

DECEMBER 2023

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, increasing availability and market competition and helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 385 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to transgrid.com.au/humelink

When will work start?

Construction will be staged and we will liaise closely with you about when you can expect work on your property.

We anticipate site investigation and associated activities to begin in early 2024. Construction will begin after all project approvals have been granted and the final investment decision is made.

We are expecting construction works on HumeLink to be completed by 2026.

The design and construction approach for complex major infrastructure projects is typically first presented at planning stage and is indicative only. The design is subject to refinement by our delivery partners who will carry out further planning.



What to expect on your property

After all necessary permits and approvals are in place, the project team will communicate with landowners about upcoming work.

The main construction activities include:

- clearing vegetation and site establishment works
- ancillary activities to facilitate the construction of the project (eg access tracks, laydown and staging areas)
- construction of the proposed transmission towers and lines
- demobilisation and remediation of construction areas.

The construction of the proposed transmission towers involves excavation works at each tower site. This work is required to install foundations, level the ground around them and install drainage.

The transmission line towers will typically be assembled in sections on the ground and lifted into place using cranes.

Once a tower is erected and secured, the conductors will be strung by either a ground-pulled draw-wire (with brake/winch sites), a line-stringing drone or helicopter.

More detail on how the transmission towers are built is provided on the back page.



Construction workforce and hours

The workforce size will vary depending on the stage of construction and associated activities.

Construction hours are 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday. No construction work would be undertaken on Sundays or public holidays. Some activities would be required outside these standard construction hours for safety, technical or operational reasons (eg to minimise utility or traffic disruptions).

Our delivery partners will inform you of the work schedule in advance and notify you of any changes where possible.



Working in your community

Our delivery partners are committed to ensuring the safety of their workers and the community, and minimising disruptions where possible. The community will continue to be kept updated throughout all phases of the project. We encourage you to contact us to raise concerns or make enquiries at any time. Please see our contact details in 'Connect with us' at the bottom of this fact sheet.



Our commitment to you

We know building a project of this scale and significance is not without impact. Managing risks and reducing the impacts on the community is important to us. We will continue to work with you and our key stakeholders to identify and implement measures to reduce these effects.



How are transmission towers constructed?



Surveying

Surveys determine elevation levels, distances and terrain angles. This provides us with valuable information to identify potential construction sites and access points at each tower location.



Access tracks/road clearing and construction

We clear and construct access tracks/roads so vehicles, machinery and equipment can safely get to the construction site. Surveying allows clearing to be kept at a minimum.



Excavations

Piling rigs and excavators remove soil and rocks, clearing the site for the construction of the tower foundations.



Construction of foundations

Tower legs (the base of the tower) are installed. This includes reinforcement, setting the levels and pouring concrete.



Tower assembly

The tower sections are pre-assembled at ground level using safe heavy lifting methods, such as cranes. HumeLink uses suspension and tension towers, with tension towers requiring a larger foundation.



Tower erection

The tower is moved in sections onto the concrete foundations using safe lifting methods such as a crane or helicopter.



Stringing

Insulators and pulley blocks are put in place to enable conductors to be installed. The stringing process uses brake and winch sites or helicopters and/or drones to pull through the conductors and connect them at each end.

The pulley blocks are then removed and the cables connected to the insulators. This is known as clipping in.



Rehabilitation

Any disturbed ground or vegetation will be stabilised during construction, and appropriately rehabilitated as soon as feasible and reasonable after construction. We will consult with the landowner to plan this work.

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation Transgrid acknowledges Wiradjuri, Ngarigo, Wolgalu and Ngunnawal peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country HumeLink traverses.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders both past and present and celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.

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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