

## Green Hills route refinement

The HumeLink alignment was proposed to traverse Maragle and Wondalga, through the Bago and Green Hills State Forests.

During Transgrid's consultation, impacted landowners and the community proposed an alternate western route through the Bago and Green Hills State Forests. In December 2022 Transgrid announced it would investigate the feasibility of the alternate route through the Bago and Green Hills State Forests, and in August 2023, determined this alternate route to be the most viable route for HumeLink. The original route assessed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will now be amended to this preferred western Green Hills route (Figure 1).

The western Green Hills route will:

- remove 10 private landowners from requiring an easement
- improve constructability and access
- reduce operational impacts
- support a community proposed alternative
- reduce the potential biodiversity impacts and associated offset costs, requiring less native vegetation clearing

- reduce the potential heritage impacts in Bago State Forest
- reduce the visual impact of transmission line structures from residences
- align with NSW Government principles on placing transmission infrastructure on public land where feasible.

In addition, the amendment reduces environmental impacts on native bushland, as areas within Green Hills State Forest have softwood plantations of radiata pine, which are not considered native vegetation. There are also locations currently void of trees due to bushfires (however there has been some replanting carried out in bushfire-affected areas in recent years).

As a result of the Green Hills route refinement, the adjusted total transmission line length is now 365 kilometres. This is an increase of five kilometres on the original length, however this preferred route will generally reduce impact to the community.



**Figure 1:** The Green Hills route, running to the west of the route assessed in the HumeLink EIS, has been determined as the most viable route for HumeLink.

## The route selection process

As part of Transgrid's route selection process, technical and environmental information is collected and assessed. We also consult with landowners, local community groups and Traditional Owners to bring their feedback, knowledge and concerns into our assessments to inform the route selection.

The route alignment aims to minimise impacts where possible and:

- keep the transmission line straight
- keep the route between two substations short
- parallel existing transmission easements
- uses public land.

## Refining the route

During the route refinement process, Transgrid identifies constraints as well as opportunities to minimise potential disturbance areas. This includes looking at social, environmental and geographical considerations such as the location of built-up areas, airports, community infrastructure and cultural heritage. We also look at native flora and fauna, physical environmental factors such as soils, hydrology and topography, and land use for agriculture, tourism and industry.

Technical investigations, including environmental field surveys, are carried out for the project's EIS and to support the route refinement process.

## When will the Green Hills route be assessed?

Transgrid has identified a number of proposed amendments and refinements to HumeLink following the public exhibition of the EIS and its lodgement with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), formerly the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in August 2023.

These refinements, along with project amendments identified with further input from the delivery partners and in response to issues raised in EIS submissions, will be assessed in an Amendment Report.

The Amendment Report will describe and assess potential impacts from the proposed changes and identify how impacts from these changes would be managed and mitigated. The Green Hills route will be assessed as part of this Amendment Report. The report will be lodged concurrently with a Submissions Report to the DPHI during the first half of 2024.

As the project progresses with the Submissions Report and Amendment Report, the project team will continue to engage with local communities and stakeholders.

For more information on the HumeLink project, please visit the [HumeLink website](#).



## Transgrid's commitment to impacted landowners and local communities

We are committed to working collaboratively with landowners and local communities to minimise impacts wherever possible. We thank landowners and the community for their time and patience during the route refinement process.

Transgrid has formally notified previously impacted landowners along the original eastern route through Gilmore Valley south of Wondalga that HumeLink will no longer need to acquire easements across the area.

We recognise the project has been a significant burden for some landowners and remain committed to working collaboratively to ensure those impacted are supported as we transition to the proposed Green Hills route.

## Connect with us

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



1800 31 73 67 (free call)  
[humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au)  
[transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

HumeLink Community Engagement Team,  
PO BOX A1000, Sydney South, NSW 1235

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