

HumeLink Fact Sheet

GHD Route Options Assessment

Following feedback from local landowners and community members, Transgrid engaged engineering consultancy GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) to conduct a comparison of three of HumeLink's transmission line route options in the Tumut area.

The objectives of the assessment were to:

- Identify a preferred route in the Tumut/Blowering area within HumeLink's existing study corridor;
- Assess new routes outside the study corridor, between Maragle and Yass to maximise the use of public land; and
- Compare the alternative route/s and recommend an optimal route that meets agreed criteria.

Methodology

GHD uses a proprietary multi-criteria analysis tool to undertake route options assessments resulting in an InDeGO¹ score.

A higher InDeGO score reflects a higher level of potential environmental and social impacts.

The full Route Options Assessment is provided at Appendix A to this fact sheet.

Findings

The consultant's report concludes that Tumut North is the recommended route option, having both the lowest impact and lowest cost.

The Wondalga to Maragle to Yass via Kosciuszko National Park route option (referred to as 'Option 2F' by the community) is identified by GHD as the least optimal route due to its:

- substantially higher InDeGO score, likely due to the significant environmental impacts associated with traversing the national park and potential impacts on the Burrinjuck Dam heritage site; and
- costing \$255 million more than Tumut North, largely due to the complexity of construction through the alpine region, the cost of acquiring state forest and national park land and the higher cost of offsetting the biodiversity impacts.

The Blowering route option was also examined by GHD. The report concludes that compared to Tumut North, the Blowering route option has higher environmental and social impacts and an increased cost to the project of \$53 million.

The following table shows key data from the consultant's assessment:

	Tumut North	Blowering	Kosciuszko (2F)
Total length	159 km	161 km	193 km
Length of private property	121 km	123 km	100 km
Length of public property	38 km	38 km	93 km
InDeGO ² total score	962,300	1,005,680	1,384,240
% increase in Tumut North		+5%	+44%
Total cost	\$712 M	\$765 M	\$967 M
- construction	\$488 M	\$510 M	\$616 M
- biodiversity offsets (Niche)	\$197 M	\$228 M	\$321 M
- property	\$27 M	\$27 M	\$30 M
difference in cost on Tumut North		+\$53 M	+\$255 M

Note: ¹ A GHD proprietary multi-criteria analysis tool for undertaking route options assessment resulting in an InDeGO score