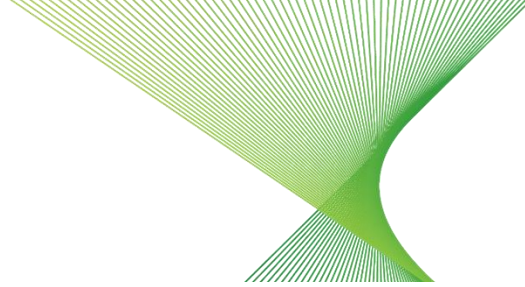# Your questions answered

HumeLink Biosecurity

We have compiled a list of your most frequently asked questions below.

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Acronyms and definitions

Abbreviation	Details
BMP	Biosecurity Management Plan
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
EPBC Act	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
PMP	Property Management Plan
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Frequently asked questions

How does Transgrid manage biosecurity?

Biosecurity protects our economy, environment, and community from the negative impact of pests, diseases, weeds, and contaminants. The protection of the environment is one of the fundamental values associated with all Transgrid activities.

Transgrid has a Corporate Biosecurity Procedure and Guidance Note that meets legislative requirements (the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 and Biosecurity Regulation 2017) that is implemented by staff and contractors for all our operations. Our approach to biosecurity risk management is focused on engaging with land occupiers and owners to capture information about specific biosecurity risks related to their properties.

The procedure has the general principle of "come clean go clean" where we implement our General Biosecurity Duty (a term used in legislation) on a risk basis. We monitor NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) alerts and legislative changes to ensure that any emerging and applicable biosecurity controls will be implemented appropriately and as required.

What biosecurity measures have contractors implemented for preliminary investigative works, such as those associated with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) surveys and geotechnical investigations?

Contractors have a mandatory requirement to implement the Transgrid Biosecurity Procedure or implement a protocol which is consistent with NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 and Biosecurity Regulation 2017 requirements. Surveillance practices and site inspections are performed by staff to ensure compliance with this regulation.

Have biosecurity issues been assessed as part of the EIS process?

The EIS has been prepared to meet the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) dated 14 March 2022 and the requirements of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

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Biosecurity issues (i.e. potential impacts from weeds, pests and pathogens) have been assessed within the EIS Technical Report 01 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, summarised in the EIS Biodiversity chapter and is referenced in Technical Report 5 – Land Use and Property Impact Assessment.

The EIS will detail biosecurity environmental mitigations to minimise potential impacts.

Has biosecurity been considered as part of the HumeLink tender evaluation and selection process?

The tender evaluation and selection process for the project's delivery partners (the design and construction contractors) has included specific biosecurity requirements. This included requirements for the contractors to prepare an initial overarching Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) and to include biosecurity measures in the future updates to the individual Property Management Plans (PMP).

The Transgrid Biosecurity Procedure was provided to the potential contractors as part of the tender documents for creation of the above-mentioned plans.

What biosecurity measures will be implemented for the HumeLink project?

A Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) will be created and assessed against project specific requirements, EIS proposed environmental mitigation measures and the Transgrid Biosecurity Procedure. In addition, the BMP will be reviewed and approved by Transgrid and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) as part of post approval compliance obligations.

The BMP may include information on:

- identification of applicable weeds in the existing environment and relevant potential animal, plant, and pest diseases

- legal obligations under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

- an evaluation of biosecurity risks including the risk of spread

- training and awareness for project personnel

- the requirements of Property Management Plan's (PMP)

- how incidents will be managed including any mandatory reporting requirements

- consultation with landowners and specific biosecurity management measures including but not limited to:

  - controlling vehicle and plant movements

  - vehicle and plant inspections and clean downs

  - the use and location of clean down bays and associated equipment

  - the use of specific biosecurity signage

  - adherence to applicable specific biosecurity measures in PMPs

  - confirmation of imported fill source and weed management as per legislative requirements.

After the BMP has been approved, a copy can be made available if requested.

What biosecurity monitoring and surveillance measures will be implemented for the project?

All surveillance measures and implementation will be outlined in the BMP. Transgrid and our contractors have to abide by a comprehensive compliance regime of inspections and audits, covering biosecurity and mitigation measures.

Transgrid will develop and implement a contractor compliance regime to ensure all obligations are met. Independent Audits of the project will be conducted as per the requirements of the NSW Government Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020).

What obligations are there for reporting weed outbreaks by the project?

The BMP will detail how a biosecurity incident will be recorded and managed, including consultation with landholders as per requirements in PMPs. The biosecurity incident record will detail how mitigation measures will be implemented to address weed outbreaks.

Confirmation of implementation of mitigation measures will be undertaken as part of the compliance regime.

An example, of a biosecurity incident may include the detection of a contaminant or species on people, plant, or equipment on the project which was not previously identified in the EIS, or situations where there is suspected spread to new locations as a result of project activities. This would generally exclude weeds which might be detected on properties or previously known locations (adjacent to or in the study area), that are distant from project activities. In this case this would first be reported as an environmental incident with proposed corrective actions within the project.

The BMP will also detail obligations for reporting notifiable weeds pests and diseases under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

Before construction works commence, will surveys be conducted to take account of potential weed issues on sites?

As part of the EIS, ecological surveys have been undertaken at various locations and the presence of weeds has been noted and has been used to inform the BMP. Before construction works commence, pre-construction clearance surveys will also identify significant weed infestation areas.

From this information, specific mitigation measures will be implemented to manage identified risks throughout the project.

What post construction measures regarding biosecurity will be undertaken by the project?

Upon completion of construction, rehabilitation of areas will be undertaken as per the requirements of the BMP. This is a plan identified in the EIS that will be reviewed and approved by Transgrid and DPE.

The Plan will include information on rehabilitation requirements, including weed management obligations and the length of post construction monitoring, so land is restored to an agreed condition, in consultation with landholders. Information from the EIS, pre-construction and/or clearance surveys will be used to inform post construction surveys and the agreed restoration.

How will clean downs of vehicles, plant and equipment be performed and where?

The requirement to undertake clean downs, including frequency and locations, will be defined in the BMP. Vehicles, plant, and equipment coming to site will require inspection records to demonstrate compliance, which will be checked as part of the project compliance regime.

Clean down locations will be based on:

- biosecurity risks in the area
- property boundaries and specific requirements which may be documented in PMPs
- the location of compounds
- the location of commercial clean down bays in the vicinity
- the location of various work fronts.

The installation and design of clean down bays will ensure that material (including any chemicals that may be used to assist in the clean down, such as Farm Mate) will be collected and disposed of as per NSW government waste classification requirements.

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.

Transgrid

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