



TransGrid

# Powering Sydney's Future SMC Meeting Summary

2 September 2021

## 1. Stakeholder Monitoring Committee meeting attendees

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<b>Date</b>	2 September 2021
<b>Venue</b>	Via WebEx
<b>Time</b>	10.00am – 11.00am
<b>Chairperson</b>	Lynne Gallagher, CEO, Energy Consumers Australia

Stakeholder Monitoring Committee attendees	<b>Lynne Gallagher</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Energy Consumers Australia <b>Andrew Richards</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Energy Users Association of Australia <b>Craig Memery</b> , Program Director, Energy + Water Consumers' Advocacy Program, PIAC <b>Tennant Reed</b> , Head of Climate, Energy and Environment Policy, Australian Industry Group
TransGrid attendees	<b>Craig Stallan</b> , Executive Manager – Delivery <b>Colin Mayer</b> , PSF Project Director <b>John Howland</b> , A/Manager Network Planning <b>Peter Leate</b> , PSF Community Engagement Lead <b>Bronwyn Rosser</b> , Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

## 2. Meeting summary

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### 2.1 Project update

TransGrid presented a project update covering:

- > Final cost forecast
- > Construction progress
- > Safety management
- > Environmental management
- > Community relations

A slide pack was provided to SMC members prior to the meeting.

#### Discussion:

- > As the PSF project nears completion, the role and value of the SMC was discussed.
  - > TransGrid noted the benefit of the SMC asking challenging questions including on risk management and the timing of works, which has helped TransGrid focus on the key issues. It has also been good to share what's involved in building this type of infrastructure.
  - > Members noted the quality and transparency of the information provided to the SMC as an example of good governance, with TransGrid putting thought into its accountabilities.
  - > One member commented that TransGrid had incorporated SMC feedback on TransGrid's proposed route design which set the right precedent. There was a general consensus that PSF demonstrated the benefits of carefully planned and targeted initiatives with enduring benefits to support local communities, developed in consultation with those communities.
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## 2.2 Future role for SMC

TransGrid's EM Delivery asked for feedback on the future of the SMC, and potentially transitioning to a SMC for Major Projects (EnergyConnect, HumeLink, Central West Orana REZ and VNI West).

### Discussion:

- > General agreement that it would be good to apply the SMC process to other Major Projects.
- > One member noted this would be demanding on members' time, but it would also help highlight the broader resourcing challenges posed by the extent of future project work.
- > Members raised concerns about being brought into conversations about major projects too late in the process (eg. HumeLink). It would be good to have a SMC or something similar in place before regulatory approval.
- > One model suggested was to have the TAC involved in pre-approval discussions about Major Projects, (including cost, nature of projects, broader context of ISP), then a subset of members participate in ongoing monitoring during delivery.
- > For EnergyConnect, members said it would be beneficial to have ElectraNet participate in SMC meetings for consistency of information and also to reduce demands on members' time ie. provide advice on a single 'end-to-end' project rather than two separate projects.
- > For HumeLink, one member said they will be interested to track the cost of environmental compliance. TransGrid noted that conversations are underway with Government about environmental offset costs and how the current arrangements were not designed for linear infrastructure. It would be better to be able to pool offsets in a way that can make a more meaningful and appropriate contribution to regions.

### Actions:

1. TransGrid to prepare a proposal with options for transitioning the PSF SMC to a Major Projects SMC. The proposal would also consider ways to ensure TAC members are involved in the pre-approval regulatory process as well as project delivery.
  - o *Bronwyn Rosser to provide draft proposal to SMC in October for review, to be followed by consultation with the broader TAC.*
2. SMC members to provide a summary of learnings from the PSF SMC to help with knowledge sharing for future transmission projects.
  - o *Lynne Gallagher to coordinate. Bronwyn Rosser/PSF project team to provide support if required.*

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## 2.3 Non-network solutions

TransGrid's A/Manager Network Planning provided an overview of demand management / non-network solutions.

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## 2.4 Meeting close