

HumeLink Community Newsletter

January 2023

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is a once in a generation investment in Australia's energy capability, increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered to consumers, and helping Australia to move towards a net zero future.

This proposed 500 kV transmission line will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle and will be one of the nation's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 360 km of proposed new transmission lines and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

HumeLink is critical to bringing more affordable, reliable and renewable energy to the grid and is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

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Announcement

The Environmental Impact Statement is coming in 2023

This year marks a pivotal stage in the planning and approvals process for HumeLink's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS describes the environmental, economic and social impacts that could arise from the project during construction and operation, and proposes measures to reduce, minimise or mitigate those impacts.

The project team is currently progressing the technical reports that form part of the EIS. Once the environmental assessments are completed and the EIS is finalised, the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the final EIS on public exhibition in mid-2023 and call for public submissions. This will be an opportunity for landowners, community, government agencies and other interested organisations to make a written submission and provide feedback on the project. The submissions received will help shape the government's determination on whether the project will proceed.

The HumeLink project team is engaging with the community and other stakeholders to share information on the EIS process, the planning approvals pathway and the technical reports that form part of the EIS. This includes both online and in-person information sessions. Details about upcoming sessions will be provided on the [HumeLink webpage](#). You can also subscribe to receive project updates.



Scan the QR code
to subscribe to receive
project updates.



Green Hills: Alternative (western) option in the Tumut region

As part of the project's ongoing route refinement approach, Transgrid is regularly reviewing and refining sections of the route as more information becomes available.

Following considerable feedback from landowners, community members and other stakeholders on route options for HumeLink, Transgrid is now investigating the viability of an alternative (western) route option for the Tumut region through the Green Hills State Forest.

We are assessing the alternative (western) option in parallel to the EIS, and if it proves feasible we will proceed with that option. We have consulted with the Department of Planning and Environment on the approval pathway.

It is possible that the alternative (western) option could:



Remove some private landowners from requiring an easement.



Reduce community impact.



Reduce the visual impact of transmission towers for some landowners.



Align with principles announced by the NSW Government on placing transmission infrastructure on public land where feasible.

Impacted landowners have been contacted by their Land Access Officer or Place Manager to discuss this option.

An indicative route for the alternative (western) option is on the interactive map on HumeLink's [webpage](#).



Undergrounding

In late 2021, Transgrid was asked by the community and landowners to investigate options which explore the feasibility of building the HumeLink project via underground cable instead of overhead transmission lines.

Transgrid agreed to form a collaborative Steering Committee which developed an underground feasibility study scope of works. Independent consultants GHD and Stantec were appointed by the Steering Committee to undertake a high-level feasibility study.

GHD and Stantec finalised the Report in 2022.

The revised final report and Transgrid and the Steering Committee's responses to the report will be available on the [HumeLink's webpage](#).

Transgrid would like to thank the Steering Committee and CCG members for their input. Transgrid will continue to work with the community and landowners.

Community engagement

In December, the HumeLink Community Consultative Group (CCG) meetings were held in Snowy Valley and Upper Lachlan on the 14 December. CCG meeting minutes are uploaded onto the [HumeLink website](#). The next CCG meetings will take place in February 2023. Please see our CCG schedule in this edition.



Pictured: Geotechnical investigations at Bannaby substation.

Biodiversity surveys

As part of the EIS, Transgrid is assessing the biodiversity impacts associated with the project. The assessments are carried out to evaluate the potential impacts of the project on the flora and fauna species, habitats and ecosystems.

One threatened species of interest is the Golden Sun Moth. The Golden Sun Moth is a medium-sized, dayflying moth. The moth's NSW populations are found in the area between Queanbeyan, Gunning, Young and Tumut.

During November and December 2022, ecologists completed field work looking for Golden Sun Moth habitat. The assessment findings will be documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) which forms part of the EIS. This report will outline the potential impacts and proposed mitigations.



Pictured: The Golden Sun Moth.

Geotechnical investigations

Geotechnical investigations are continuing along the HumeLink corridor. The investigations will inform the project's detailed design including route alignment, location and the engineering of towers to ensure structural stability.

Of the 353 planned locations, 270 walkovers have been completed and 91 boreholes have been dug to collect rock and soil samples to determine the integrity of the soil for the detailed design.

Following a shutdown over Christmas, work restarted on 9 January 2023, and is progressing well with completion planned for Q2 2023.

For more information, see the [Geotechnical Investigations Factsheet on HumeLinks webpage](#).

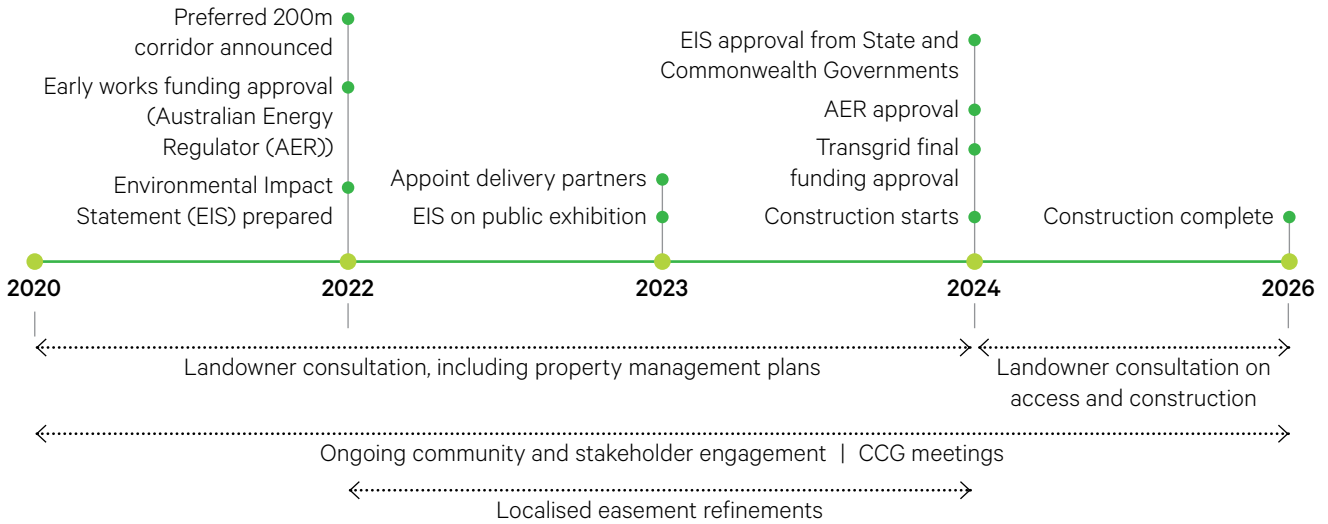


What's coming up in 2023?

HumeLink's timeline

In 2023, the HumeLink project team will continue to engage with communities, stakeholders and landowners and meet with HumeLink CCGs. The proposed corridor will continue to be refined based on findings from the EIS specialist studies and engagement with landowners, government agencies and communities. The HumeLink EIS will be on public exhibition in mid-2023.

HumeLink key dates



Community Consultative Groups

In 2023, HumeLink's Community Consultative Groups (CCGs) will be meeting in the Snowy Valley, Yass and Wagga Wagga on the following proposed dates.

February	March	April	May	June
Wagga 14 Feb, 5.00–7.00pm	Wagga 14 Mar, 5.00–7.00pm	Wagga 11 Apr, 5.00–7.00pm	Wagga 16 May, 5.00–7.00pm	Wagga 13 Jun, 5.00–7.00pm
Upper Lachlan 15 Feb, 11.30am–1.30pm	Upper Lachlan 15 Mar, 12.00–2.00pm	Upper Lachlan 12 Apr, 12.00–2.00pm	Upper Lachlan 17 May, 12.00–2.00pm	Upper Lachlan 14 Jun, 12.00–2.00pm
Snowy Valley 15 Feb, 5.00–7.00pm	Snowy Valley 15 Mar, 5.00–7.00pm	Snowy Valley 12 Apr, 5.00–7.00pm	Snowy Valley 17 May, 5.00–7.00pm	Snowy Valley 14 Jun, 5.00–7.00pm

For more information on the CCGs and for the CCG meeting minutes please see [HumeLink's webpage](#).

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.



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