

HumeLink Community Consultative  
Group  
14th Meeting  
October 2023

# Acknowledgment of Country

We begin our commitment to reconciliation by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today.

We pay respect to Elders past and present.



# Agenda

CCG commencement & acknowledgment of Country	5 minutes
Minutes and actions	10 minutes
Project update	15 minutes
Environmental planning approval update	60 minutes
General business / Q&A	30 minutes
Close	



# Minutes and Actions



# Actions and Responses



Topic	Item Description	Transgrid Response
	<p>The recent Transmission Expansion Options report has HumeLink with a transfer capacity of 2200 megawatts, it was previously 2570 megawatts. Transgrid to confirm the transfer capacity of Humelink.</p>	<p>Transgrid is required to construct HumeLink with the capacity of 2570 megawatts. The two numbers of 2200MW and 2570MW refer to different measures.</p> <p>2200 MW refers to the increase in Canberra/Yass to Bannaby transfer capacity when HumeLink is connected. The 2570 MW referred to in the RIT-T is the increase in firm generation that can be accommodated after addition of HumeLink compared to the base case (existing system) assuming a high existing Snowy generation profile, average import from Victoria and average renewable generation in southern NSW (as referred to in the RIT-T documents).</p>
Project	<p>What is the amount Transgrid will get for maintenance of HumeLink in regard to the easement?</p>	<p>HumeLink has allowed for yearly Opex maintenance costs at 0.5% of capital increasing to 1% after 10 years. The maintenance allowance will be determined on a 5 yearly basis through the ongoing Regulatory Reset process.</p>
	<p>How much of the \$4.892 billion is biodiversity offsets?</p>	<p>A revised estimate of biodiversity offsets costs will be included within the contingent project application (CPA-2) which is currently being finalised and expected to be published by the AER in late 2023</p>
	<p>Jeremy to report back to Transgrid senior leadership team on community feedback including that the community feel as though Transgrid are choosing figures to exaggerate the cost/impact of undergrounding.</p>	<p>Feedback from landowners, stakeholders, community members, councils and the HumeLink CCG is provided to the Transgrid senior leadership on a regular basis. Feedback from the 2 August CCG was provided to the Major Projects Oversight Group and executives in mid-August 2023</p>
	<p>Transgrid to confirm who is being doorknocked as part of the project and whether any of the 4322 indirectly impact residents are being doorknocked.</p>	<p>To engage impacted near neighbours Transgrid wrote to all near neighbours advising them of the project and possible impacts. Near neighbours were invited to schedule a meeting to discuss the project as well as being invited to all of the in person and online community information sessions. We have found unsolicited approaches like doorknocking not to be an effective tool.</p>



# Actions and Responses

Topic	Item Description	Transgrid Response
EIS	Transgrid to consider advocating for an extension to the EIS exhibition period.	At the discretion of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) public exhibition of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was extended to 10 October 2023
	Transgrid to provide a full schedule on where they will be in the community to assist people during the EIS exhibition period.	Details of the EIS community information sessions and webinars were provided to CCG members and the public via multiple mediums including email, radio advertisements and the HumeLink website.
	Can Transgrid provide CCG members with a hard copy of the EIS?	Hard copies were provided to CCG members as requested.
	Will there be a CCG meeting during the exhibition period for members to ask questions?	CCG members were offered the opportunity to attend CCG specific EIS engagement sessions in Yass, Tumut and Wagga during the public exhibition period
	Transgrid to identify the 70% of the line that was walked as part of the biodiversity and aboriginal heritage work done for the EIS.	Eco Logical Australia (ELA) and Niche-led ecologists have conducted field survey along the length of the alignment within accessible lands since December 2018.  The attached map outlines the area surveyed.

# Actions and Responses

Topic	Item Description	Transgrid Response
Professional Fees	Will Transgrid pay for the legal and valuation expenses if the transmission lines go underground?	The same principles would apply regarding reimbursement of professional fees under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991
	Will Transgrid pay for property management consultants who do property management plans?	<p>Transgrid will reimburse reasonable costs incurred for property management consultants to assist scheme-affected landowners with their Property Management Plans (PMP), as a loss attributable to disturbance.</p> <p>This is in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, Section 59(f), which defines loss attributable to disturbance as:</p> <p>“(A)ny other financial costs reasonably incurred (or that might reasonably be incurred), relating to the actual use of the land, as a direct and natural consequence of the acquisition.”</p> <p>Transgrid requests that the landowner (or their proposed property management consultants) provides Transgrid with a quotation for those professional services in advance and in writing. This advance notification should include the reason for justifying the engagement of these professional services.</p> <p>It is Transgrid’s preference to make a single payment in full for the reimbursement of professional service fees when the acquisition for easement is complete, or otherwise discontinued.</p>

# Actions and Responses

Topic	Item Description	Transgrid Response
	<p>How wide and deep was the trench required for the underground cabling done for the Powering Sydney's Future project?</p>	<p>The width of the trench for Powering Sydney's Future (PSF), which was single circuit 330kV HVAC, the width of the trench ranged up to 2.4m wide but was typically 1.5m wide and 1m deep (deeper and wider at joint bays).</p> <p>To further clarify, the total project footprint including; the trench, fencing, exclusions zones, cabling drums and specialised cabling drum transport was approximately 15m wide.</p>
Undergrounding	<p>What agricultural expertise does Transgrid have?</p>	<p>Transgrid draws on the relevant agricultural expertise of a number of sources including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- professional consultancies engaged to deliver technical assessment as part of the EIS – Tremaine Ivey Advisory for the HumeLink EIS</li> <li>- the personal and professional experience of the Transgrid Advisory Council and</li> <li>- academic research papers and projects.</li> </ul>





# Project Update



# Project Update

Key CPA-1 Activities	STATUS
CPA-2 Preparation (includes Financial Modelling & AEMO feedback loop)	Well advanced
Procurement of Delivery Contractor (EOI/ECI)	Well advanced
Procurement of Long Lead Equipment and Materials (booking of production slots and commence early design and prototyping works)	In progress
Delivery Contract (SP1) – Detailed Designs & Early Works	In progress
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Activities	In progress
Environmental Impact Statement (all technical studies for preparation and subsequent approval of EIS)	Well advanced
Concept Designs	Complete
Preliminary Investigations (Geotech and other studies)	Complete
Detailed Land Valuations & Landowner Negotiations	In progress
Land Option Agreements in place	In progress
Wagga Wagga 500kV Substation ('Gugaa') land acquisition	Well advanced

Actuals to end of Aug-22 (Pre-CPA1 Approval)	<b>\$66.4M</b>
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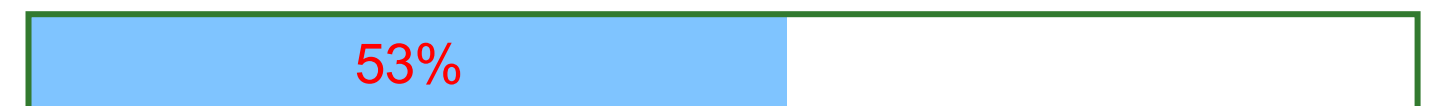


<b>Total (Since CPA1 Part 1 approval)</b>	<b>\$125.8M</b>
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<b>Total Cost to Date (CPA-1 Part 1) as at end of Sep-23</b>	<b>\$192.2M</b>
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CPA 1 (Part 1)\* Funding Envelope to Total Outturn Cost in 2024



As at end of Sep 2023

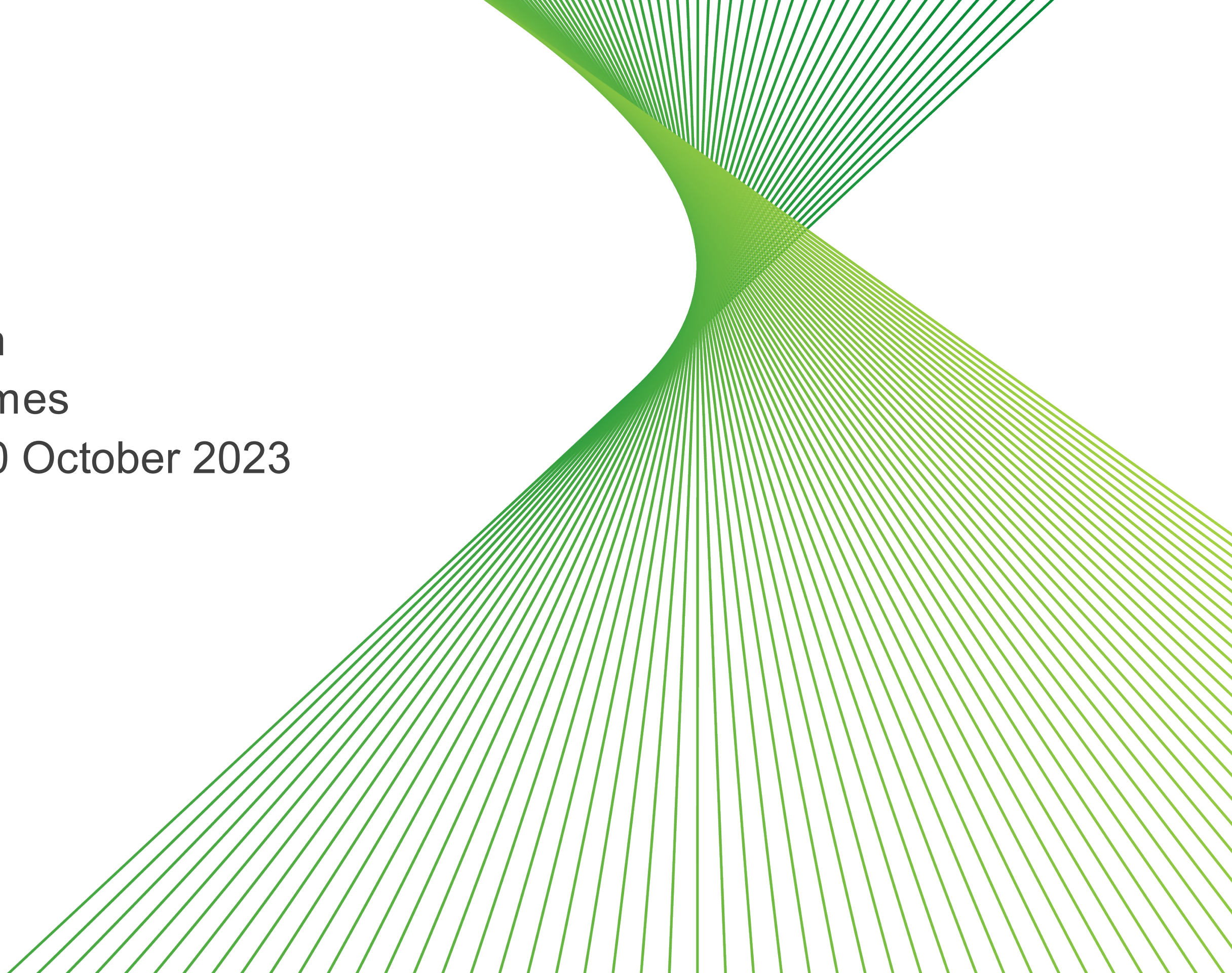
Q2 2024

\*CPA1 Part 2 of \$227.9M, which is in addition to CPA1 Part 1 above, approved by AER in August for LLE. \$15.5M has been spent under this budget





EIS Public Exhibition  
Engagement Outcomes  
30 August 2023 – 10 October 2023



# EIS Public Exhibition – Engagement approach

## Pre-EIS engagement

- Agency and Council engagement
- Agency Notifications
- Pre-EIS community engagement
  - Webinars
  - Drop-in sessions
- Ongoing comms via Newsletters and EdMs

## Notifications

- Compliance with S.181 of EP&A Act
  - Landowner notifications
  - Advertisement in local newspapers
- Council notification – S. 25 the Electricity Supply Act

## Public Exhibition advertisement

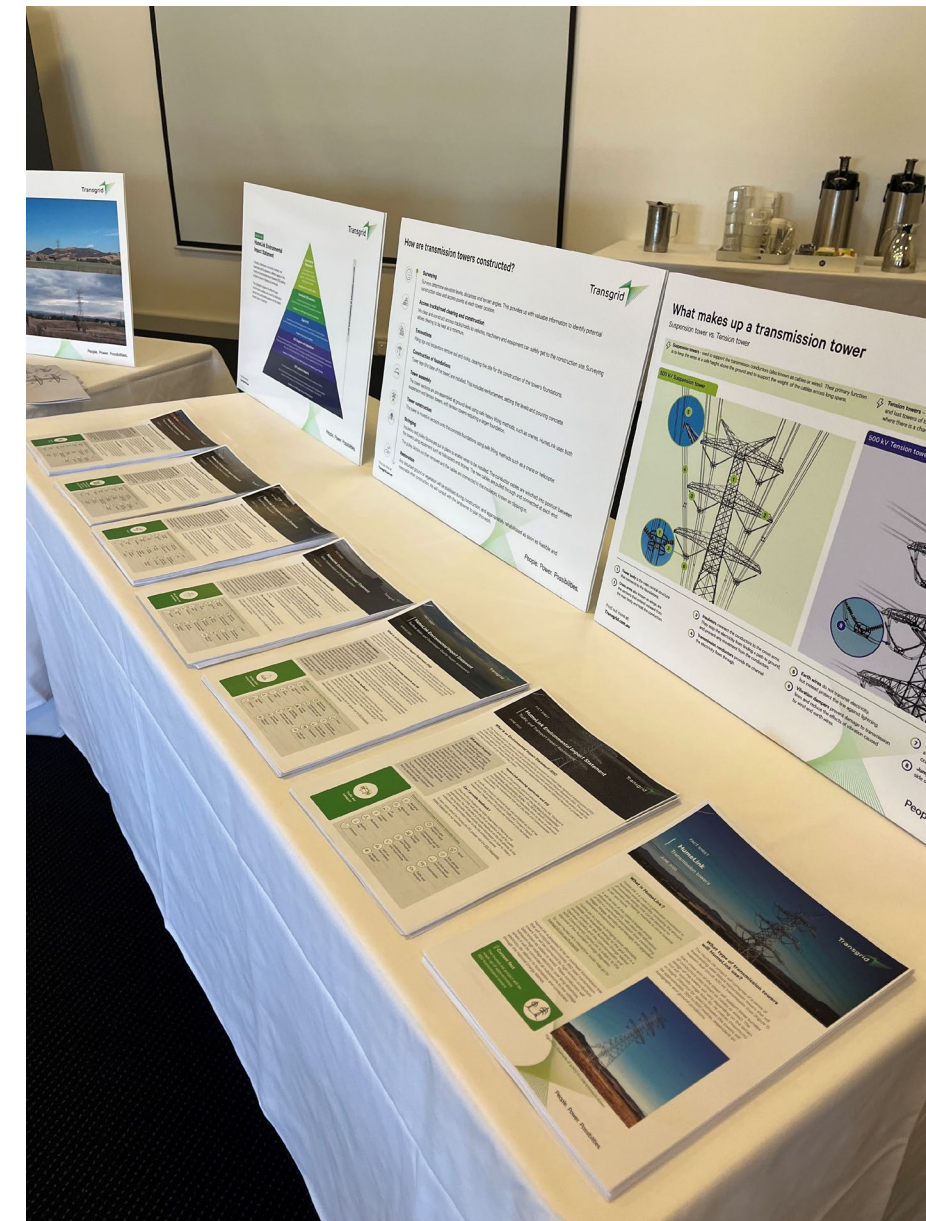
- Radio
- Social media
- Printed and online local newspaper
- Project Newsletters
- Notice boards in local community

## EIS supporting materials

- Digital EIS
- Hard copies of EIS summary and chapters (USB Available)
- Hard copies of EIS available at selected council libraries
- 18 factsheets on EIS Topics
- Guide to EIS developed
- 5 videos developed

## Community Engagement

- Community information sessions (in-person)
- Webinars
- Community Consultative Group Sessions
- Remote Access Communications Hub (RACH)



# EIS Public Exhibition – Community information sessions and webinars

	Location	Date	Time
<b>Week 1 (w/c 4 Sept 2023)</b>	Wagga Wagga	Monday 4 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Wagga Wagga	Monday 4 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Tumut	Tuesday 5 Sept 2023	11 am – 1 pm
	Tumut	Tuesday 5 Sept 2023	4 pm – 6 pm
	Batlow	Wednesday 6 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Batlow	Wednesday 6 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Tumbarumba	Thursday 7 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Tumbarumba	Thursday 7 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Adelong	Friday 8 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	<b>Total attendees: 31</b>		
<b>Week 2 (w/c 11 Sept 2023)</b>	Gunning	Monday 11 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Yass	Tuesday 12 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Yass	Tuesday 12 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Gundagai	Wednesday 13 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Tarcutta	Wednesday 13 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Taralga	Thursday 14 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	Taralga	Thursday 14 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Crookwell	Friday 15 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
	<b>Total attendees: 26</b>		
<b>Week 3 (w/c 25 Sept 2023)</b>	Yass	Wednesday 27 Sept 23	4 pm – 6 pm
	Tumut	Thursday 28 Sept 23	11 am – 1 pm
<b>Total attendees: 0</b>			
<b>Total attendees: 57</b>			

Webinar	Date	Time
1	Thursday 7 September	1:30pm – 3:00pm (AEST)
2	Thursday 14 September	1:30pm – 3:00pm (AEST)
3	Wednesday 20 September	12:00pm – 1:30pm (AEST)
<b>Webinar total attendees: 14</b>		

- 19 in-person CIS sessions
  - 3 webinars
  - 3 CCG information sessions
- Total attendees across CIS, CCG sessions and webinars: 71

# EIS Public Exhibition – Key themes from community engagement



## General EIS Process

Includes submission process, approvals pathway and next steps, Digital EIS



## Engagement

General community and stakeholder engagement, near-neighbours, Aboriginal communities, Councils, Rural Fire Services and NSW Forestry.



## Bushfire and bushfire risk

Concerns raised around firefighting operations and procedures, Transgrid's responsibility in the event of a bushfire, risk of bushfire ignition and windy conditions, workforce training in firefighting activities, vegetation clearance and easement maintenance



## Enabling works and construction methodology

Interested in more detailed construction information including methodology and timing, connecting into Wagga Wagga and Maragle substations, enabling works, upgrades required, access tracks and roads to be used during construction, implementing mitigation measures, contractor resourcing



## Green Hills announcement

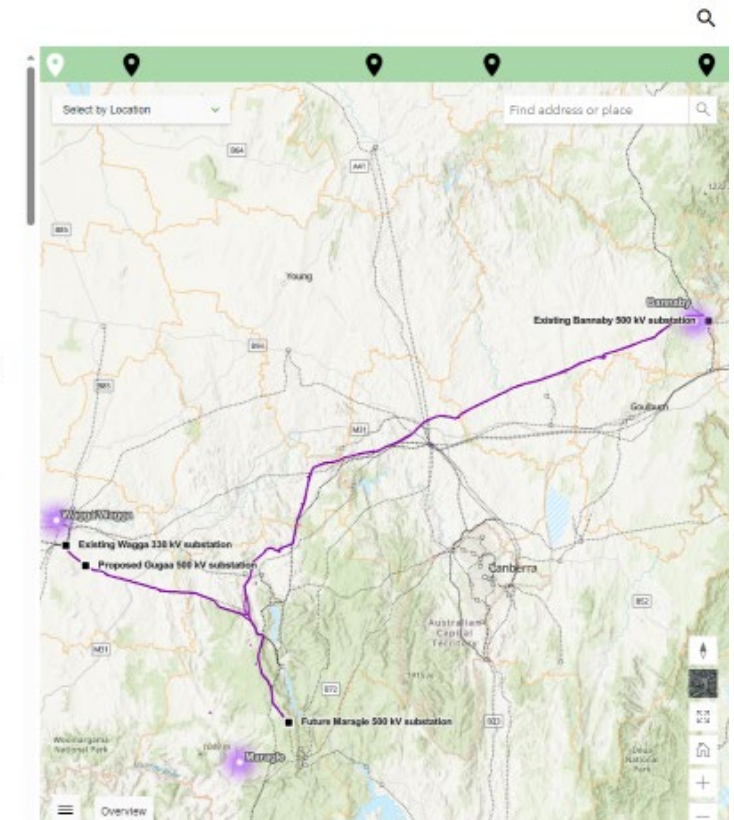
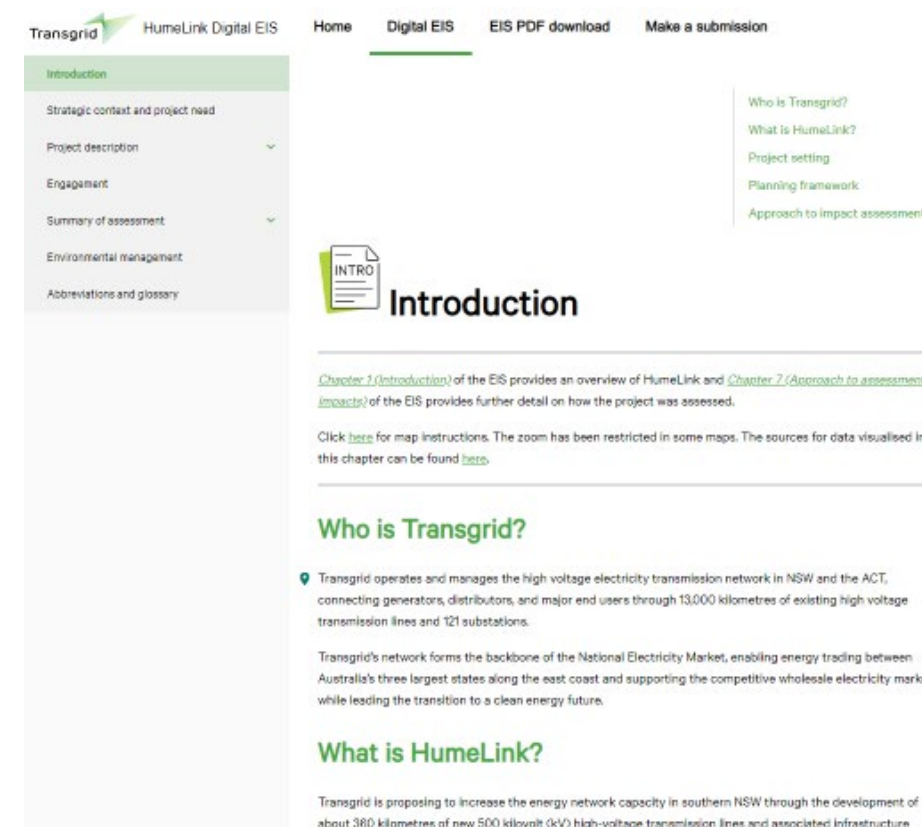
Green Hills route refinement process

# EIS Public Exhibition – Digital EIS

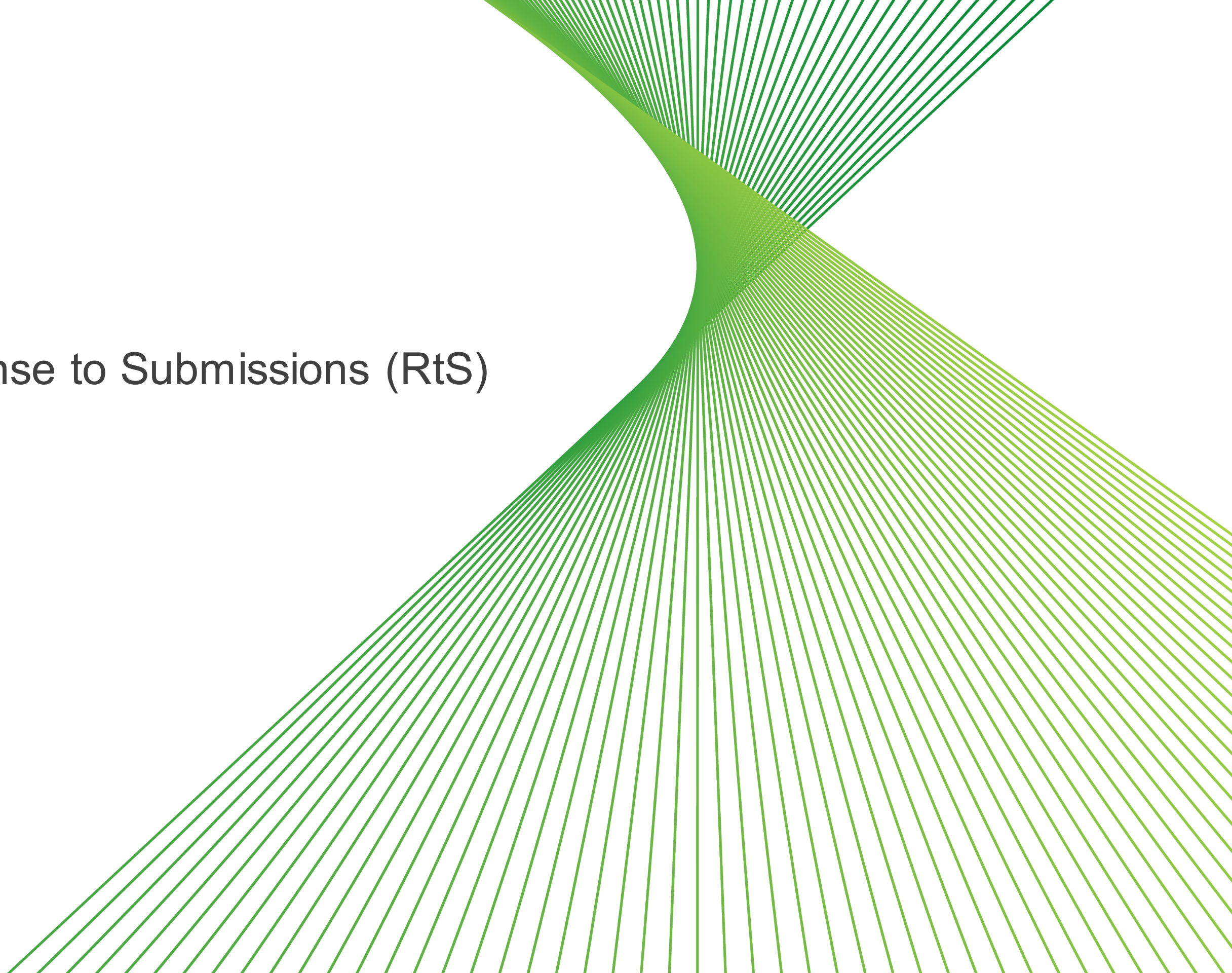
## From 30 August to 10 October:

- There has been 1,747 Active users visiting the HumeLink Digital EIS portal
- Total views – 18.3k
- 24 users have clicked through to the submissions page
- Top 3 topics engaged:
  - Biodiversity
  - Aboriginal Heritage
  - Landscape Character and Visual Amenity

Date	Active Users	Unique Sessions	Views
Wed 30 August – Thurs 7 September	984	1.42k	12.79k
Fri 8 September – Thurs 14 September	195	274	2.18k
Fri 15 September – Thurs 21 September	241	305	2.55k
Fri 22 September – Thurs 28 September	183	258	1.51k
Fri 29 September – Tues 10 October	144	193	2.65k



## Next Steps – Response to Submissions (RtS)





# EIS Public Exhibition – Submissions received

## Government Agency submissions

- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Environmental Protection Authority
- HeritageNSW
- HeritageNSW - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Crown Lands
- Mining, Exploration & Geoscience – Regional NSW
- WaterNSW
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- AirServices Australia
- Department of Primary Industries - Agriculture
- Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries
- Transport for NSW
- Forestry Corporation NSW
- Biodiversity Conservation Division
- Australia Rail Track Corporation
- Department of Planning and Environment - Water
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- NSW Telco Authority

## Local Council submissions

- Snowy Valleys Council
- Yass Valley Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council
- Goulburn-Mulwaree Regional Council

## Community members and organisations

- 119 community member submissions
- 12 special interest groups

# Next Steps – Submissions Report



Following the EIS public exhibition, DPE placed all submissions on the NSW DPE Major Projects Planning Portal website and provided Transgrid with the submissions received.



All community submissions will be summarised in a Submissions Report, which will collate and categorise the submissions received and provide a response. A response will be provided to individual agency and council submissions.



The Submissions Report will be lodged with DPE and will be made publicly available on the Planning Portal.



A number of proposed project amendments have been identified in response to issues raised in submissions received on the EIS, as well as in response to ongoing design refinements. This will be assessed and reported on in an Amendment Report.



DPE will review the reports as part of the project assessment. DPE will then make a recommendation to the Planning Minister to either approve the project along with any conditions or provide reasons for refusal. Additional information may be requested from Transgrid.

# Next Steps – Amendment Report



Transgrid has identified a number of proposed refinements to the HumeLink project as presented in the EIS.



The Amendment Report considers proposed design amendments and refinements following public exhibition of the EIS. This document will describe and assess potential impacts from proposed amendments and identify how impacts would be managed and mitigated.



The proposed amendments have been made in response to both issues raised in community and stakeholder submissions received during the public exhibition of the EIS, as well as changes made as part of ongoing design refinement of the project.



Transgrid will engage with community and stakeholders during the preparation of the Amendment Report.



The Submissions Report and Amendment Report will cross reference one another and should be read in conjunction, and both documents will be submitted to the DPE concurrently.

# Amendment Report – Scope overview

Route refinements - Green Hills and minor refinements

Access tracks

Accommodation facilities and construction compounds

Transmission line and substation design refinements

## Construction methodology

- Refinement of blast areas
- Borrow pits and quarries
- Helicopter and drone use
- Water supply points
- Enabling Works Management Plans

# Amendment Report – Engagement approach

## Stage 1 (2023)

- Targeted community and stakeholder engagement to provide information on proposed design amendments and refinements following public exhibition of the EIS.
- Details on the planning and approvals process post-EIS public exhibition, including reviewing the public submissions made by community and stakeholders during the EIS public exhibition, and how these have been considered for each of the proposed amendments and refinements.

## Stage 2 (2024)

- Informing impacted and interested community members, landowners and stakeholders on the outcomes of the assessment of the design amendments and refinements.
- Targeted engagement and communications.

# Amendment Report – Engagement approach

## Individual

- Direct engagement with relationship manager (PM/LAO/other)
- Face to face and direct correspondence
- Generally integrated into ongoing property negotiation and PMP development

Primary impact on individual landowners only. Little to no impact on nearby receivers (1-2 stakeholders)

## Neighbourhood

- Generally in small groups – drop-in sessions, street meetings, RACH.
- Face to face and direct correspondence

Primary impacted on localised community/neighbourhood groups. Little to no impact on the broader region (5-20 stakeholders)

## Regional

- Strategic engagement with key stakeholders (government agency and local Councils briefings)
- Community information sessions (face to face and online)
- Community Consultative Group.

Primary impact on larger community groups and towns. Impact localised to specific regions. (20-5,000 stakeholders)

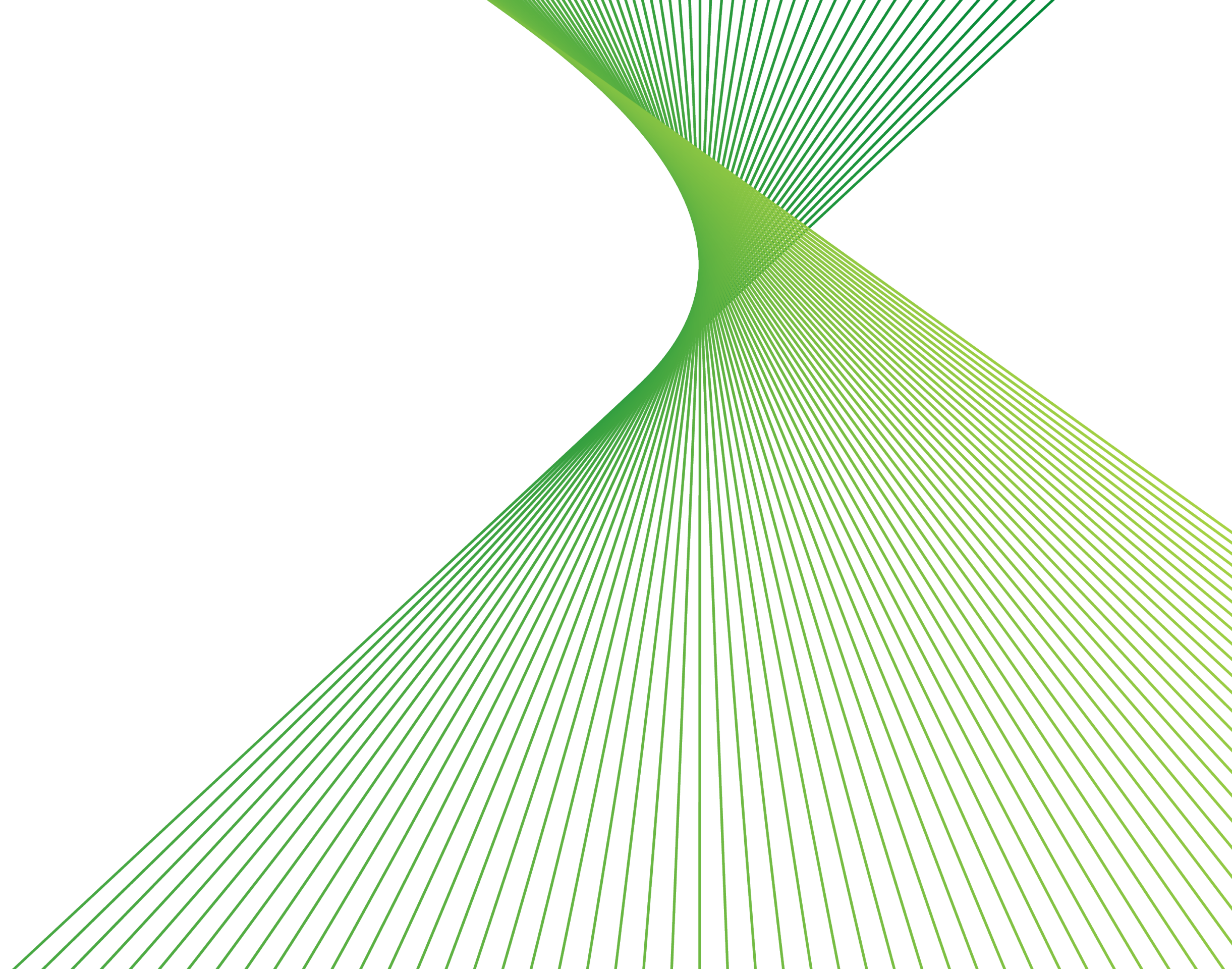
## Project-wide

- Project newsletter
- EDM campaigns
- Website updates

Impact likely across the entire project footprint



# General Business



Questions

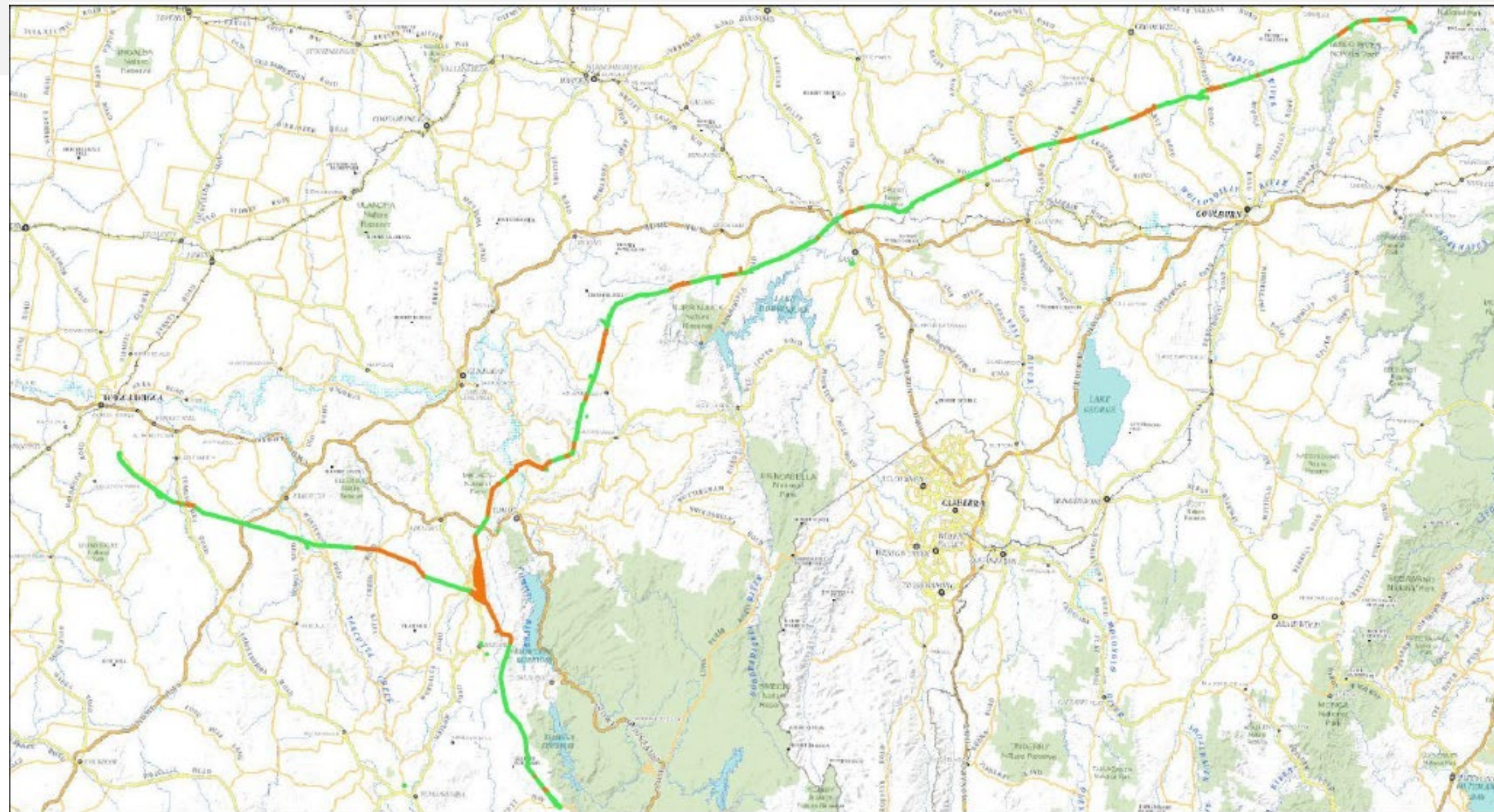




Additional Slides



# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report – Survey completion



HumeLink

NSW Data Service  
Date: 03-01-2023  
Author: Nicola Hayes

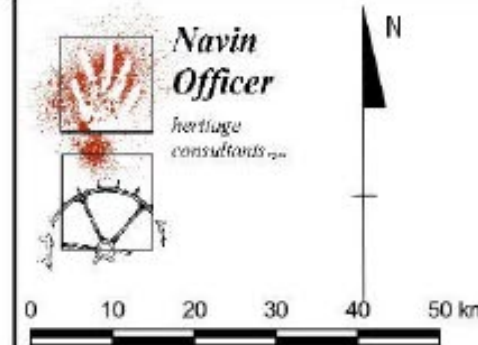
Projection: GDA2020  
MGA Zone: 55,56  
Scale: 1:970,734.564234

Legend

Survey Completed

Green line: Surveyed

Orange line: Unsurveyed



# Thank you

1800 31 73 67 (free call)  
humelink@transgrid.com.au  
[transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

HumeLink Community  
Engagement Team, PO BOX A1000,  
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