

HumeLink Community Newsletter

April 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.

It will be one of the nation's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 360 km 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 a planning and approval process.

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

In this issue:

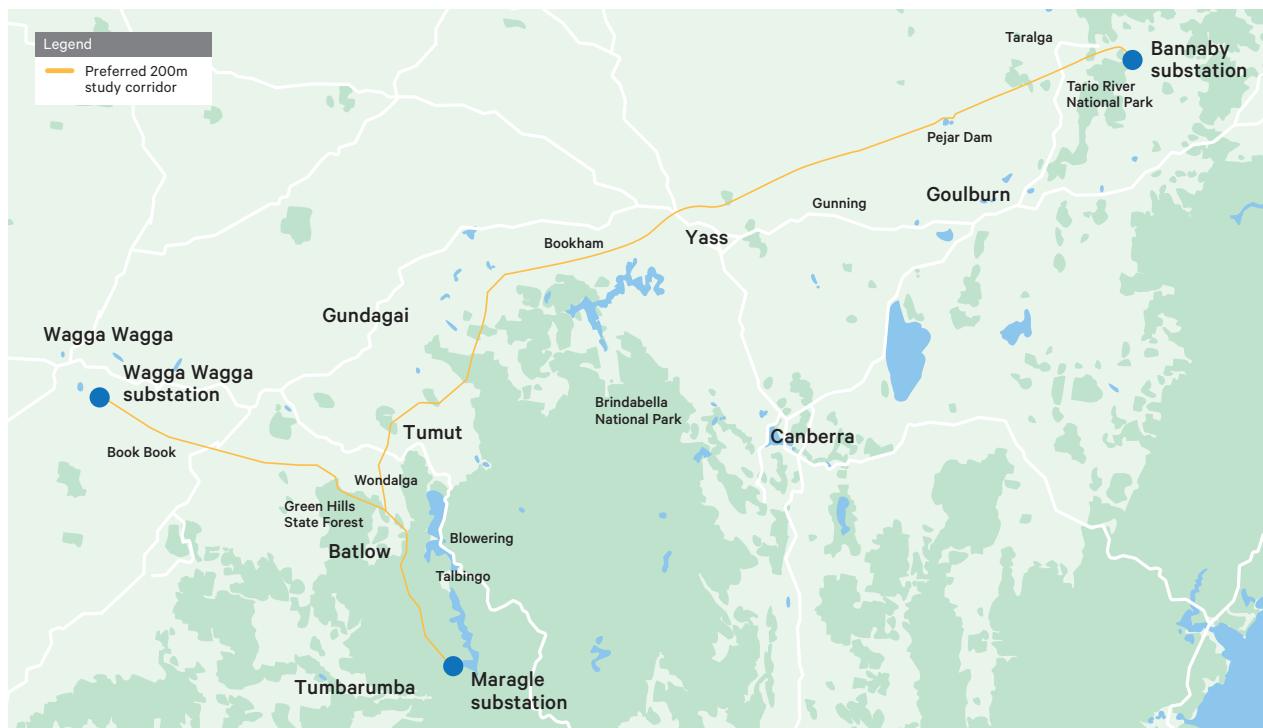
Feature story:
Traffic and transport
study

Geotechnical
investigations complete

Community
Partnerships
Program now open

Upcoming webinars

HumeLink proposed route





Feature story: Traffic and transport study

As part of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Transgrid is undertaking a Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment (TTIA) to understand potential impacts the project may have on transport and traffic conditions during the construction and operation of the project. This assessment studied the transport network within the study area including roads, rail, and active transport (walking, cycling).

As active transport facilities and public transport are focused mostly in towns and urban areas, the impact on these modes of transport is expected to be negligible during the construction and operation of HumeLink.

You may however notice some increase in traffic on the road network during construction and occasionally during the operation of HumeLink. We recognise changes to traffic and transport can be disruptive. We will use the information gathered through the TTIA assessment to manage and minimise these impacts where possible.

Assessment of traffic and transport impacts

The TTIA study area includes roads and transport networks within the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Wagga Wagga, Snowy Valleys, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Yass Valley, Upper Lachlan Shire, Goulburn-Mulwaree and Hilltops.

Our team conducted the TTIA study by identifying and assessing existing transport conditions, understanding distribution and level of service of transport within the traffic study area, calculating future traffic generation, assessing cumulative impacts in consideration of other infrastructure projects, and identifying potential traffic and transport mitigation and management measures. Relevant authorities, such as local councils and Transport for NSW were also consulted to obtain feedback and information.

Traffic during construction

During construction, vehicle movements will include transport of equipment, waste, material, spoil and workers vehicles. The transportation of construction materials and equipment will take place using national, state, and local road networks.

Increased heavy vehicle traffic will mainly come from construction compounds where materials will be delivered to construction locations. These movements will likely be most evident at the beginning and end of the working day, and between work sites during the day.

National and state roads which proposed to provide access to construction locations include:

- Hume Highway
- Sturt Highway
- Snowy Mountains Highway
- Batlow Road
- Gocup Road

Access tracks on private properties will also be used to access construction locations.

Potential impacts



Temporary congestion



Temporary changes in traffic flow



Temporary road closures

Partial or full road closure may be required for transmission line stringing activities. Road closures will be planned outside traffic peak where feasible and with the approval of road authority. Further arrangements for closures will be confirmed and communicated during construction planning.

Traffic during operation

During operation, the movement of vehicles during routine inspections and maintenance is expected to have minimal impact on traffic and transport.

The frequency of routine inspections and maintenance associated with the transmission lines and substations varies in duration from monthly, up to every 4–6 years, depending on the activity (e.g. for routine substation maintenance and vegetation management within the transmission line easement, respectively). The associated very low volumes of light and heavy vehicles used are anticipated to have negligible impact on road traffic and conditions.

No full or partial road closures are anticipated for routine inspections and maintenance activities.

Traffic management and mitigation measures

During the construction and operation of HumeLink the traffic impacts will primarily be managed through consistent communication with relevant road and rail authorities, motorists, landowners and project stakeholders.

A Traffic and Transport Management Plan (TTMP) will be developed detailing how potential project-related traffic and access impacts will be mitigated and managed. This plan will be developed in consultation with local councils and Transport for NSW and be implemented by the project's construction delivery partners, as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Next Steps

As the project progresses through the development of the EIS and detailed design, more information about the identified impacts to traffic and transport as well as the proposed management measures will become available.

You can read the full TTIA as part of the EIS exhibition in the second half of 2023. During this time, you will have the opportunity to make a submission.



In the community

Geotechnical investigations complete

Humelink’s geotechnical investigations have now been completed. At over 300 locations along the proposed Humelink corridor boreholes were dug to collect rock and soil samples.

This undertaking has been to inform the project’s detailed design. Results of the study will help to inform route alignment, location and the engineering of towers and to ensure structural stability.

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



Pictured: Geotechnical investigations at Bannaby substation.

Plant, machinery and equipment during construction

HumeLink will use a range of different equipment to clear access tracks, lay tower foundations, assemble transmission towers and string cables. Equipment near construction locations will vary at different stages of construction. You may notice, surveying equipment, piling rigs and excavators, bobcats, cranes and trucks.

As design progresses, we will have more information on the specific types of machinery that will used.

Landowner support

We recognise that our transmission projects may have increased the level of stress and anxiety experienced by landowners. Transgrid has engaged an external service provider – Assure Programs – to provide impacted landowners with short-term support and counselling.

If you are a landowner, and would like confidential support and counselling, we encourage you to access the services Assure Programs provides. For more information please talk to your dedicated place manager or see Transgrid’s landowner support and advocacy [webpage](#).

Lifeline is available 24/7 by calling 13 11 14.

Transgrid’s Reconciliation Action Plan

We know that we have an important role to play in creating a more equitable future. In March 2023, Transgrid launched our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which is the third stage of RAP under the Reconciliation Australia framework.

Our Stretch RAP comprises a wide range of initiatives and programs over the next three years as well as the steps we will take to achieve them. It will capitalise on the progress we made in delivering our second Innovate RAP in 2020.

For more information on our RAP see Transgrid’s [webpage](#).



Pictured: RAP representatives and Transgrid staff at the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan event that took place in March 2023.



What's coming up

Community Partnerships Program has opened

Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program (CPP) will be open between 31 March and 30 April 2023. The program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations, and major project areas.

To find out more about the program, check your organisations eligibility and apply, visit Transgrid's Community Partnerships [webpage](#).



Pictured: CPP grant recipient, Upper Lachlan Landcare, hosting a tree planting event.

HumeLink webinars: past and upcoming

In March, the HumeLink team held two webinars focused on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), specifically the landscape character and visual amenity, land use and property and agricultural land technical studies. The webinar slides are available on HumeLink's [webpage](#).

Our next webinars will be focused on traffic and transport and noise and vibration technical studies within the EIS. The webinars will be hosted on Zoom at the following times and dates;

- Tuesday 2 May, 5:30pm to 7:00pm (AEST)
- Friday 5 May, 12:00pm to 1:30pm (AEST)

To RSVP, please see HumeLink's [webpage](#).

Subscribe to receive project updates on future events and activities by scanning the QR code or visiting HumeLink's [webpage](#).

HumeLink community information sessions

If you are interested in learning more about the HumeLink project and the EIS, please join the team at our upcoming drop-in community information sessions.

Proposed community information session dates and times:

Week One

- Wagga** Monday 22 May 4pm–6pm
- Tumut** Tuesday 23 May 11am–1pm
- Gundagai** Wednesday 24 May 11am–1pm
- Batlow** Wednesday 24 May 4pm–6pm
- Adelong** Thursday 25 May 11am–1pm
- Tumbarumba** Thursday 25 May 4pm–6pm

Week Two

- Yass** Monday 29 May 4pm–6pm
- Crookwell** Tuesday 30 May 11am–1pm
- Gunning** Tuesday 30 May 4pm–6pm
- Taralga** Wednesday 31 May 11am–1pm & 4pm–6pm

For the most up to date information on these sessions please visit the HumeLink website.

Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this great land. We recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first explorers, scientists, farmers, astronomers, and storytellers.

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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