

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Waratah Super Battery Enabling Works

FEBRUARY 2024

Question	Answer
<p><b>What is the Waratah Super Battery (WSB)?</b></p>	<p>The WSB is located approximately 100km north of Sydney and approximately 25km south of the retiring Eraring coal-fired power station.</p> <p>The battery, which is also known as a 'Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)' will reside in a 138,000 square metre site (over 8 AFL fields).</p> <p>Construction of the battery commenced in June 2023.</p>  <p><b>Pictured:</b> Artist's impression of Waratah Super Battery (image: courtesy NSW Govt)</p>
<p><b>Who is responsible for building and operating WSB?</b></p>	<p><b>Akaysha Energy</b> has been appointed by the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo NSW) to develop the Waratah Super Battery.</p> <p>For more information on the construction of WSB please visit <a href="https://akayshaenergy.com/projects/waratah-super-battery">https://akayshaenergy.com/projects/waratah-super-battery</a></p> <p>Transgrid will operate the battery once it has been built.</p>
<p><b>What is Transgrid? What is their role?</b></p>	<p>Transgrid owns and operates the high voltage transmission network in NSW and the ACT, with connections to Victoria and Queensland. Our network currently consists of over 13,000 km of high voltage transmission wires and 121 substations.</p> <p>We are leading the transition to Australia's clean energy future. The traditional coal system that served our country for decades is nearing the end of its life, to be replaced by wind and solar generation.</p> <p>Further information is available on our website <a href="https://www.transgrid.com.au/about-us">https://www.transgrid.com.au/about-us</a></p>

## Question

## Answer

**What does the Waratah Super Battery Enabling Works involve?**

Enabling works will include the implementation of a System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS) and upgrades to its existing transmission lines and substations to unlock the benefits of the Waratah Super Battery (WSB).

Transmission line works will occur between substations at Bannaby and Sydney West; and Yass and Marulan. Approximately half of the properties in these areas will need to be accessed to perform some work.

Works will occur at 22 substations throughout the network.

No newly built transmission line routes or substations are planned as part of the project.

**Why does Transgrid need to work on transmission lines between Yass and Sydney to enable the WSB to operate?**

The aim of the WSB project is to increase power transfer capacity on transmission lines that connect generation in the northern and southern regions of NSW to the Sydney, Newcastle, and Wollongong region.

Transmission lines will need to be updated (i.e., undergo a capacity increase) between: Kemps Creek and Bannaby; and Yass to Marulan.

Increasing the operating temperature of these transmission lines means that the conductor will sag more at these higher operating temperatures, reducing conductor clearances in some sections of the transmission lines below the safe clearances set out in AS/NZS 7000. Works will ensure that safe clearances to conductors is maintained.

**What are the project benefits?**

The project will allow increased transmission of energy to meet demand in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong regions, following the reduction in supply due to the planned closure of Eraring Power Station in 2025.

It will enable the battery to operate as part of a broader System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS). The SIPS is designed to monitor transmission lines and enable the battery to act as a 'shock absorber' in the event of any sudden fault on the transmission system.

The project will provide a positive impact by connecting 290 MW of renewable energy into the National Electricity Market (NEM), which would further help to secure the long-term supply of electricity throughout the NEM. This will support the long term supply of electricity throughout our network.

Furthermore, positive economic benefits would be derived from the workforce sourcing daily needs and accommodation from the local area.

**When is construction due to start?**

Construction started on the substations scope in October 2023 and transmission lines scope in November 2023. Works for the Waratah Super Battery will take approximately 20 months to complete.

**What specific activities will be carried out as part of transmission line works?**

Transmission line works may include:

- earth works to prepare site and work areas
- upgrades to access tracks, water crossings and access gates, where required
- vegetation clearing, where required
- insulator and OHEW fittings, fasteners, and structure accessories replacement
- trenching/excavation for structure earthing, where required
- replacing structures (at 18 locations)
- earth works and landscaping under transmission lines
- disposal of redundant hardware
- site clean-up

## Question

## Answer

**Who is contracted to undertake the transmission line works?**

Transgrid has engaged electrical engineering firm Zinfra to undertake transmission line and substation works.

**Is this project related to the Humelink project?**

These works are not part of the Humelink Project. For more information on Humelink please visit the Transgrid website [here](#).

**Will new structures be installed?**

New structures will replace existing structures approximately 18 locations, so the number of replacement structures required as part of this project is relatively low.

**What will the new transmission structures look like?**

The new structures will typically be two or three pole configurations.



**Pictured:** An example of a two pole configuration.



An example of a three pole configuration.

**Height estimate: 30-40m**

**Where will the new structures go?**

If structures need to be replaced, the new structures will generally be placed as close as possible to the same position as the existing structures.

**Would a new easement be needed for the Project?**

No, there is no need to increase the size of the easement.

**What is an easement?**

To protect your safety and provide a safe, reliable network, we have easements over its transmission lines and underground cables.

Easements are also 'rights of way', giving our people and contractors access to our assets including towers and lines to build, operate and maintain infrastructure. We restrict certain activities on easements to protect the public and the assets themselves.

Easements vary in width depending on the voltage and design of the infrastructure.

**Will livestock still be able to graze under the new line?**

Yes, livestock will still be able to graze on the easement. The width of the easement will be the same as before the line upgrade.

## Question

## Answer

**What about operating machinery in the easement? Where can I find out more about the activities which can be undertaken on or near easements?**

To protect your safety and the network we have easement guidelines which restrict what activities you can undertake on an easement, like the height of a harvester you can use, the height of trees, types of fences you can build, and what items can be stored within the easement and in the vicinity of transmission lines. There will be no change to this usage as a result of this project.

For more information, please access our [Easement Guidelines](#).

**Who is the determining authority for the project?**

Transgrid is the proponent and determining authority for the transmission line and substation works.

**I am worried about environmental damage. How will the environment be considered and protected during the process?**

On each transmission project, we ensure our activities and services minimise environmental impacts or reduce them as much as possible.

We do this to protect communities, to achieve sustainable growth and to comply with legislation.

Protecting the habitats of native species is a key priority.

Transgrid's controlled environmental control measures include:

- ensuring that sensitive ecological sites are avoided
- reducing our construction zones to only impact very limited areas
- protecting threatened animals and plants
- ensuring that biosecurity needs are met and eliminating the spread of weeds
- restoring sites after our works

Environmental and ecological surveys which were conducted in June 2023 prior to the start of construction works.

Works within National Parks are undertaken in line with conditions that ensure the protection of these sensitive conservation areas.

**How will you access my property?**

To access the transmission line easement, construction vehicles will use the existing access routes. Additionally, some new tracks may need to be constructed. Disturbances to farm operations including stock movements will be minimised through consultation with landholders on an individual basis.

Transgrid is committed to undertaking any repair works of any tracks and watercourses which has been damaged during construction in consultation with the landholder. Additionally, remediation of disturbed areas at the transmission tower and brake and winch sites would be carried out in consultation with the landholder.

**I am concerned about bio-security risks and pests and diseases with plant, equipment and people coming onto my land during the project. How is this managed?**

Transgrid is committed to minimising the risk of weed and pathogen infestation into agricultural areas is minimised. Transgrid will consult directly with landholders prior to the commencement of construction to understand any specific biosecurity risks/issues on the subject land and incorporate any specific mitigation measures into the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

If you have a biosecurity plan or any specific access requirements please contact us on **1800 222 537** or email [community@transgrid.com.au](mailto:community@transgrid.com.au) and we will confirm/record your bio-security requirements in our access database.

## Question

## Answer

**I am worried about damage to indigenous cultural heritage. How will indigenous heritage be protected?**

An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment was carried as part of the environmental impact assessment of the project.

This assessment included desktop and database searches as well as onground field assessments. A relatively small number of heritage items were found during the assessment. The designs employed by Transgrid have reduced the impacts on heritage.

A range of further on-ground measures will be employed during the project including:

- making workers aware of heritage items
- isolating and avoiding known heritage areas
- stop work and protection procedures should unexpected items be encountered

**Is there any risk of power outages, as part of the project works?**

Power outages are unlikely to occur during construction of the project. The network will be reconfigured to allow works to proceed and power to be maintained.

**I am worried about a potential increase in Electric and Magnetic Fields because of the works?**

Our EMF fact sheet provides general information on electric and magnetic fields in relation to our network as well as resources for further information.

Go to: [www.transgrid.com.au/media/1nrfxwtf/emf-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.transgrid.com.au/media/1nrfxwtf/emf-fact-sheet.pdf)

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) has advised: "The scientific evidence does not establish that exposure to the electric and magnetic fields found around the home, the office or near powerlines causes health effects."

**Who can I contact to attain further information?**

Please contact us on **1800 222 537** or email [community@transgrid.com.au](mailto:community@transgrid.com.au) if you have any further questions or concerns about the project outlined above or Transgrid's operations.



### 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.

## Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities as we deliver on the Government's energy transition. We want to find solutions that work for everyone. Please contact us for more information.



#### Contact details

[community@transgrid.com.au](mailto:community@transgrid.com.au)  
Emergencies 1800 027 253

#### Community Enquiries 1800 222 537

Our business hours are 8:30am – 5:00pm

Find out more at:

[Transgrid.com.au](http://Transgrid.com.au)

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