

1.1 HUMELINK WAGGA WAGGA COOTAMUNDRA GUNDAGAI COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP: 2ND MEETING

Time	12.30pm – 2.30pm
Date	16 November 2021
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inaugural Chair: Brian Elton – Secretariat: Ella Burgess – Transgrid: Tim Edwards Fleur Laurence, Matthew Armstrong – CCG: Cheryl Penrith, Phillip McMurray, Daniel Brear, Catriona McAuliffe, Serena Hardwick, Michael Keys – Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Barbara El-Gamal – Observers: Deb Pobjie (Transgrid)
Apologies	Clr Kerry Pascoe, Rod Stowe (attended part meeting)
Meeting location	Gundagai District Services Club
Meeting materials	Presentation
Purpose of meeting	Second Meeting
Attachments to minutes	Question tracker, presentation

1.2 AGENDA

Item	Agenda topic	Discussion summary	To note
1	Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country and apologies	<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting began at 12:34pm. • Welcome from the Chair, introductions, background from community, landowner and organisation Community Consultative Group (CCG) members. • Introductions and involvement in the project from the representatives of the Transgrid HumeLink project team. • The Chair outlined the scope of the meeting and noted that undergrounding, the scoping report, and compensation were all substantial agenda items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies, Clr Kerry Pascoe and Rod Stowe. • It was noted Ella Burgess was Acting Secretariat in place of Katie Casson. • The Chair noted that the conversations around undergrounding, compensation and the scoping report would serve as opening conversations to be further deliberated with the CCG moving forward.
2	Minutes of the last meeting	<p>General housekeeping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair talked to the late distribution of the October meeting minutes, presentation and question tracker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the atypical timing of the October and November meetings as well as some unforeseen circumstances, the distribution of the meeting minutes was delayed.

Meeting minutes

The Chair called for comments and questions on the previous meeting minutes

- The previous meeting minutes were adopted.
- The Chair noted that the question tracker was sent on 15 November 2021.

Expectations for the circulation of meeting materials moving forward:

- The Chair proposed a timeline for the issuing of the meeting minutes moving forward.
 - The Secretariat to draft the meeting minutes within four working days of the meeting.
 - The minutes will then be checked by Transgrid for technical accuracy only within two working days.
 - CCG members will then have three working days from receipt for comment.
 - The Chair and Secretariat will then review and incorporate all comments and questions within three working days of receipt.
 - When Transgrid receive the final minutes, they are to be placed on the project website within one day of receipt.

The Chair called for consensus on the proposed timeline for distribution of the meeting minutes.

- The proposed timeline was adopted.

Additional landowner CCG members

- The Chair noted the representation of landowners in the WWCG CCG was low.
- The Chair proposed a process to invite applications from more landowners to the WWCG CCG.

- CCG members are to respond to the question tracker between CCG meetings.
- As there are three CCGs that occur consecutively, the standard two-week turnaround time for the minutes was agreed to be extended as per the outline of the proposed timeline.
- Any changes Transgrid makes to the meeting minutes of a technical nature are to be tracked and noted to provide the community with transparency.
- Brendan Blakeley's contact: Brendan.blakeley@wsp.com.
- Transgrid to provide CCG members with CCG recruitment information to be circulated in their communications channels.

Meeting minutes

- CCG members and place managers to contact Brendan Blakley about additional landowner members.
- If several people from one geographic area show interest, it would be preferred if one landowner is put forward to be selected as their representative.
- The Wagga Wagga Business Chamber will promote recruitment through their communications channels.

The Chair asked if there was consensus on the proposed process.

- The process was adopted.

3 Undergrounding

Presentation:

Tim provided an overview of the undergrounding study.

- During the October meeting, CCG members expressed desire to further understand the process of undergrounding and how they could be involved in the process.
- Transgrid is commissioning a project specific independent study to understand the feasibility of undergrounding.
- Transgrid are in the process of developing the scope and are looking for community input.
- The study is aimed for completion by the end of the first Quarter 2022.

Tim provided an overview of what undergrounding is.

- Overhead transmission lines carry alternating current (AC). Direct Current (DC) is also used for undergrounding
- Transgrid will be investigating the feasibility of both AC and DC underground.
- There are some precedent examples of DC underground transmission in Australia.

- Fleur has been collecting all questions from the community about undergrounding received through multiple feedback channels. This will help to inform the brief for the independent study.
- CCG community members noted they would like to reserve comment on the undergrounding until high impact landowners have been able to give feedback.
- The brief will need to cover community related issues and concerns.
- Transgrid noted that roles and responsibilities within the Steering Committee need to be established.

Meeting minutes

- For either AC or DC transmission underground, the cables will require the excavation of a cable trench, the installation of conduits and back fill.
- The number of cables and size of the trench will be determined by a number of factors including the required circuit rating, depth and ability of natural soils to dissipate the heat.
- DC transmission underground requires less cable in the ground than AC however, there is a large cost associated with connecting DC to AC transmission above ground.
- Underground transmission may require access for the majority of the route.
- Joint bays are required, and they may be spaced every 800 – 1000 metres. A 10 metre by 3 metre concrete box (joint bay) is indicative of size, largely underground would be required to install cables underground. Note that this indication is provided to capture joint bay dimensions, but the number of co-located joint bays is dependent on the final cable design.

The Chair called for questions of a technical nature.

- Community members noted the short timeframe in which to complete the study and asked if the majority of the study will be based off desktop.
- Transgrid confirmed it would predominantly be a desktop study.

The Chair led a conversation around the CCG's involvement in the undergrounding process.

- There is obvious skepticism within the CCG about Transgrid's intentions with the undergrounding study and questioning if it is just a *tick box exercise*.
- The Chair noted that there is also a proposal for a community led Undergrounding Study.

Meeting minutes

- The Chair outlined his experience on a project of a similar nature and how the community were able to be involved and influence a study.
- The Chair proposed a process to ensure the community's continued involvement and influence over Transgrid's independent undergrounding study:
 - Each CCG would nominate a member to join a Steering Committee for the Undergrounding Study
 - The Steering Committee would assist in compiling the brief, assist in the selection of the consultant, and jointly manage the study with Transgrid.
 - When the draft brief has been compiled, it will be available to all CCG members for comment.
 - The CCG would have the option to engage a technical consultant that would be appointed by the community and advise the Steering Committee. Transgrid would pay for the chosen independent consultant.

The Chair called for comments and questions.

- Community CCG members commented that it sounds like a good opportunity for different groups and the community to have some ownership.
- The group noted that it sounds reasonable, however finding a person who has the technical understanding as well as the time may be difficult.
- The Chair noted that between now and Christmas the CCG will need to identify a technical consultant.
- Community CCG members expressed concern that the current timeline will make the process look rushed at this time of year.

- The Chair noted that this is something the community would like to see happen.
- A community CCG member acknowledged that the project is not on pause and the CCG needs to ensure that they remain agile enough to move with it whilst also paying respect to the process. There is a balancing act between coming to an answer and the next steps in the process.
- Community CCG members indicated they were hesitant to put forward a CCG representative to the Steering Committee, preferring a landowner representative.

The Chair asked if there was consensus on the proposed process.

- The general process for community involvement was agreed.

Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.

4 Engagement

Timeline

- Fleur provided an update on the engagement timeline.

Discussion

- The Chair asked what Transgrid are doing to engage with landowners adjacent to the corridor.
- Transgrid will broaden their distribution scope of newsletters and fact sheets. Proactive communications are being targeted via social media and their website. Face to face information pop sessions are being planned and they are encouraging people to sign up for their newsletter.
- Community CCG members queried if Transgrid have been engaging with local, State and Federal MPs and what the interactions have been like.
- Transgrid confirmed they have been engaging with local, State and Federal

- As the October CCG meeting was held three weeks prior to the November meeting, there were few updates. See slide 4 of the November presentation for an overview of the HumeLink update.
- Transgrid will share proposed engagement channels and high level messages to engage with the broader community with Wagga Wagga Business Chamber
- Transgrid will investigate if the fortnightly communications with MPs can be shared with the CCG

MPs. The purpose of the engagement is to understand constituents' concerns and identify themes of community issues and work together to address or minimise these concerns.

- As part of the Landowner and Community Advocate Report and the 20 recommendations that Transgrid have adopted, they have fortnightly communications with the Minister on how they are tracking against the recommendations.

Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.

5 HumeLink Scoping Report

Scoping report

Tim provided an overview of the scoping report.

- Objectives and purpose of the scoping report are as outlined on slide 11 of the November presentation.
- The key issues and other issues identified in the scoping report are listed on slide 12 of the November presentation.
- The issues of biodiversity and heritage were explained in more detail on slide 13 of the November presentation.
- Transgrid are aiming to submit the scoping report by late 2021. Submitting does not mean route refinement and updated environmental information cannot be revisited. Transgrid will continue to refine the route inclusive of information along the route.

Discussion

- Community CCG members made the comment that there is often a disconnect between data in scoping report and what is true to the landholder. Local landholders have much more in-depth knowledge of their land. It would create angst and

- Transgrid will issue the scoping report to the CCG members when it is finalised.
- The preamble of the scoping report will make its purpose around feedback from stakeholders clear. Though the scoping report will be made publicly available, its key purpose is receive feedback from government agencies on the content and methodology within the report.
- Transgrid will be alerting the community when the report is available.

distrust if elements are left out of the scoping report but then appear in the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement).

- Transgrid acknowledged that landowners will always know more about their land and assets, but that Transgrid needs to provide best available information to progress the project development process. Transgrid welcomes additional information to be provided by landowners and other community members as the route is refined.
- The Chair acknowledged that the preamble to the scoping report needs to make clear community feedback is encouraged.
- Community CCG members noted that there is a big difference between alerting the community about the report and actually engaging with them.

The Chair called for additional questions and comments on the scoping report.

- No questions were noted from the group.

Questions and responses have been outlined in the attached Question Tracker.

6 Compensation

Compensation

Tim gave an overview of compensation updates

- See slide 16 of the November presentation for an overview of the compensation updates
- Transgrid has received preliminary legal advice that alternative payment arrangements are possible under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.
- The legislation does not prevent Transgrid from offering compensation as a series of annual payments.

- The possibility of alternative payments options under the Just Terms Act is an important step forward for Transgrid.

Transgrid is now considering how annual payments could work within the regulatory framework, and to ensure potential issues that need to be resolved are identified.

- Transgrid remains committed to identifying a workable solution that will provide payment method optionality for easement affected landowners.
- Transgrid will work with the AER to acknowledge the prudent and efficient expenditure of annual payments.
- Transgrid is also committed to working with NSW Government as they consider additional options to change legislation to improve outcomes for easement affected landowners.

Discussion

- Community members acknowledged that this was an unexpected but welcome update. It was noted that Transgrid have a suite of other energy projects to which this approach could potentially be applied.
- Transgrid commented that more work is needed but a flexible model could be adopted across the business.

7 December Engagement

December Engagement

Fleur provided an overview of upcoming engagement in December 2021.

- See slide 17 of the November presentation.
- CCG members noted that the end of the year is very busy in terms of agriculture. People are not disinterested but they are very busy.

- Transgrid will not be conducting any planned engagement activities over the holiday break.

8 Discussion and general business

The Chair called for other items of business.

Reimbursement

- The Chair is of the opinion it is appropriate to reimburse members for out-of-pocket expenses such as fuel.

- Transgrid are to institute the \$50 Eftpos voucher for eligible members right away.
- When Brendan is selecting landowners to join the CCG, he will look out for those who have a particular interest in undergrounding.

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- Landowner and council representatives who are already paid will not receive the reimbursement.
- A \$50 Eftpos voucher for each member was agreed on.

CCG representative for the Steering Committee

- Community members decided it would be best if the nominated Steering Committee member was a landowner.

Discussion

- The Chair reminded members that technical questions do take Transgrid time to get an answer approved.
- Transgrid are using an IAP2 model for their engagement plan.
- Wagga Wagga Business Chamber requested the HumeLink engagement plan so key messages and communication channels for the broader community engagement so they can potentially support.

- The next CCG meeting will be held in late January 2022.

7 Meeting close

- The meeting closed at 2pm.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked attendees for their time and input.

1.3 OPEN ACTIONS

No.	Action	Status or comment
1	Secretariat is to follow up with members on administrative details including signed Code of Conduct Agreements and sharing of contact details	Underway
2	The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members	Underway
3	Transgrid is to make information available to members of the CCG as to what constraints it considers when defining the corridor	Refer Slide 16 October CCG presentation
5	Interactive map for landholders and the community is to be shared with the CCG	Question 4 in the action tracker

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6	Transgrid to make the contact details for members of their Community Team available to the CCG	Underway
7	If Place Managers or CCG members are aware of landowners who would be interested in the CCG, please pass them on to Brendan Blakeley – Brendan.blakeley@wsp.com	Underway
8	Transgrid to send CCG members the copy for member recruitment	Underway
9	Transgrid to determine if they can send Wagga Wagga Business Chamber the draft HumeLink engagement plan so messages and communications channels can be complimented	Underway
10	Transgrid to determine if they can share the STOWE report with the CCG group	Provided in action tracker
11	CCG members to appoint a representative for the Steering Committee and find a technical advisor	Underway
12	Transgrid to institute the \$50 reimbursement for eligible members	Underway

1.4 NEXT MEETING

Item	Agenda topic
1	Compensation
2	Undergrounding
3	Scoping report

1.5 CLOSED ACTIONS

No.	Action	Status or comment
4	Transgrid to share information with members of the CCG on the difference between single and double circuit towers, what they look like and their size	Included in the presentation

Meeting minutes endorsed by the CCG Chair, Brian Elton 3/12/21