

# HumeLink Community Newsletter

February and March 2024

## 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 - helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, 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. HumeLink is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to [transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

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## Project update

### Community Information Sessions

Our latest community information sessions were held between Monday 12 February and Friday 23 February 2024.

Members of the HumeLink project team visited 12 locations, holding 15 drop-in sessions with 65 community attendees to allow the community to hear from key members of the project team, ask questions, provide feedback and learn about progress and amendments that will be included in the Amendment Report. In addition to our community information

sessions, the Transgrid project team hosted street meetings with our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) in Yass, Crookwell, Tarcutta and Batlow.

We understand not everyone is able to join us in-person, so we also held three webinar events to share the project progress and allow the community to ask questions.

The HumeLink team would like to thank everyone who joined us both in-person and online. We appreciate you taking the time to come and speak with us and discuss the project.



**Pictured:** HumeLink Community Information Sessions

As the project progresses will continue to host sessions online and in-person.

Scan the QR code to keep up to date about upcoming events or visit [transgrid.com.au/HumeLink](https://transgrid.com.au/HumeLink)



### What information was available at the sessions?

At the community information sessions, the project team had a series of fact sheets on display about information that will be included in the Amendment Report which we intend to submit to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in mid-2024. The three fact sheets that were available are also available on the HumeLink website:

- [Gugaa Substation Fact Sheet](#)
- [Green Hills Fact Sheet](#)
- [Construction Fact Sheet](#)

Project team members were also available at these sessions to answer technical questions, providing expertise and support regarding the Amendment Report and refinements.



## Transgrid encourages feedback on HumeLink application

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has published the Contingent Project Application Stage 2 (CPA2) for Transgrid's HumeLink project, which outlines the estimated project costs and anticipated community benefits for the nation-critical transmission project.

The CPA2 provides details on the specific costings to deliver the HumeLink project, and the significantly increased market benefits to consumers from \$491 million to more than \$1 billion. It also details millions of cost savings to consumers through innovative procurement and project integration planning, including:

- \$85 million for securing long lead equipment (LLE) such as reactors, transformers and conductors through Transgrid's Powering Tomorrow Together (PTT) program
- \$237 million in savings for the design and construction of substations and transmission lines including access tracks under an innovative contracting approach.

Publication of the CPA2 starts AER's official four-week consultation process for this part of the process and will run in parallel with the three-week consultation period for Transgrid's Response to the Material Change in Circumstance (MCC) assessment, which demonstrates that the project remains the preferred option. Feedback received on the draft CPA2, published on Transgrid's website since December 2023, will also be considered by the AER in making its determination.

The CPA2 can be accessed on the [AER's website](#). Submissions are invited and can be made until 3 April 2024. Transgrid also welcomes feedback on [the MCC assessment](#). To share your feedback, email [humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au) before 3 April 2024.

For more information about CPA2 and MCC, visit the [project website](#).



## Delivery partner news

### Business procurement webpages are live

The Industry Capability Network (ICN) is a platform that connects businesses to procurement opportunities on projects like ours across Australia and New Zealand. The ICN pages for our delivery partners are now live:

HumeLink route section	Delivery Partners	ICN webpage
HumeLink East	Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd and Genus Infrastructure (NSW) Pty Ltd (AG JV)	<a href="https://icn.org.au">HumeLink East (icn.org.au)</a>
HumeLink West	UGL Engineering Pty Ltd and CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (UGL-CPB JV)	<a href="https://icn.org.au">HumeLink West (icn.org.au)</a>

Our project team has worked closely with both Delivery Partners and regional managers at ICN to make these pages available early in the planning process.

Within these pages, our Delivery Partners have listed their current packages of work, allowing interested suppliers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). These pages will continue to be updated with new opportunities as the project progresses.





## HumeLink East Business Buzz sessions

The HumeLink East project team recently held Business Buzz information sessions tailored to local businesses and workforce to discuss the opportunities the project will bring to the region. Throughout February, five in-person sessions were held in Campbelltown, Goulburn, Gundagai, Canberra and Oak Flats. More than 140 people attended and key themes of project updates, procurement packages and systems, and employment and training opportunities were discussed over the duration of the sessions.

These sessions included information on:

- upcoming packages of work
- registration of interest process
- training opportunities, including fully funded traineeships, apprenticeships, and scholarships
- aboriginal engagement, participation and registration on Indigenous business networking bodies including Supply Nation and New South Wales Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC)
- opportunities to grow local businesses through our business support program.



**Pictured:** HumeLink East Business Buzz Sessions

### Local business register

If you have a business in the local government areas along the HumeLink project footprint and are interested in working with the HumeLink project, we would like to hear from you.

Simply register your business and we will share your details with our Delivery Partners. The local business register will also be the project teams' first port of call when we are looking to procure goods and services at various stages of the project.

**If you are a local business interested in working on HumeLink Register your business [here](#).**



### In the community

#### Tumbatrek 2024

In alignment with our commitment to supporting the regions in which we operate, the HumeLink project team recently took part in Tumbatrek 2024. The fundraiser event was facilitated by Member for Eden-Monaro, the Hon Kristy McBain, and Snowy Valleys Council Mayor Ian Chaffey. This annual 13 kilometre hike through the Bago State Forest, serves as a distinctive platform for community and government leaders to address regional issues amidst the scenic backdrop of the area's natural beauty.

Tumbatrek brings together approximately 150 community members, local MPs, businesses, and organisations actively contributing to the region. Their collective presence fosters collaboration, dialogue, and a shared commitment to the growth and wellbeing of Snowy Valleys communities.



**Pictured:** Tumbatrek community and government leaders hiking through Bago State Forest.

**Community Partnerships Program - grants for community initiatives**

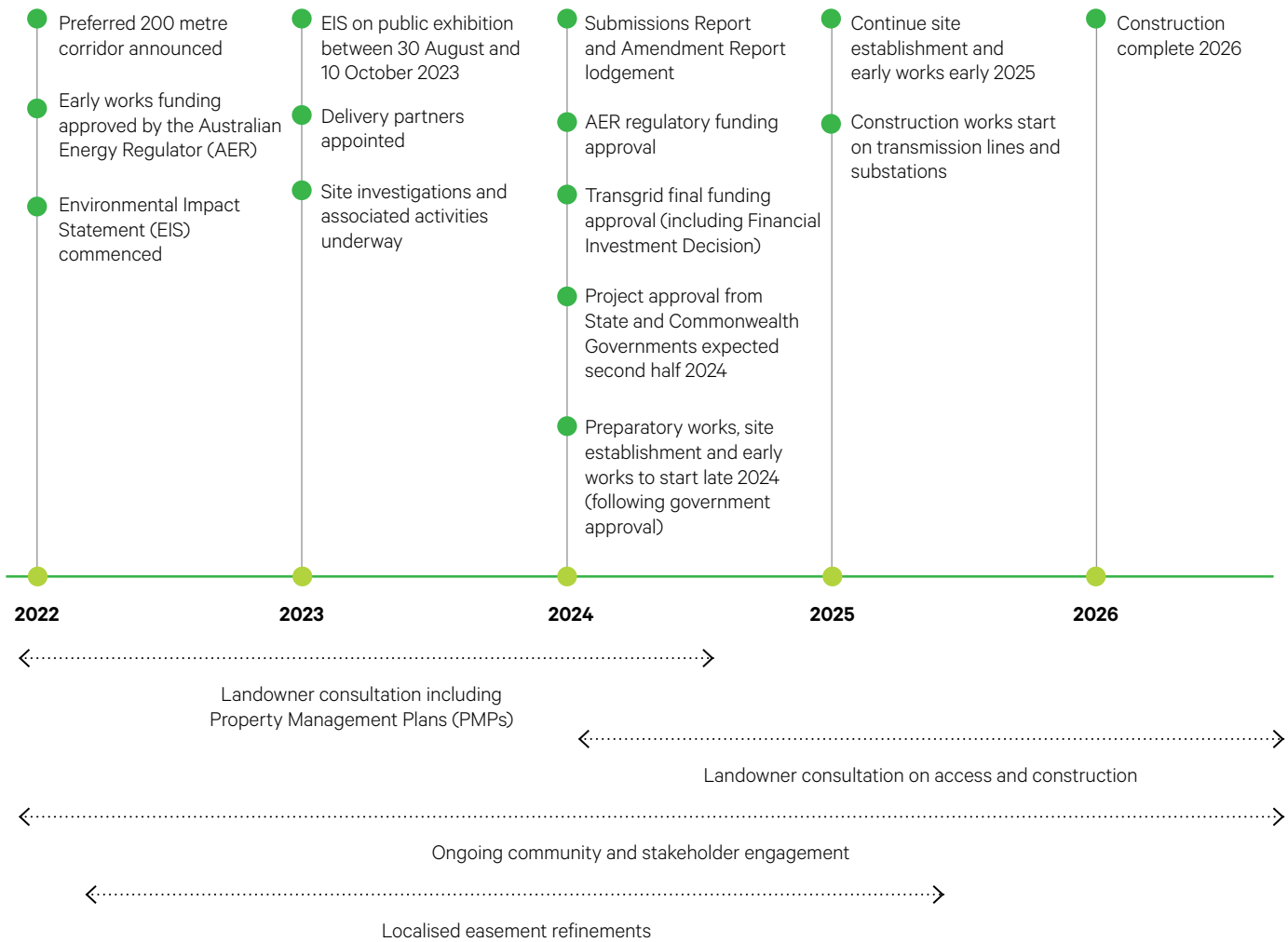
Transgrid’s Community Partnerships Program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations, and major project areas. Not-for-profit groups provide a range of invaluable resources for their communities. Our Community Partnerships Program was created to give a boost to the people who live and work in the regions local to Transgrid assets or construction. Since 2020, Transgrid has

awarded grants to more than 60 organisations for a range of initiatives spanning from community infrastructure to workshops, along with inclusivity and accessibility projects. The next round of Transgrid’s Community Partnerships Program opens on 25 March 2024. For more information on the program and past beneficiaries, see Transgrid’s Community Partnerships Program [webpage](#).



**HumeLink key project dates**

We are here





## What's coming up in 2024

### Amendment Report and Submissions Report

As part of the planning approval process, Transgrid is currently preparing an Amendment Report and Submissions Report which will be lodged concurrently with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The Amendment Report outlines several proposed amendments and refinements to the HumeLink project including those made in response to feedback received during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public exhibition in 2023. It will describe the potential impacts of these amendments and refinements and how Transgrid and its Delivery Partners intend to manage and mitigate them. The Submissions Report will present responses to the stakeholder and community submissions provided to the DPHI on the EIS.

The Submissions Report and Amendment Report will cross-reference one another and should be read together. Both documents will be made available on the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal.

Throughout the development of the Amendment Report, the HumeLink project team has continued to engage with local communities and key stakeholders, including with council representatives, government agencies, First Nations stakeholders, landowners and the general community.

During the most recent round of community information sessions in February this year, community members and stakeholders were particularly interested in knowing more about the amendments and refinements included as part of the Amendment Report. Key topics included the proposed worker accommodation facilities, traffic movement and traffic safety during construction and the use of local roads and access tracks. Attendees were also interested in learning about opportunities for local businesses and local workers as well as the positive local economic impact the project may bring.

Later this month, we will share the progress of the Amendment Report assessment with our CCG members, and continue to engage with relevant agencies, councils, landowners, First Nations stakeholders and community members.

A final assessment and determination of the HumeLink EIS, Amendment Report and Submissions Report will be delivered under a bilateral agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth governments. This is a process established to strengthen co-operation and reduce duplication on planning approval matters.

Subject to the NSW and Commonwealth Government planning approvals, construction of HumeLink will start in late 2024 and be completed in 2026.



### Support services for landowners

We recognise our transmission projects may have increased the level of stress and anxiety experienced by landowners and have engaged Assure Programs, an independent, confidential counselling service, to provide free, short-term support to anyone who feels they need assistance or simply wants to talk. If you are a landowner and would like confidential support and counselling, we encourage you to book a free appointment by calling Assure on 1800 808 374, or request an appointment [online](#).

### 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 3173 67 (free call)  
[HumeLink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:HumeLink@transgrid.com.au)  
[transgrid.com.au/HumeLink](https://transgrid.com.au/HumeLink)

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