

HumeLink Community Newsletter

May 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 the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

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

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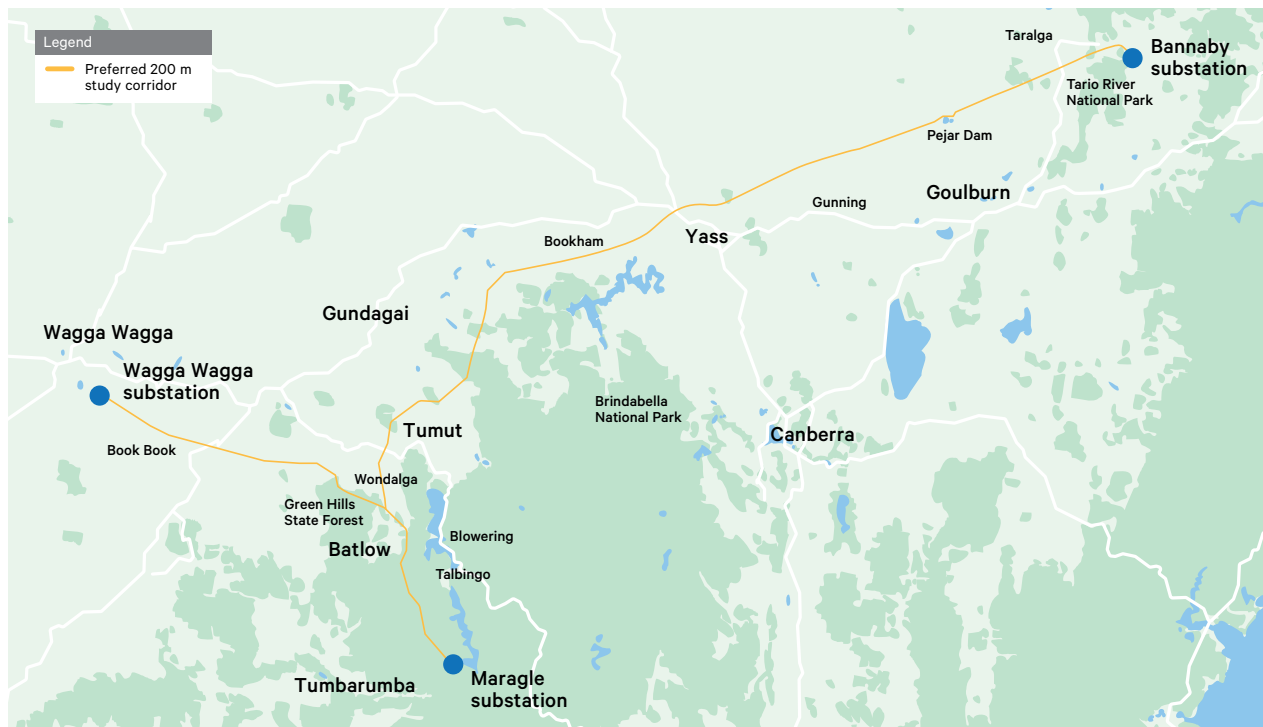
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Transgrid's Community
Partnership Program
are now closed

HumeLink proposed route





Feature story: Air quality

As part of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Transgrid is undertaking an Air Quality Impact Assessment to evaluate potential impacts on air quality during the project's construction and operation for nearby residents and the community. The assessment will identify the locations of works, proximity to residents and mitigation measures to reduce any potential impacts.



Assessment of air quality impacts

An assessment of the potential dust and combustion emissions to residential dwellings, schools, hospitals, offices and public recreational areas was undertaken within a 500 metre radius of the project footprint. The assessment considered local geography, existing air quality, local climate, and other cumulative impacts such as nearby projects.

The findings from the assessment confirmed that during construction there will be potential for an increase in dust and emissions and there will be a need for mitigation measures to address this potential issue.

The impacts on site are likely to vary substantially day-to-day depending on location, activities undertaken, duration, size of the work site, weather conditions and other factors.

During the project's operation, the potential for air quality impacts have been assessed as being negligible and primarily associated with vehicle use from maintenance and minor repairs.



Proposed management measures

During construction, the following dust management measures are proposed to be implemented where practicable and appropriate:

- using water sprays or binding materials for dust suppression;
- locating dust generating activities away from residential properties;
- protecting stockpiled materials from wind to minimise dust generation and positioning stockpiles away from any nearby residents;
- implementing measures to minimise the tracking of dust generating materials onto paved roads such as wheel wash bays or street sweepers;
- covering loads of potential dust producing materials;
- minimising the extent of ground disturbance;
- stabilising disturbed areas as soon as practicable;
- planning and scheduling vegetation clearance and grubbing activities to minimise areas of open and exposed soil.

Mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be specified in an Air Quality Management Plan, which will be prepared as part of HumeLink's Construction Environmental Management Plan.

All vehicles and machinery will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to reduce the impact of emissions.

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



Next steps

You can read the full Air Quality Impact Assessment as part of the EIS exhibition in the second half of 2023.

Once the EIS is finalised, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the EIS on exhibition and call for public submissions. Feedback on the EIS can be provided directly to the DPE during this public display period. More information on how to make a submission will be provided closer to the EIS exhibition period.

To learn more about the HumeLink EIS, please visit the EIS Frequently Asked Questions on our website: transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/humelink#Regulatory-and-Environmental-Approvals.



Pictured: Watercart at Transgrid's EnergyConnect Buronga construction site minimising dust.



In the community

Welcome to our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH), bringing HumeLink to the community

HumeLink is excited to introduce our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH). RACH is a portable community information hub that has the capacity for remote and off-road travel, so she's designed to get to you wherever you are.

RACH will be an engagement tool for the HumeLink team to engage with communities and landowners in locations across the HumeLink alignment and at local events.

RACH allows us to be flexible in our approach to community engagement to reach and share information with local families, business and communities.

RACH is equipped with satellite connectivity for remote internet access, allowing visitors to access the interactive map via a touch screen, as well as search and print-out additional maps or information on request. RACH will have maps and fact sheets relating to the project and the EIS.

For a list of locations and times for RACH please refer to the HumeLink website.



Pictured: RACH ready to hit the road.

RDA Riverina jobs hub: connecting job seekers with local businesses

Regional Development Australia Riverina (RDA-Riverina) and Regional Development Australia Murray (RDA Murray) launched Jobs Riverina Murray, an innovative employment website designed to address regional employment challenges and connect job seekers with local businesses.

Funding for the new website is part of Transgrid and RDA Riverina's \$1.5 million Workforce Development Strategic Partnership. Established last year to deliver a jobs and skills boost to the region as the Riverina becomes a hub for the country's renewable energy transition.

For more information visit rdariverina.org.au

We are interested in hearing from sole traders and businesses in the region that could provide a variety of products or services to the project including:

- engineering
- design
- general trades
- administration
- Indigenous and support services.

We're also keen to hear from:

- catering
- accommodation
- graphic design
- printing services.

To register your business please visit transgrid.com.au/project-forms/humelink-local-business-register-form

Community Partnerships Program has now closed

The latest round of Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program (CPP) closed on 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.

Recipients will be announced in June 2023.

Thank you to all those who submitted an application. The next round of applications will reopen again later this year.

To find out more information about the program, check your organisations eligibility and apply please see Transgrid's Community Partnerships webpage.

Landowner support

We recognise that our transmission projects 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.



What's coming up

Remote Access Community Hub (RACH)

RACH, HumeLink's Remote Access Community Hub will be on-the road from May.

Please visit the website using the QR code to see when RACH will be in your area.

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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