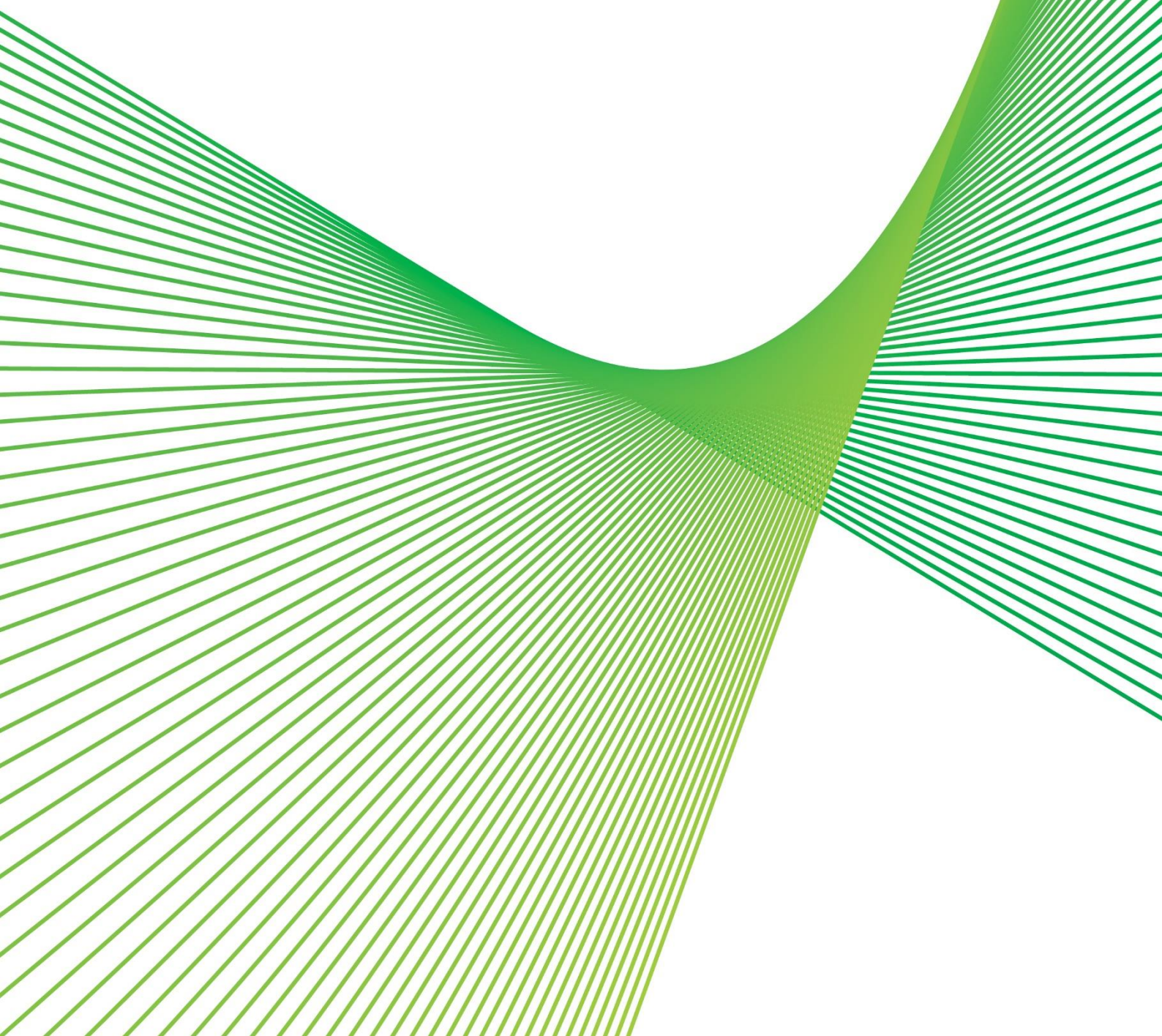


What We Heard Report

HumeLink Amendment Report Webinars

27 February – 4 March 2024



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Purpose

The purpose of the *What We Heard* report is to capture and share information and issues discussed at key engagement events. The reports are published on the HumeLink project website for those not able to attend an event, as a record of engagement and to ensure transparency. They are also passed onto the project team for consideration during project development.

Summary

The HumeLink online information sessions were designed to engage the general community and provide landowners, communities, local government and businesses with information on the Amendment Report and Submissions Report, including proposed project amendments and refinements as a result of community feedback, and general project updates. These online sessions were held following the in-person events held across the project footprint during February, providing an alternate means for community members to ask questions and receive information on the Amendment Report and Submissions Report.

The Submissions Report collates, categorises and responds to the submissions received on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Amendment Report assesses and reports on the proposed project amendments and refinements identified in response to issues raised by communities and stakeholders in EIS submissions, as well as in response to ongoing design refinements. The Submissions Report and Amendment Report will be lodged to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in Q2 2024, and made publicly available on the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal.

The online community information sessions comprised of three webinars which were held between 27 February and 4 March 2024 with a total of 25 attendees. The sessions focused on sharing information on the amendments and refinements outlined in the Amendment Report including:

- Green Hills State Forest route realignment
- Minor changes to the transmission line corridor
- Nomination of access tracks
- Updates to construction compounds and changes to worker accommodation facilities
- Additional fibre cable connections to existing substations
- Transmission line and substation refinements
- Access to water sources
- Use of helicopters and drones.

The February and March 2024 webinars are the latest round in a series held since November 2022. The HumeLink team held information sessions as part of the engagement in the lead-up and during the public exhibition of the EIS.

This report summarises the feedback received from the February and March 2024 webinars, and the themes raised by stakeholders and the community, while providing specific insights from each individual session. Questions and actions taken on notice during the sessions were all responded to following the sessions.

Engagement approach

The webinars offered an opportunity for stakeholders who were not able attend the in-person community information to receive information on the amendments and refinements outlined in the Amendment Report as well as well as general project updates. The webinars were held on Zoom, ensuring ease of use and access for community members and stakeholders. The webinars were delivered in a presentation style format to inform the attendees of project updates and brief on the Amendment Report, followed by a Question & Answer section which allowed for discussions with the project team and an opportunity for questions from attendees to be answered. All the questions taken on notice were responded to after the webinars.

The Amendment Report community engagement activities were advertised through a cross-channel campaign via print, digital and social local media. An Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) advertising the upcoming engagement activities was also sent to project subscribers. The *HumeLink January 2024 Newsletter* highlighted the in-person and online engagement activities with the schedule and RSVP link. Interested stakeholders were able to register to the online events through the link provided in the EDM, January Newsletter and published on the HumeLink website.

The table below outlines the dates and time of the webinar sessions, and the total attendee number:

Webinar	Date	Time
1	Tuesday 27 Feb 24	5:30pm – 7:00pm (AEST)
2	Thursday 29 Feb 24	12:00pm – 1:30pm (AEST)
3	Monday 4 March 24	12:00pm – 1:30pm (AEST)
Webinars total attendees: 25		

To view the presentation, please visit the HumeLink website [here](#).

Themes

The themes raised during the webinars are outlined below:

- **Amendment Report**

This included the Amendment Report refinements and amendments, specifically:

- Proposed access tracks; the use of access tracks and the inclusion of access tracks within the Property Management Plans (PMPs)
- Worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds including proposed sites, social impacts of accommodation facilities and features of construction compounds
- Transmission line and substation refinements including the route refinement process and existing transmission lines within the project footprint, the location of proposed substations and the upgrades required to substations.

- **Procurement opportunities**

Work opportunities for local businesses and workers was a theme raised at the webinars.

Attendees enquired about the procurement process for local businesses and upskilling opportunities in the proposed packages of work. They also queried opportunities to manage potential short-term skill shortages.

- **General project overview**
This theme included general project updates and project timeline including the target completion date for HumeLink in 2026.
- **Community sentiment**
Community sentiment was mentioned by two webinar attendees. In particular, the sentiment of landowners towards the engagement undertaken and the general community sentiment towards renewable energy projects and preference for undergrounding.
- **Construction methodology**
Questions relating to this theme included queries regarding the construction methodology, including the road conditions report that will be undertaken ahead of main construction work.
- **Interactive map**
This theme was relating to features of the interactive map including opportunities for feedback.

The following section includes an overview of the themes raised for each session.

Webinar 1

Date and time: Tuesday, 27 February 2024, 5:30pm – 7:00pm (AEST)

Topics raised:

- Route refinement and existing transmission lines within the HumeLink project area
- Procurement opportunities and process for local businesses
- Use of access tracks during construction
- Worker accommodation facilities locations and proposed sites
- Upgrades to and construction of substations including locations of proposed substations
- Project timeline and target completion date
- Landowner engagement and sentiment towards renewable energy projects
- Community sentiment on undergrounding.

Webinar 2

Date and time: Thursday, 29 February 2024, 12:00pm – 1:30pm (AEST)

Topics raised:

- Amendment report and feedback process
- Procurement process and local business participation
- Local business opportunities and upskilling opportunities in up and coming areas of work
- Proposed worker accommodation facilities and potential social impacts

- Construction compounds features
- Road condition reports
- Proposed access tracks and Property Management Plans (PMPs).

Webinar 3

Date and time: Monday, 4 March 2024, 12:00pm – 1:30pm (AEST)

Topics raised:

- Interactive map and HumeLink website
- Amendment report and feedback process.