

INLAND NSW
GROWTH
ALLIANCE



INLAND NSW GROWTH ALLIANCE INNOVATION HUB

MARCH 2024



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional
Development
Australia

ORANA



ABOUT

The Inland NSW Growth Alliance (INGA) Innovation Hub is designed to support critical industry and business development in the Orana and Central West regions of NSW aligned to priority industries.

The Orana and Central West regions are a focal point for infrastructure, Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS), energy and business development opportunities.

The region is home to significant operating mines and highly prospective opportunities including critical and high-tech metals.

There is significant public and private investment occurring driving the growth of clean energy across the region underpinned by the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

This is a unique opportunity to support and grow these sectors further through the power of INGA.

The INGA Innovation Hub will complement the significant activity and opportunity in the region and State for renewable energy, critical minerals and high-tech metal development, circular economy and infrastructure, and to drive climate smart innovation, solutions and technologies that will contribute to lower-emission outcomes, transparency and assurance to industrial processes and downstream supply chains.

By fulfilling this mission, The INGA Innovation Hub will be a key lever to job creation, export growth and economic prosperity for the Orana and Central West regions of NSW.

Why the Orana and Central West regions?

The Orana and Central West regions has a long and rich history in resources and energy and providing essential resources to fuel the NSW economy.

- The resources sector is the leading contributor to the region's economy, accounting for \$4.3 billion (or nearly 25%) of the area's total economic value.
- Established operators have shown advanced standards of operations, including ESG, safety, compliance and increasing uptake of innovation.
- Extensive prospects exist across the Central West and Orana regions, with endowments of both critical metals and high-tech metals underpinned by the NSW Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy.
- Establishment of a Critical Minerals Hub in Central West NSW.

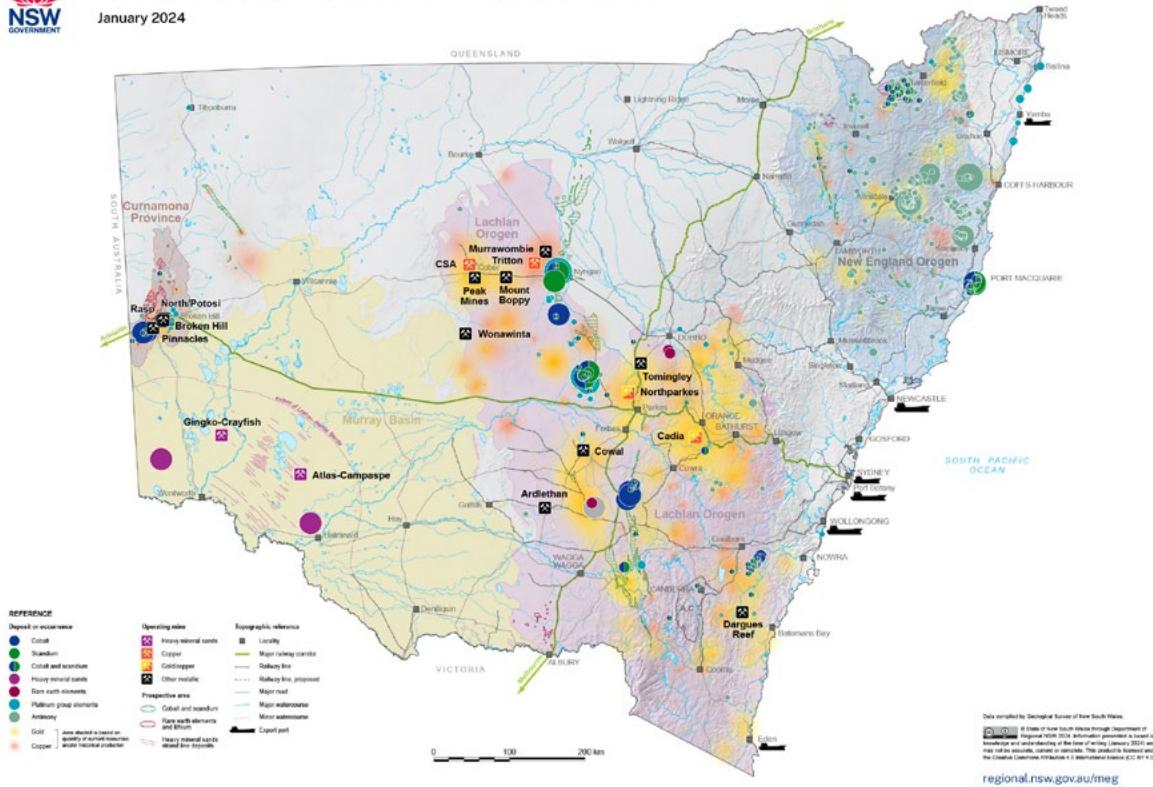
The Orana and Central West regions are home to the first declared REZ in the State, with benefits including:

- Strong renewable energy resource potential.
- Proximity to the existing electricity network.
- Potential beneficial interaction between existing land use.

Map of critical mineral and high-tech metal deposits in NSW



Critical minerals & high-tech metals in New South Wales
January 2024

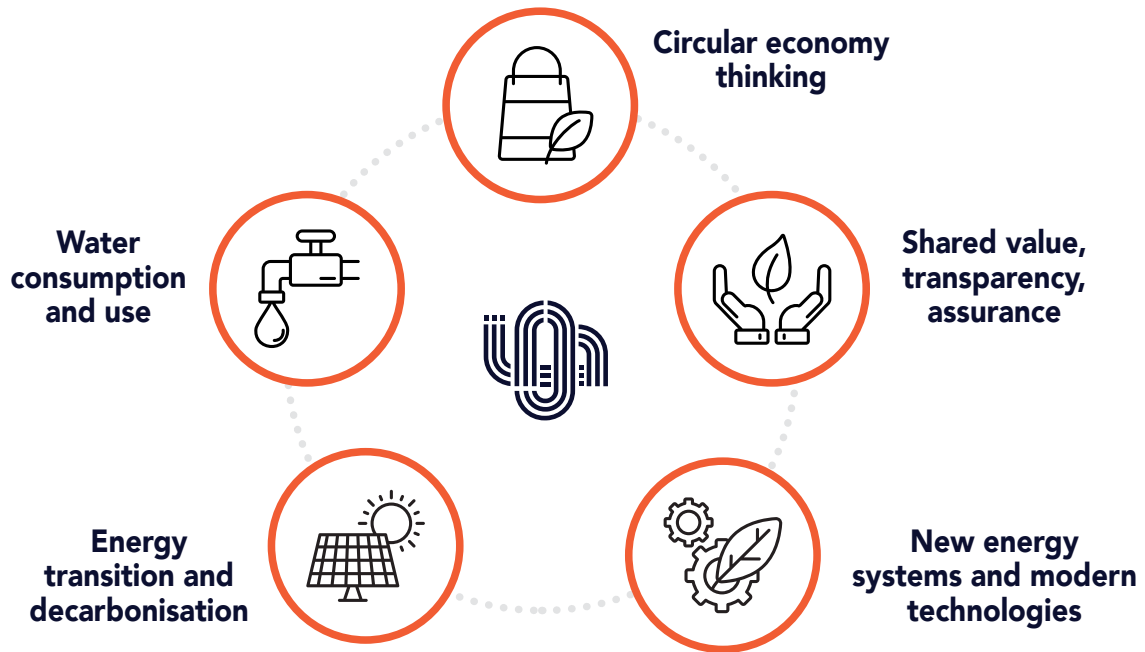


NSW Renewable Energy Zones



WHY NOW?

Resource and energy industries are currently undergoing an immense transformation driven by a number of themes;



The INGA Innovation Hub will unlock a range of systemic barriers to innovation in resources and energy industries.



A CORE INITIATIVE OF INGA

The INGA Innovation Hub will provide new and emerging resources and energy technology businesses with a unique physical environment to support their likelihood of commercial success in a net zero industrial future.

- A physical facility to accommodate the shared use of common office space and equipment, direct business assistance and guidance, mentoring, concierge access to capital, events, and support access to education, research and collaborative partnerships.
- Connection to a network of targeted industrial pilot and testing sites that will comprise physical space and links to the most appropriate structured research partnerships.
- A physical headquarter/space in Dubbo; to improve the opportunities for innovators in domestic and international markets.
- A suite of hybrid facilities to connect geographic regions to incubator programs, education and events. The use of hybrid facilities recognises the geographical challenges of the region and will encourage participation from the Orana and Central West, and beyond.
- A place for partners and collaborators to meet with anchor tenants – to accelerate efficiencies across the innovation ecosystem and optimise infrastructure.
- A place to provide assistance to innovators with a regional focus to connect, find research partnerships and/or expand and scale their business.
- A place to strengthen First Nations participation in resources and new energy supply chains.
- A place to address future skills and education needs and strengthen research and development outcomes across resources and energy supply chains.



KEY BENEFITS

The INGA Innovation Hub will benefit a wide range of stakeholders in the region and beyond. Key stakeholders include participating companies and their employees, the region at large, and research institutions.

All services and programs offered by The INGA Innovation Hub will be designed to increase a participating entity the likelihood of successful development and growth beyond what the entity could achieve on its own.

Businesses

Companies participating in The INGA Innovation Hub will be targeted to achieve improved innovation success rates, in particular as their business is nurtured through early development years.

- Improved growth capabilities and networks
- Reduced barriers to entry
- Increased visibility and stature
- Endorsement
- Economies of scale for services.

Region

A significant benefit of The INGA Innovation Hub is increased economic growth opportunity including:

- Job creation
- Enhanced profile and image
- Increased entrepreneurialism
- Business development and leveraged growth
- A larger, more diverse industry base in the region.
- Increased STEM participation
- Enhanced First Nations participation
- Alignment to NSW economic development priorities.

Education Institutes

The INGA Innovation Hub will complement the mission of educational institutions in the region and beyond.

- Expanded outreach
- Enhanced image and opportunity
- Improved structure toward industry and research partnerships
- Improved commercialisation outcomes.

Hub Thematics

- Discovery
- Land practice
- Waste to value
- Mineral processing
- Diversity and inclusion
- Renewable energy adoption and integration
- Water
- ESG / responsible sourcing
- Circular economy
- Advanced technologies
- Deep, novel and low impact mining methods
- Climate smart technologies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PHONE: (02) 6885 1488

EMAIL: admin@rdaorana.org.au

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