

# EnergyConnect Community Newsletter



May 2024

EnergyConnect is Australia's largest energy transmission project. It involves building a new 900km transmission line to connect the energy grids in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to help improve reliability and security of electricity supply and allow for future connections from renewable energy sources. Transgrid and our delivery partner, Elecnor Australia, are building EnergyConnect in NSW.

## Progress update

Construction continues to progress on the 700km NSW section of EnergyConnect, with key milestones being achieved in the following areas:

**EnergyConnect West:** South Australian and Victorian borders to Buronga

- Transgrid's construction partner Elecnor Australia has raised more than 340 towers and poles and has strung more than 130km of conductor lines on the western alignment from Buronga to the South Australian border, with a connection to Red Cliffs in Victoria.
- Specialist crews are currently focusing on stringing operations. Stringing involves carefully pulling a draw wire onto towers before guiding the conductor cable into position.



Check out our crews in action completing the stringing works.

## Buronga substation

Works are progressing building the 16ha substation at Buronga, in southwestern NSW. Pre commissioning of the two 120MVAR synchronous condensers is well underway. A synchronous condenser is a type of electrical generator that is used to regulate power factor and improve system stability.

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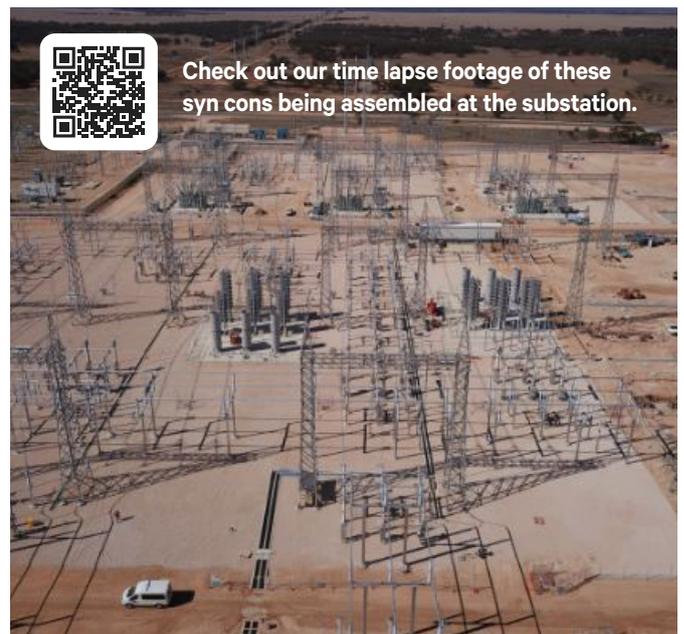


Image: Buronga substation.

**EnergyConnect East:** Buronga to Wagga Wagga

- Works on the site at Dinawan (Bundure) near Coleambally are continuing to progress with the construction of the new substation, equipment laydown, and worker accommodation camp all underway. The workers accommodation camp will have the capacity to accommodate up to 460 workers.
- Tower foundations and assemblies are ongoing between Buronga and Dinawan with over 90 foundations completed so far and transmission towers beginning to be assembled.



## Upcoming work

Construction works between Dinawan and Wagga Wagga continue to progress with over 70 foundations complete. Assembly and erection of transmission towers are about to kick off near Lockhart in the coming weeks.

### Fun Facts

The weight of the lower halves of the synchronous condensers alone is 210 tonnes, which roughly equals the weight of 31 elephants.



Dinawan substation gets its name from the local Wiradjuri word for emu.

### How this will affect you

These works maybe dusty and you may notice an increase in construction vehicles in this area.

Please be mindful of any traffic management in place in this area.

For any enquiries about construction activities or for more information about the project, please call 1800 49 06 66 or email [pec@transgrid.com.au](mailto:pec@transgrid.com.au). We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation during these essential works.



Image: Dinawan site



## Transmission Towers between Dinawan substation and Wagga Wagga

As part of project EnergyConnect, a new double circuit 500 kV transmission line will be constructed from Dinawan Substation (Bundure) near Coleambally, to Wagga Wagga substation approximately 176kms. Works on this section of the alignment involves the assembly and erection of 334 transmission towers called Danubio towers.



For more information on these towers see our [Transmission Tower Fact Sheet](#)

The design of 500 kV transmission towers varies based on terrain and topography. The two most common types are:

**Suspension towers** - used to support the transmission conductors (also known as cables or wires). Their primary function is to keep the wires at a safe height above the ground and to support the weight of the cables across long spans.

**Tension/Angle towers** – used as the anchoring points to connect and apply tension to the conductors. Tension towers are the first and last towers of long sections of conductors. This type of tower is also commonly used at road or railway crossings, and where there is a change of direction.

### Fun Fact

The Danubio is so called after the Danube tower that represents the widest spread tower typology in Europe. It's meaning suggests its “to set in motion, to flow.”



## EnergyConnect becomes a leader in sustainability achieving a *Leading IS* rating

EnergyConnect has become the first electricity transmission project in Australia to receive an official sustainability rating in recognition of a series of industry-leading initiatives in the design and delivery of the critical interconnector.



**Image:** Members of EnergyConnect team pictured receiving the project's sustainability certificate from Asim Nizam, Regional Manager from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council has awarded Australia's largest transmission project the highest Design Rating of 'Leading'.

Transgrid and our construction partner Elecnor Australia are going above and beyond to set the benchmark in sustainability best practice for the future pipeline of energy transmission projects across the country

We are delivering real sustainability outcomes with innovative solutions to reducing our carbon footprint, minimising the use of energy and water, protecting valuable biodiversity, decreasing waste, and building in resilience against forecast climate impacts.

Key sustainability measures being implemented on EnergyConnect include:



A 35% reduction in native vegetation clearing to preserve valuable biodiversity



Using guyed towers that require 21% less steel and 15% less concrete to construct compared to conventional self-supporting structures



Thousands of wildlife nesting boxes being installed to provide fauna habitat for local species



A 31% reduction in construction water use and a 78% replacement of portable water with non-portable sources



Recycling 400 tonnes of wooden pallets and 50,000 cans and bottles

Transgrid is delivering the nation's transition to a clean energy future in a sustainable way by designing and constructing our critical transmission infrastructure to optimise environmental, social and economic outcomes.



## In the Community

### Community Partnership's Program applications are open

Our Community Partnership Program (CPP) is designed to benefit areas where our assets are located or under development. Transgrid is proud to invest in a variety of initiatives, focusing on those that provide education opportunities, environmental sustainability, safety and wellbeing along with initiatives that energises communities. Transgrid's CPP's offers grants up to \$5000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations and major project areas.

Since 2020, over 215 organisations have shared in almost \$1 million in Transgrid grants for a range of initiatives spanning from community infrastructure to workshops, along with inclusivity and accessibility projects. On Project EnergyConnect recipients have included organisations from Wentworth, Hay, Balranald, Lockhart, The Rock and Wagga Wagga.

To find out more information about the program, check your organisations eligibility and apply please see Transgrid's Community Partnerships webpage.

[www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program](http://www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program)



**Image:** Members of the EnergyConnect project team pictured with representatives from Wentworth District Community Medical centre who were beneficiaries of Transgrid's community partnership program.



## Regional Development Australia – Riverina

Transgrid is continuing with its five-year Strategic Workforce Development Partnership with Regional Development Australia – Riverina, which also includes collaboration with RDA Murray.

This is a \$1.5 million partnership aimed at unlocking economic, employment and education benefits for Riverina communities as part of energy infrastructure projects in the region.

The first outcome of this has been the delivery of the new Jobs Riverina Murray employment platform to help all communities across the EnergyConnect alignment from Wagga to Wentworth to connect jobseekers with employers. Check out their website here [www.jobsriverinamurray.com.au](http://www.jobsriverinamurray.com.au).

Transgrid are also proud to be supporting the expansion of the RDA Riverina's Country Change campaign to attract people to the regional areas for work, education and recreation as well as their Grow Our Own which targets investment in youth through employment, training, mentoring and motivational opportunities. Visit the website for more information [Country Change | Move to NSW's Riverina Murray Region!](#)

Project EnergyConnect's Community, Stakeholder & Engagement team recently attended the Regional Development Australia's Griffith connection networking event

and country change rebranding launch which was sponsored by Transgrid. It was a fantastic opportunity to foster connections and showcase Transgrid's commitment to investing in local communities.



**Image:** Project EnergyConnect Community Stakeholder & Engagement team pictured with representatives from RDA Riverina in Griffith



## Transgrid Discovery Hub Wagga Wagga

### The Wagga Wagga Discovery Hub is open

More than a year in the making, Transgrid's Discovery Hub is now open. The one - stop shop allows visitors to engage with Transgrid and access information about our energy vision, major projects employment and training opportunities, operations and community based - activities across the Riverina region. The Hub provides a visual and interactive space for school students to explore power generation, electricity transmission, the transition to renewables and careers in the energy sector. Shared community spaces are available for use by not-for-profit organisations for meetings, workshops, and conferences.

Construction and fitout of the Hub has involved more than 30 local businesses and 90 workers as well as Transgrid people based at Wagga.

**Community open hours:** 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday

**Open for appointments:** 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

**Weekends and public holiday:** Closed

**Events (Hub Partners only):** 7am to 9pm

Discovery Hub enquiries can be made to:  
(02) 6922 0203 or [discovery.hub@transgrid.com.au](mailto:discovery.hub@transgrid.com.au)

## Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through EnergyConnect project.

**Please connect with us for more information.**



**1800 49 06 66** (free call)  
**pec@transgrid.com.au**  
**[transgrid.com.au/energyconnect](http://transgrid.com.au/energyconnect)**

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