

HumeLink Community Consultative Group 8th meeting

November 2022

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, present and emerging.



Agenda

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	5 minutes
CCG commencement	5 minutes
Minutes and Matters Arising	5 minutes
HumeLink Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program update• Project and Regulatory Update• Procurement and construction• Design• Stakeholder• Property• EIS	60 minutes
Biosecurity	15 minutes
Agenda setting for subsequent meetings	10 minutes
Any other business	5 minutes
Close	



Minutes and Matters Arising

HumeLink Project Update

Program update

Transgrid needs to respond to AEMO's Integrated System Plan to support market security



AEMO accelerated the HumeLink Project by 6 months requiring the infrastructure to be commissioned by July 2026

Transgrid is required to respond within the Australian Energy Regulators requirements

Regulatory and Contingent Project Application update

CPA-1 Objectives

- Develop project to ensure quality CPA-2 submission to the AER, that demonstrates prudence and efficiency with high degree of confidence of total out turn costs. Key areas will include concept designs & prelim investigations, delivery contractor engagement and early works, EIS, booking production slots of long lead equipment and property option agreements. Expectation is to achieve Class 2/3 estimates.
- Maintain program schedule to meet accelerated timeline of July 2026 completion as identified under AEMO 2022 ISP.

Not Started

In progress

Complete

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

Actuals to end of Aug-22 (Pre-CPA1 Approval)	\$66.4M
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Workstream	Actuals since CPA-1 Approval (Sep, Oct-22)
Commercial & Procurement	\$2.1M
Community & Stakeholder Engagement	\$1.7M
Environmental Approvals	\$2.3M
Land & Acquisition	\$1.7M
Project Development & Investigations	\$3.0M
Support, Indirects and Regulatory	\$0.9M
Total (Since CPA approval)	\$11.6M

Total <u>Cost to Date</u> as at end of Oct-22	\$78.02M
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Procurement and Construction

Short List of Delivery Partners

The three following bidders are competing for two packages of work and successful proponents will be announced early 2023

- Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd, Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited and Genus Plus Group Ltd (JV);
- Downer Utilities Australia Pty Ltd and Consolidated Power Projects Australia Pty Ltd (JV); and
- UGL Engineering Pty Ltd

Local Business Register

In conjunction with this announcement, Transgrid is excited to launch the HumeLink Local Business Register.

We are interested in hearing from sole traders and businesses in the region that could provide a variety of products or services like engineering, general trades, administration, Indigenous and support services, catering, accommodation, graphic design and printing.

The register will be used by the project team and major construction contractors as planning progresses and opportunities arise.

The HumeLink local business register is located on the HumeLink website: <https://www.transgrid.com.au/project-forms/humelink-local-business-register-form>

HumeLink local business register

Fill out the below form to register your interest.

1. Business name *	2. Business email *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Business address *	
<input type="text"/>	
4. Mailing address	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mailing address is the same as the above	
5. Postcode *	6. Suburb
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7. State *	8. ABN or ACN *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
9. Contact name *	10. Contact job title
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11. Phone number *	12. Are you an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander business (50% owned)? *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
13. Select your entity type *	14. Are you registered for GST? *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Design Update

Tower locations

- Tower locations will ultimately be subject to very specific site conditions
- Land Access Officers and Property Managers will be contacting landowners to discuss and show indicative tower locations.

Underground report

- Transgrid to sign off on undergrounding response and issue to steering committee by end of November
- Steering Committee Meeting to be held to discuss Transgrid's response (date TBC)

Route Refinement

- While corridor for large portions of corridor has been narrowed to 200m, some discrete areas (sections around Tumut and Bannaby) are undergoing final evaluation.
- Met with NSW Department of Planning and Environment to discuss Bannaby and Greenhills option reviews and advice requested
- Working with individual property owners on micro-siting



Recent Community & Stakeholder Engagement

The HumeLink team has continued its community engagement with a range of activities including community information sessions, webinars, stakeholder briefings, advocacy, industry presentations, local sponsorships and partnerships with key stakeholders. We have focused on responding to landowner needs, sharing information and identifying benefits and opportunities.

Community Information Sessions

Our HumeLink Community Information Sessions are a real team effort, with members from across the project –including engineering, property and community & stakeholder engagement – meeting with the community and landowners. 17 sessions have been held throughout September and October, and webinars will begin in November.

Strategic Benefits Payments

Landowners who host HumeLink transmission lines on their property will now receive an annual Strategic Benefit Payment of \$10,000 per kilometre of transmission line across privately-owned land, over a period of 20 years and adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index. Transgrid and landowners have advocated for this payment for some time with the NSW Government (EnergyCo).

Landowner complaints register

There are approximately 267 private landowners within the HumeLink footprint. Since November 2020, HumeLink has received 67 complaints. 51 of these complaints were from landowners - which is the equivalent of around one complaint for every 5 landowners.



Recent Community & Stakeholder Engagement

As part of our commitment to investing in the local communities with our community consultative groups we have identified four community investment areas: connectivity, Caring for Country, workforce development and affordable housing.

Regional Development Australia (Riverina) partnership

Transgrid and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina have formed a \$1.5 million Workforce Development Strategic Partnership to deliver a jobs and skills boost as the region becomes a hub for the country's renewable energy transformation. The partnership, announced in October, will secure substantial economic, employment and education benefits and support RDA Riverina's key programs over the next three years.

Transgrid Community Partnership Program

In October, 25 organisations along the HumeLink route were awarded a total of \$99,971 in grants as part of Transgrid's Community Partnership Program. Recipients include the Country Education Foundation Cootamundra, Humula Bushfire Brigade, Convoy For Kids Goulburn, Forest Hill Public School and Upper Lachlan Landcare.

Wagga Wagga Women in Business and Local Business Awards, Wagga Wagga

Transgrid is committed to building its local engagement, beginning with sponsorship of Wagga Wagga Women in Business and the Wagga Wagga Local Business Awards.



Property Update

Progress

- 225 letters of offer issued to private properties
- 50 private offers still to send

Special Benefits Payment

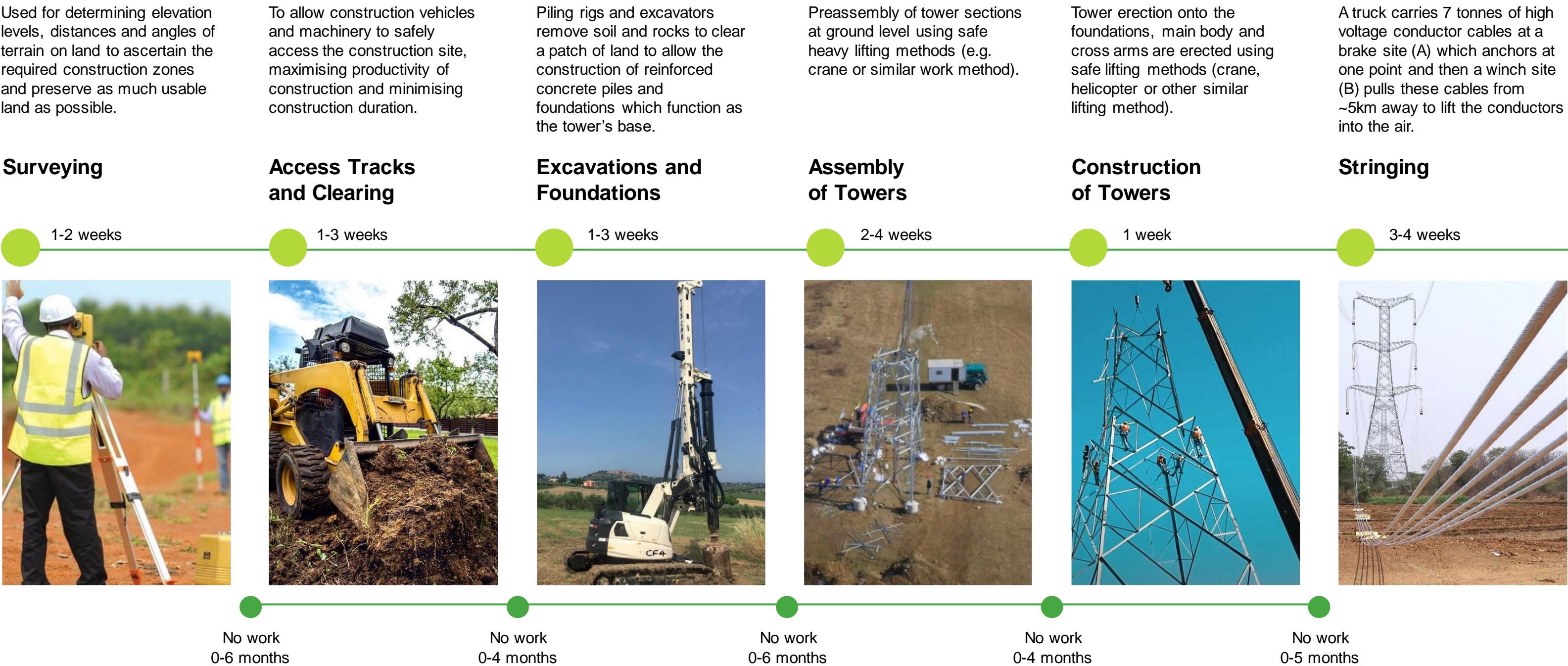
- NSW Government announced the Strategic Benefits Payments Scheme for private landowners 25 October
- The payment is available to private landowners whose properties are hosting major infrastructure projects critical to the energy transformation and future of the electricity grid.
- The payment is in addition to any compensation paid under the *Just Terms Compensation Act 1991*

Landowners will be paid a set rate of \$200,000 per Kilometre of transmission line hosted

Funds will be paid in annual installments over 20 years i.e. \$10,000 per Kilometre, per year for 20 years

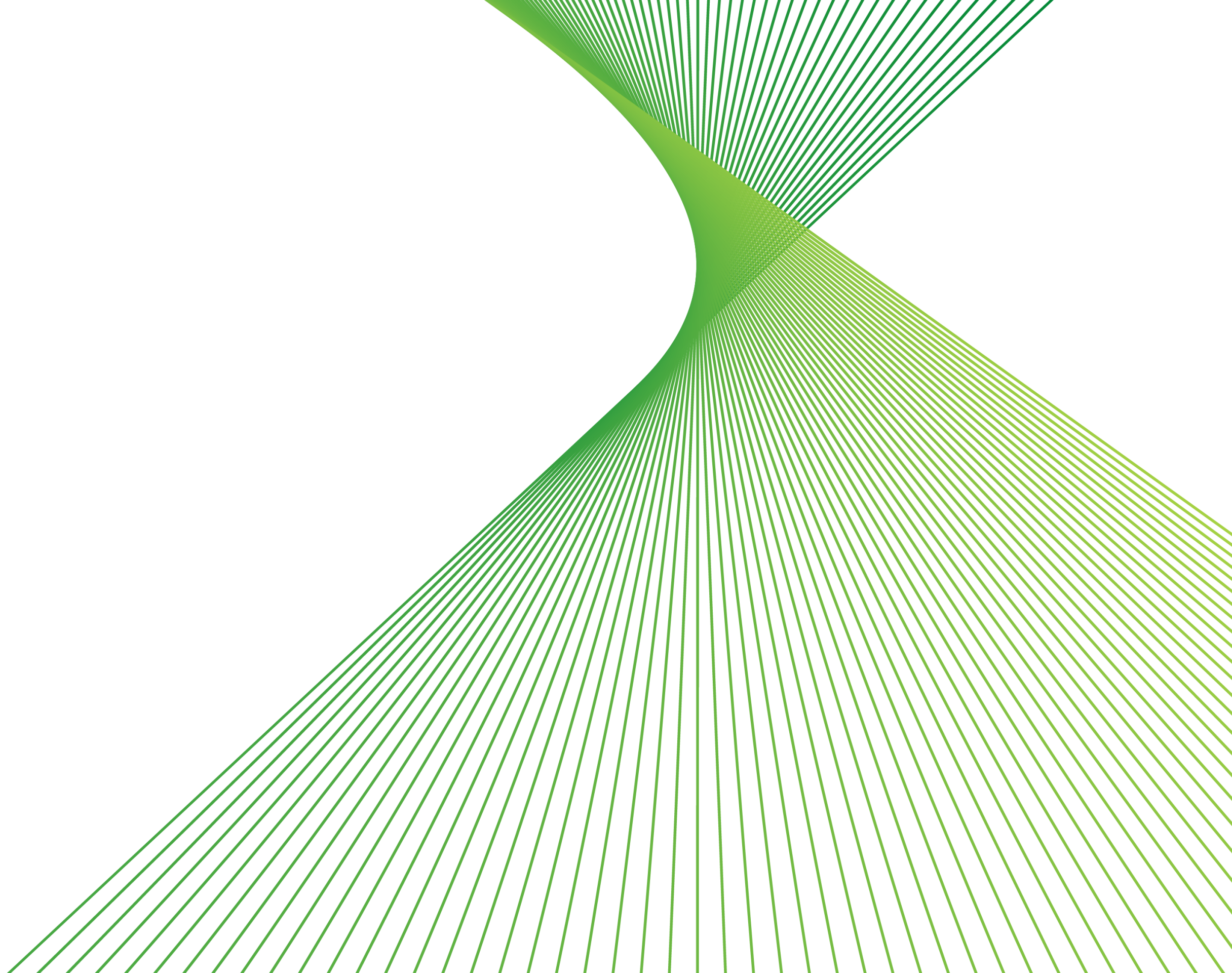
- Eligible landowner will not have to apply to the SBP Scheme. Work is underway to implement the scheme into Transgrid's processes.
- Payments will come into effect after construction of transmission infrastructure is complete and energised
- Transgrid is working with NSW Government to ensure all questions from landowners are responded to

Timeline for Transmission Line Construction





EIS Update



EIS update – Aboriginal heritage fieldwork

8-week heritage test excavation program continuing to progress

As part of the HumeLink Aboriginal heritage assessment, six Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) and 25 areas of archaeological sensitivity have been identified by technical specialists and local Aboriginal parties.

The project team is currently conducting a test excavation program that will concentrate on testing PADs and a selection of additional areas of archaeological sensitivity that may be impacted by the project. Over 290 test excavations are planned as part of the program. This is a requirement in the SEARs.

The outcomes of the test excavations will be documented in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), which will form part of the EIS which will be put on display during the EIS public exhibition period.

Test excavations are scheduled to be completed in early December – weather permitting.



Test pit area set-up



Excavated test pit (50 x 50 cm pit size)

Biodiversity offset credits

What are they?

- Biodiversity offset credits are a means of quantifying the residual ecosystem impacts of an activity after avoidance and mitigation have been accounted for
- Credits come in two types:
 - **Ecosystem** – all plants and animals associated with a given geology (NSW is divided into different regions and sub-regions)
 - **Species** – important / threatened species

How do we determine the number needed?

- Biodiversity assessment as part of the EIS involves undertaking ecological surveys, using prescribed methods set by legislation
- Biodiversity offset credit liabilities are determined using an offsets calculator and guidelines
- Only Accredited Assessors can do this work (there are 365 approved ecologists on the NSW Government register)
- A report on the offset credits for HumeLink will be included in the EIS

How would Transgrid get them?

- Establish Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) sites
- Purchase credits from public registers (from landholders or other credit owners)
- Pay directly into the Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund (operated by the Credit Supply Taskforce)
- Retire remaining offset credits not covered above via research or community projects

EIS update – Agency and key stakeholder engagement

Meetings since October 2022

- Heritage NSW
- BCD
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council
- RFS
- DPE

Upcoming meetings

- Wagga Wagga Council
- Cootamundra–Gundagai Regional Council
- Goulburn–Mulwaree Council

** Other meetings as requested by key government stakeholders*

Road crossing workshops with Councils

- Upper Lachlan Shire Council – completed

Pending to be scheduled

- Snowy Valleys Council
- Yass Valley Council
- Cootamundra – Gundagai Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council

EIS update – Community information webinars

- Different times and dates to provide flexibility
- Focused on EIS planning and approvals process
- Target public – general community members, stakeholder and landowners
- Held on Zoom as this platform has been used previously in landowner compensation webinars

Advertisement of the sessions

- Social media
- Posters in key local areas (libraries, Council offices, community centres)
- Email to existing database and info distributors
- Project newsletters
- Radio
- Website update
- Zoom guide

Proposed agenda

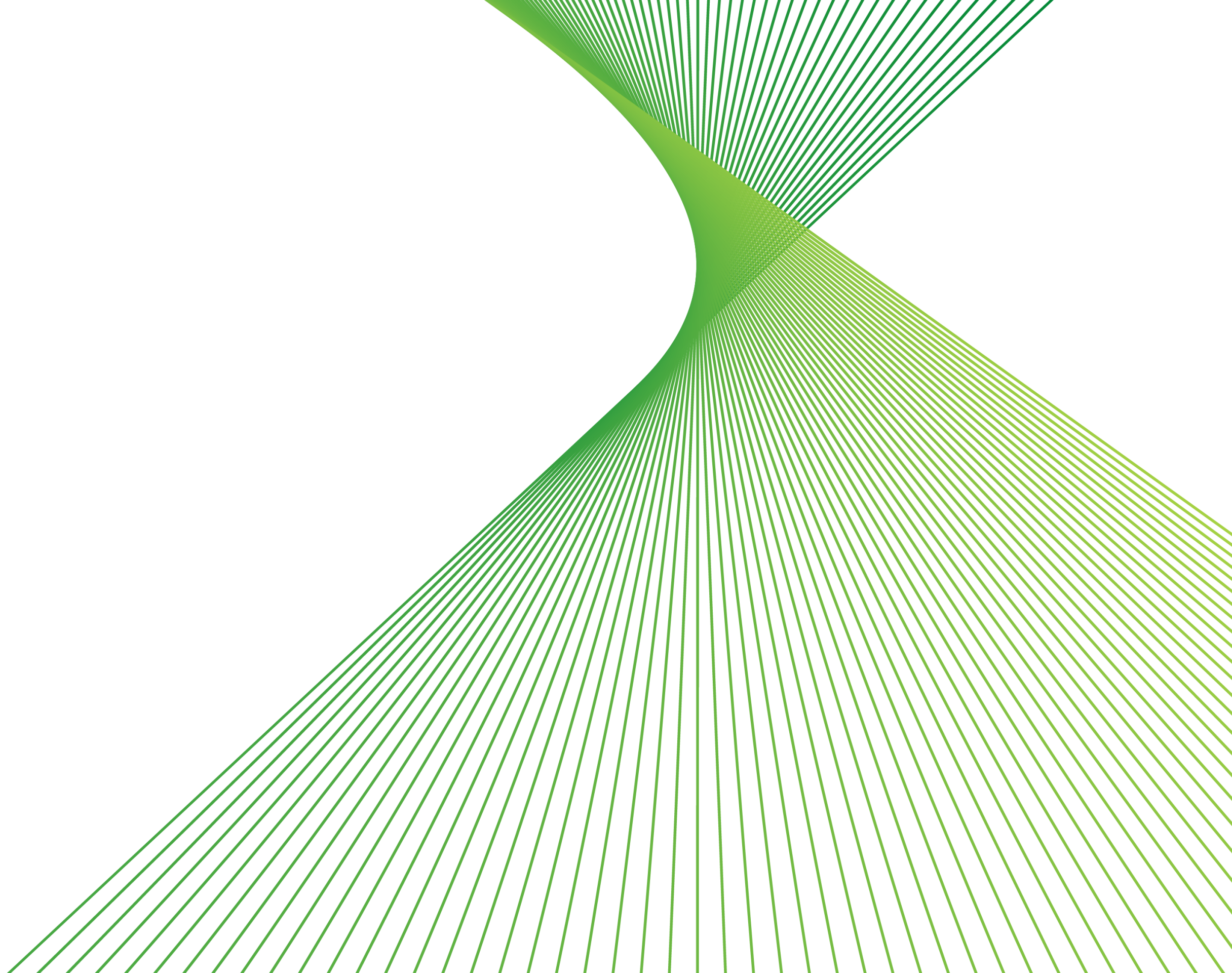
Topic
Welcome address and Acknowledgment of Country
Introductions
Transgrid and NSW and ACT electricity network
HumeLink Project Overview
EIS introduction and update
Zoom poll for EIS topics
Questions
Close

Proposed webinar schedule

Date	Time
Wednesday 30 November	5:30pm to 6:30pm (AEST)
Thursday 1 December	5:30pm to 6:30pm (AEST)
Friday 2 December	12:00pm to 1:00pm (AEST)
Tuesday 6 December	5:30pm to 6:30pm (AEST)
Wednesday 7 December	1:00pm to 2:00pm (AEST)
Thursday 8 December	12:30pm to 1:30pm (AEST)



Biosecurity



Biosecurity

- Transgrid has adopted a corporate Biosecurity Procedure and Guideline to ensure a consistent biosecurity approach across the business that meets regulatory requirements.
- Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, the responsibility for biosecurity is shared between government, industry and the community.
- Under the Act, “General Biosecurity Duty” means that anyone, including Transgrid personnel and contractors, who knows or should know about a biosecurity risk has a duty to prevent, eradicate or minimise such a risk. This means “Come Clean, Go Clean” as far as reasonably practicable.
- As part of consultation with property owners before site access, Transgrid will check to determine if specific Biosecurity Protocols and/or Management Plan(s) are in place to ensure specific biosecurity measures are implemented. Transgrid and contractors will comply with biosecurity signage.
- Transgrid and contractors will inspect vehicles, plant, equipment, clothing and footwear for soil and vegetative matter and perform cleans / washdowns as required. A documented hygiene check for higher risk properties will be undertaken.

Biosecurity in the field

Document	Purpose	Application	Accountability
TG Policy	Statement of Intent to do no harm	LAO to work with Landowners to identify specific property requirements	Landowner + LAO + TG enviro team
Consent to enter	Agreement to allow reasonable access subject to Landowner conditions	LAO and Landowners identify access requirements on case-by-case basis	Landowner + LAO + Contractor Supervisor
Property Management Plan	Specific rules for accessing the property during construction	LAO and Landowner develop protocol for ongoing access during construction (high frequency)	Landowner + Transgrid Surveillance officers + DPE + EPA
Easement protocols	Operational access requirements	LAO and Landowner develop protocol for ongoing access during operation (low frequency)	Landowners + Transgrid Operations Supervisor

Agenda setting for next meeting



Thank you

