoliocommittee4@parliament.nsw.gov.au

17 June 2025

Re: Clarification of evidence – 13 May 2025 hearing

Dear Chair,

I am writing to clarify a statement I provided to the Committee during the 13 May 2025 public hearing for the inquiry into the impact of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) on rural and regional communities and industries in New South Wales.

On page 3 of the transcript it states:

***ANTHONY HAYES:** I can certainly do that. The commitment from the New South Wales Government and the Australian Government – at this stage, the Government has invested \$128.5 million in the Port to REZ project from Newcastle port, with specific focus on the Golden Highway, where a lot of the challenges will be. An additional \$12 million was also committed for overtaking lanes along the highway near Merriwa, and there is \$10 million in additional funding – combined Australian and New South Wales Government funding – for planning to investigate **New England**. The focus for us has obviously been very much on the initial challenge, which is Central-West Orana, where the route that has been defined and that we're working on with EnergyCo – there are 19 points along the route requiring various works to make sure that the oversized or over-mass equipment can get to the Central-West Orana REZ. A clear priority for us is to make sure that works. On top of that, there is a broader conversation regarding social licence and how we take into account the various challenges; how we work with the communities based in the middle of the route to make sure we are supporting those communities through obviously what will be a fairly significant movement of oversize, over-mass equipment.*

I have bolded the above text I am seeking to clarify. I was referring to the Golden Highway.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Anthony Hayes
Head of Regional Integration
Transport for NSW