

# HumeLink Fact Sheet

## Route Refinement Decisions March 2022

In March 2022 Transgrid completed route refinement decisions on the above-ground study corridor for the HumeLink project in the four key areas of Tumut, Bannaby, Pejar Dam and Green Hills.

HumeLink, a new 500 kV transmission line in southern NSW, represents a once in a generation investment in the nation's energy future and will deliver \$491 million in net benefits.

The project is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator and to achieve this, Transgrid must demonstrate benefits to electricity consumers.

HumeLink will deliver a cheaper, more reliable and more sustainable grid by increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered to consumers across the National Electricity Market and helping to facilitate the transition to a low carbon future.

### Assessment Criteria

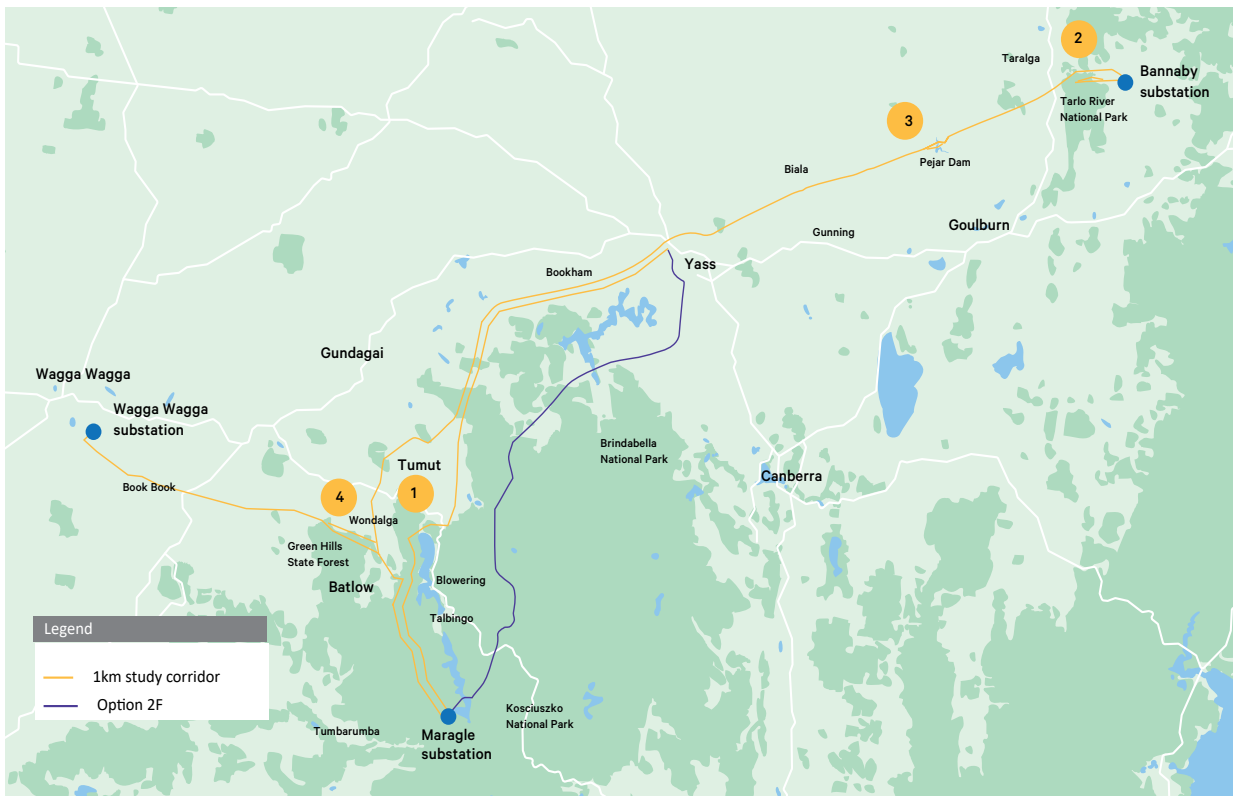
Transgrid seeks to determine a route that minimises net impact. Transgrid applies guiding principles to the route

selection process including: keeping the transmission line as straight as possible, selecting the shortest possible route between two substations and where possible paralleling existing transmission easements or using public land. In conjunction with these principles, Transgrid uses a constraints mapping process which considers factors including social considerations, environmental considerations, land use considerations, network resilience and cost.

### Route options considered

The map below shows the areas where alternative route options were assessed by Transgrid, leading to the March 2022 route refinement decisions:

1. Tumut ('Option 2F' is shown in blue)
2. Bannaby
3. Pejar Dam
4. Green Hills



Map 1: Route options considered

Note: 1. A GHD proprietary multi-criteria analysis tool for undertaking route options assessment resulting in an InDeGO score

## Consultant report on route 'Option 2F' traversing Kosciuszko National Park

Transgrid engaged an engineering consultant, GHD Pty Ltd, to conduct a comparison of transmission line route options for the HumeLink project in the Tumut area in response to landowners requesting that 'Option 2F' through the Kosciuszko National Park be thoroughly investigated as a viable option.

The objectives of the assessment were to:

- identify a preferred route in the Tumut/Blowering area within HumeLink's existing study corridor;
- assess new routes outside the study corridor, between Maragle and Yass, maximising the use of public land; and
- compare the alternative route/s and recommend an optimal route that meets the agreed criteria.

The report from GHD, using their proprietary multi-criteria analysis tool InDeGO, concludes that Tumut North is the recommended route option due to it having the lowest enviro-social impact and lowest cost.

The report also concludes that the route option from Wondalga to Maragle to Yass via the Kosciuszko National Park (referred to as 'Option 2F' by the community) is the least optimal route due to its:

- substantially higher InDeGO<sup>1</sup> score due to the significant environmental impacts associated with the route traversing the national park and potential impacts on the Burrinjuck Dam heritage site; and

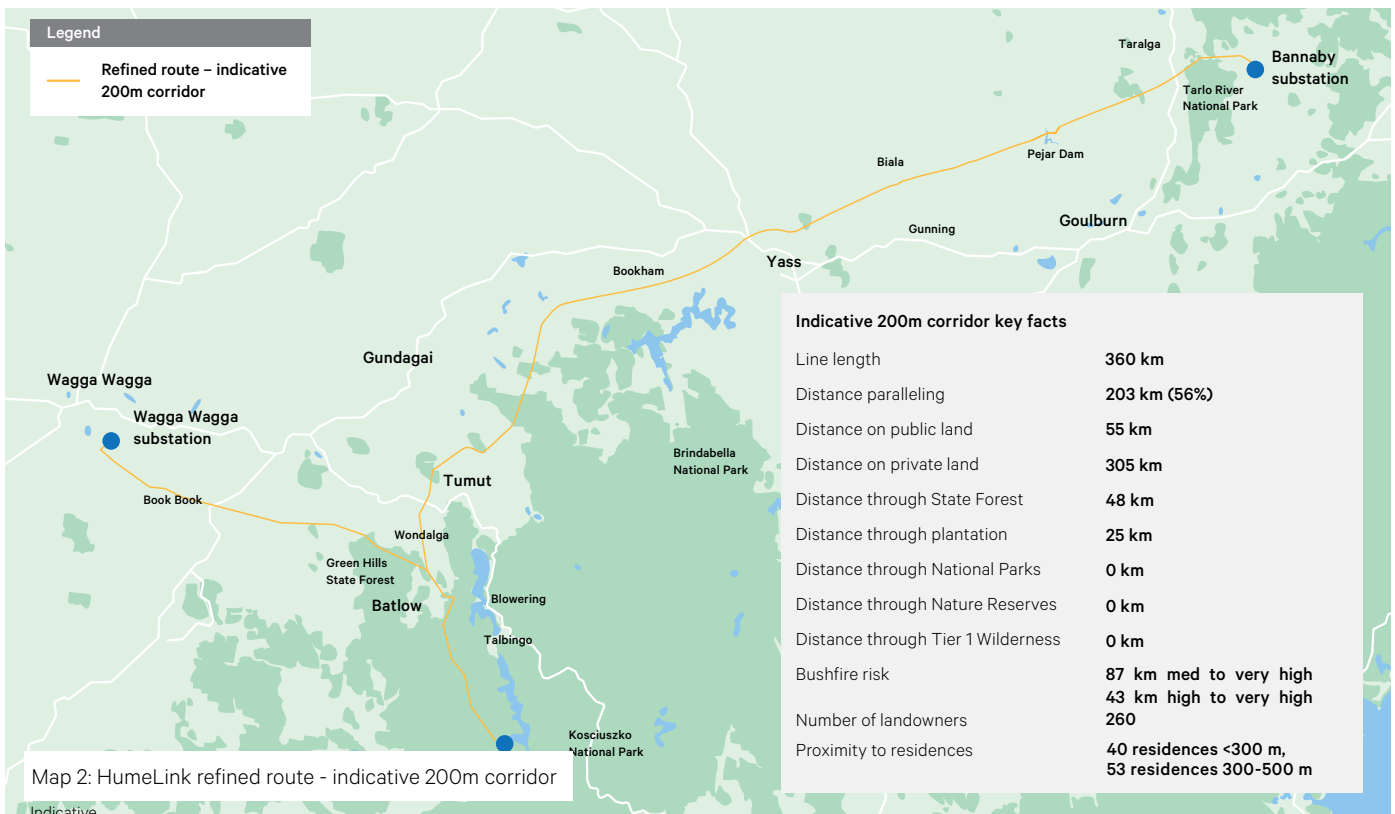
- it's being \$255 million more expensive than Tumut North largely due to the complexity of construction through the alpine region, the cost of acquiring state forest and national park land, and the higher biodiversity impact.

The Blowering route option was also examined by GHD. The report concludes that compared to Tumut North, the Blowering route option has higher enviro-social impacts and an increased cost to the project of \$53 million.

## Transgrid's HumeLink route refinement decisions

Following community feedback and further investigation the four route refinement decisions are:

- 1. Tumut area:** Tumut North is the preferred route having the lowest impact, best network resilience and lowest cost.
- 2. Bannaby area:** the northern route alternative is the preferred route having the lowest environmental impact and best network resilience.
- 3. Pejar Dam area:** the alternative route paralleling line 3H is preferred, providing greater opportunities for paralleling and a lower amenity impact on Pejar Dam recreational users.
- 4. Green Hills area:** the alternative route through Green Hills State Forest is preferred to benefit private landowners.



### Next steps

We thank landowners and local communities for their patience as we progress planning for HumeLink.

We will advise all landowners about the refined route 200m corridor by the end of April 2022 by telephone, email and in writing.

The *Undergrounding Feasibility Study* continues under the direction of the community-led Steering Committee and will be published by early May 2022. If the study provides a better option, Transgrid will then consider those findings.

We will commence negotiations with landowners for easement acquisitions from May 2022. The next Community Consultative Group meetings will be held on 6 and 7 April 2022 in Wagga Wagga, Tumut and Yass.

### More information

See other fact sheets for information on:

- Green Hills Route Refinement Decision
- Tumut Area Route Refinement Decision
- Bunnaby Route Refinement Decision
- Pejar Dam Route Refinement Decision
- GHD Route Options Assessment



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