HumeLink Community Consultative Group 11th meeting

March 2023

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Agenda

CCG Commencement & Acknowledgement of Country	5 minutes
Minutes and Actions (Michael)	15 minutes
Bushfire Management (Jeremy)	10 minutes
Project Approvals Framework (Sumaya)	10 minutes
Property Management (Daryl)	20 minutes
Undergrounding (Nathan)	10 minutes
Break	10 minutes
EIS topic – Traffic and Transport (Sumaya)	20 minutes
Compensation & Claims Process (Joel)	10 minutes
Collateral & Exhibition (Joel / Michael)	20 minutes
Community Investment (Michael)	10 minutes
General Business	10 minutes

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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.

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Meeting Protocols and Introduction of Jeremy

Minutes and Matters Arising

CCG Action Register

Action
Biosecurity How will TG ensure rules/procedures are being followed?
Undergrounding • Provide update on the outstanding issues from undergrounding report. • What information is being provided to AEMO and other stakeholder regarding undergrounding? Can this be shared with CCG?
Submissions Provide information on state and federal grounds for objections. Provide information on how to complete a submission
Landscape, character and Visual Impact Assessment (LCVIA) • Have other views from the property, such as sheds and cattle yards (where people spend a lot of their time) been considered in the assessment? • LCVIA - how are existing lines considered in the cumulative impacts on visual amenity • Character and sub-character zones and definitions (how these are determined give it is a linear infrastructure project) • How are changes from concept design to detailed design being communicated to landowners? - specifically for changes that might impact landscape character and visual amenity
Agricultural Land Technical Report Revise Study Area map on Ag Land tech report and chapter – construction compounds need to be appropriately labelled
Agricultural What consideration has been given to the impact on wool producers?
Property Management Plan (PMP) Provide further information on the PMP process
Underground Steerco Meeting Dec 2022 Recording Provide copy of recording from undergrounding steerco meeting
Heritage • How does TG capture valued items that are not classified under 'heritage' or 'cultural' in EIS - What happens to this info? • Provide list of Aboriginal groups engaged as part of EIS

In response to your request to be provided with a detailed action list, we have developed this action register.

Actions and responses will be captured in the meeting minutes.

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CCG Action Register

Action
Delivery partners
• Requested road map of the project (including sub-contractors)
• Delivery Partners - Provide map for the east / west split.
Towers & transmission lines
• Provide details of alternate designs considered for towers. Can these be provided to community for consideration and feedback.
• What is the clearance of line at lowest point?
• What exactly makes up the towers and the lines, where the materials are sourced from and what companies are involved.
Cumulative impacts
How are cumulative impacts considered as part of the EIS? Are existing or future lines taken into consideration?
Community investment
Provide details on community investment to date and future plans.
Professional fees
Provide more information on 'reasonable' costs and the 'capped' amount.
NEARA
Requested Neara images from the viewpoint of Tumut township.
Bushfires
Provide map of outages during Dunns Road Fire including outages requested by RFS.
Route Length
Provide difference in route length between the original Bannaby to Tumut option and the alternate that was considered.
Noise and Vibration
• Provide an example of a noise and vibration catchment
• provide an explanation of the noise monitoring process and how the noise machines work
• Will noise monitors will remain post construction of the route
• Dedicate an agenda item during a CCG in 2023 to noise and bring an acoustic expert in

In response to your request to be provided with a detailed action list, we have developed this action register.

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Bushfire Management

Bushfire Management – best practice safety compliance

What are we doing?

EIS: Bushfire Risk Assessment (BFRA)

Ongoing meetings with NSW Rural Fire Service working to identify how HumeLink can further support firefighting efforts – comms, access tracks, assets

Targeted learning sessions with local RFS crews

Bushfire Workshop with community this year

The BFRA involves:

- identifying specific bushfire survey areas within the project footprint that may experience elevated exposure to bushfire risk during construction and operation
- carrying out field investigations to assess existing vegetation, slope, and access to bushfire survey areas
- carrying out desktop mapping of bushfire survey areas, including spatial analysis and modelling of bushfire indicators including Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) and Asset Protection Zones recommending mitigation measures to be implemented at the commencement of work, throughout construction and operation
- Taking onboard local feedback from landowners and the community

Transgrid utilises its Electricity Network Safety Management System which is compliant with AS5577 to manage bushfire risk and meet all relevant regulatory requirements. -The network is operated and maintained to minimise risk of bushfires through **proactive and regular vegetation management**, **regular reviews and inspections** of assets to ensure they are fit for purpose, and **inspection and management of the easement** that supports the infrastructure. Newly installed assets are covered by these management systems.

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Project Approvals Framework
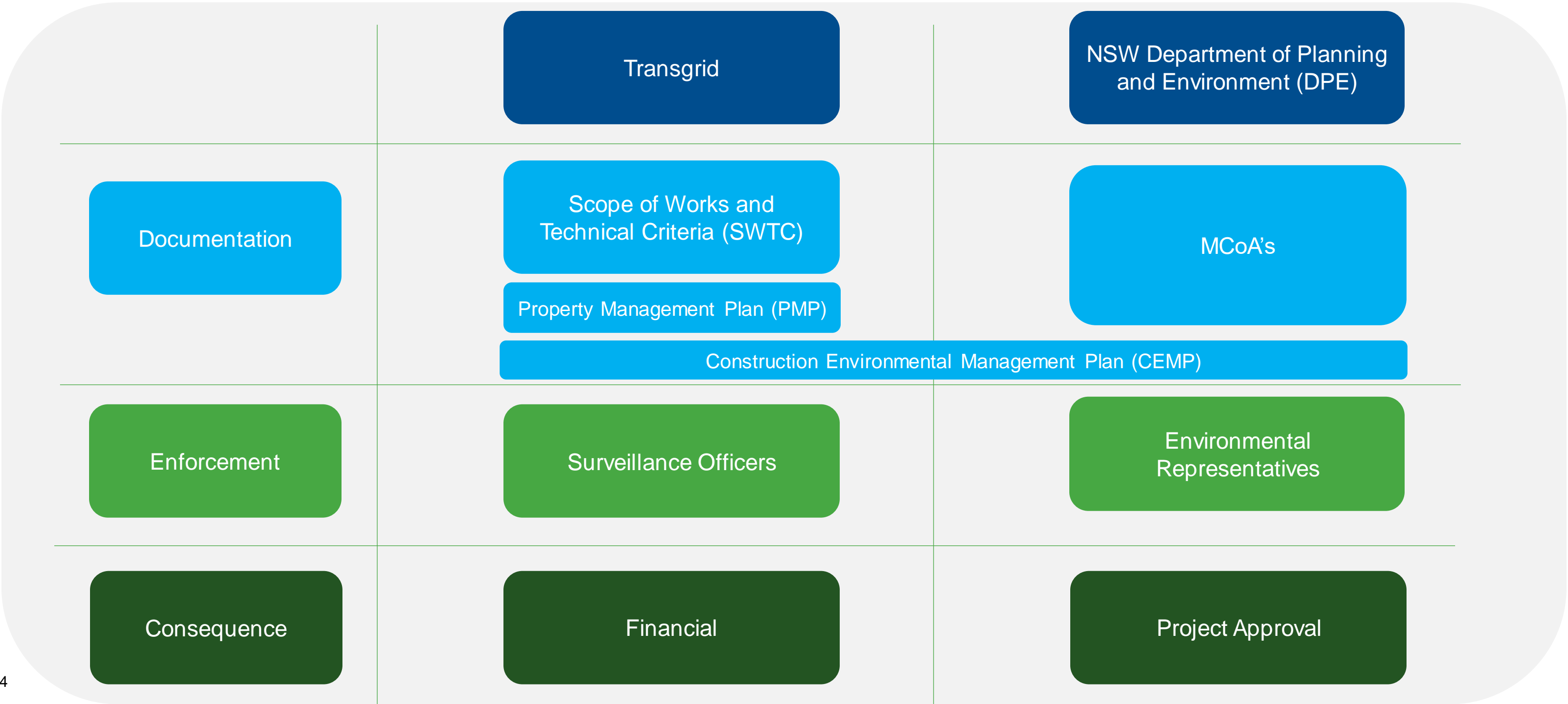
Biosecurity Protocols During Construction

Transgrid understands that Biosecurity is a significant concern for landowners, business owners and operators and industry representatives.

The exact mechanism by which Biosecurity will be managed during construction will be outlined in the Enabling Works Environmental Management Plan (EWEMPL) and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

The EWEMPL and the CEMP will be developed by the construction contractors following project approval and will respond to Landowner Property Management Plans (PMPs), Minister for Planning Condition of Approval (MCoA's), as well as any other relevant standards.

Landowner and Environment controls

	Transgrid	NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
Documentation	Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC)	MCoA's
	Property Management Plan (PMP)	
	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	
Enforcement	Surveillance Officers	Environmental Representatives
Consequence	Financial	Project Approval

Property Management

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What is a Property Management Plan (PMP)

- The PMP forms part of the Option Agreement and outlines the obligations of Transgrid and its contractors relating to property access

- PMP will apply from the date the Option Agreement is entered into until the construction completion date

- Deals with standard property requirements such as:
  - Construction planning
  - Communication and consultation
  - Easement access
  - Biosecurity
  - Livestock management
  - Cropping
  - Fire risk management
  - Vegetation
  - Compaction

- Includes provision for property specific matters that are outside the scope of standard property requirements and provisions of how Transgrid will manage these additional matters.

- Includes a map of the land, identifying known features that may be impacted during construction such as existing infrastructure, access tracks, watercourses etc.

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Payment for Professional Service Fees

Transgrid will reimburse professional costs reasonably incurred by a Landowner in connection with a Transgrid proposed land or easement acquisition, between the date of an initial offer letter and the completion or discontinuance of the acquisition

As stipulated in a clause of the *Just Terms Act*, **Transgrid is required to reimburse the Landowner for any reasonably incurred legal, valuation and financial service fees** relating to the HumeLink acquisition negotiations.

Prior to engaging any professional service, Transgrid **requires an estimate** of the Landowner's professional fees in advance of the service being undertaken.

Transgrid **will not** approve any **success fees** or **retainers** for professional services.

Transgrid will reimburse all prior approved professional service fees **on receipt of the service** and on **receipt of a completed taxation status form** from the Landowner.

Transgrid is also willing to pay the service provider directly on behalf of the Landowner.
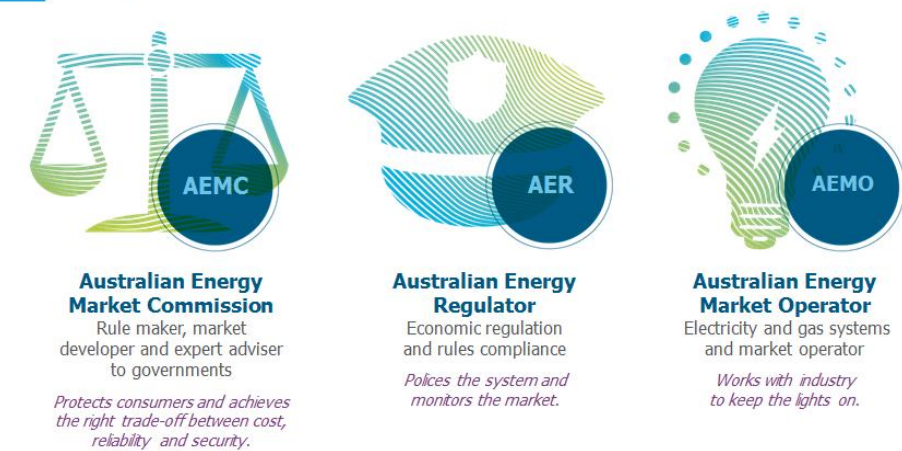
There may be other reasonable costs that Transgrid will reimburse, however prior to engagement, the Landowner should check with Transgrid that the proposed service and fee is acceptable.

Refer to S 59(1) of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 for more information.

Undergrounding

Background on Transgrid's position on undergrounding

Transgrid is highly regulated and is required to develop the Humelink Project under prescribed legal arrangements both at federal and state levels

Market body roles

Australian Energy Market Commission
Rule maker, market developer and expert adviser to governments

Protects consumers and achieves the right trade-off between cost, reliability and security.

Australian Energy Regulator
Economic regulation and rules compliance

Polices the system and monitors the market.

Australian Energy Market Operator
Electricity and gas systems and market operator

Works with industry to keep the lights on.

Reference: National energy governance | AEMC

Table 6   Actionable network investments in the optimal development path

Project	Actionable ISP delivery date – to be progressed urgently^Ω	Description	Actionable framework
HumeLink	July 2026	A 500 kV transmission upgrade connecting Project EnergyConnect and the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme to Bannaby. Cost estimates of $330 million (stage 1) and $2,985 million (stage 2).	ISP (RIT-T is complete)

Reference: AEMO | 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP)

- The Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) **Integrated System Plan (ISP)** identifies investments that meet the future needs of the National Electricity Market (NEM)

- The 2022 ISP defined the HumeLink Project as an **actionable project** - AEMO stated that it should progress as **urgently as possible and before July 2026**

- The **National Electricity Law (NEL)** establishes the **overarching legal framework for the National Energy Market (NEM)** and sets out the roles of the governing bodies. These include the Australian Energy Regulatory (AER) who is responsible for economic regulation.

- Rules made under NEL are designed to promote **efficient investment, operation and use** of energy services for the long-term interests of consumers with respect to **price, quality, safety, reliability, and security of supply.**

- **NSW Government** declared the HumeLink Project as **Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI)** - is of immediate priority meaning the infrastructure needs of the NSW public are immediate or imminent, and that a CSSI declaration could assist in delivering the infrastructure in critical time frames.

- The final asset decision **must abide with these principles,** and this is reflected in Transgrid's response.
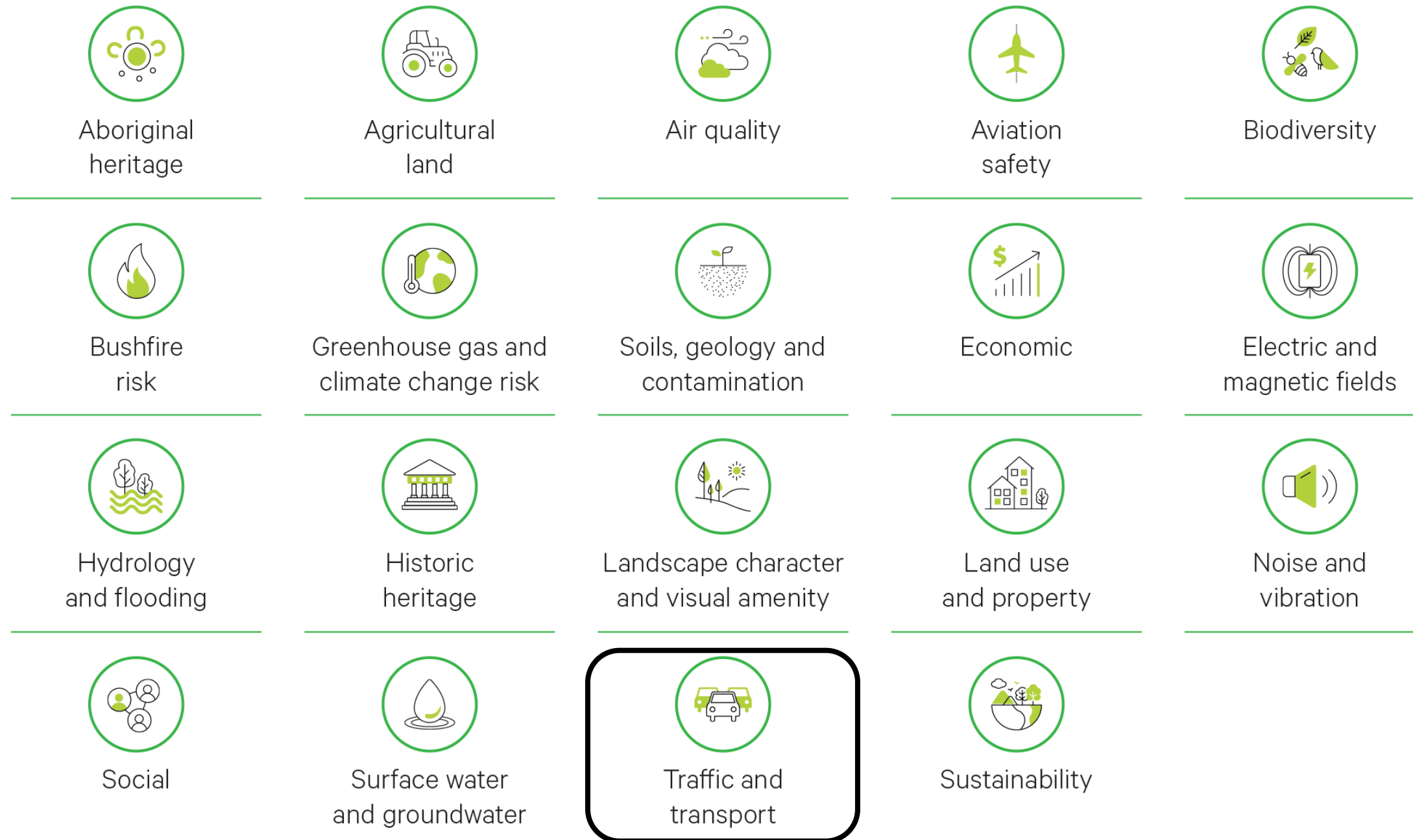
Feedback and next steps

- We are thankful for the feedback in the previous CCG

- We are committed to providing CCG's with increased visibility on discussions and recommendations being shared with regulators, government agencies and other stakeholders for future projects as discussed with the UG SteerCo.

- As shared in previous CCG's, Transgrid has been in ongoing discussions with the Australian Energy Market Operator, Transmission Network Service Providers (domestic and international), NSW Government, Local Government, NSW Farmers and the Australian Energy Independent Commissioner.

- Transgrid recognises that it has a role to play in providing education on infrastructure development. We have continued to collaborate with other energy network companies domestically and internationally and have further information we would like to share.

- Next steps
    1. Host a webinar In Q3 to provide further information on the planning of transmission project including understanding both overhead and the underground options.
    2. Keep CCG informed of any industry changes
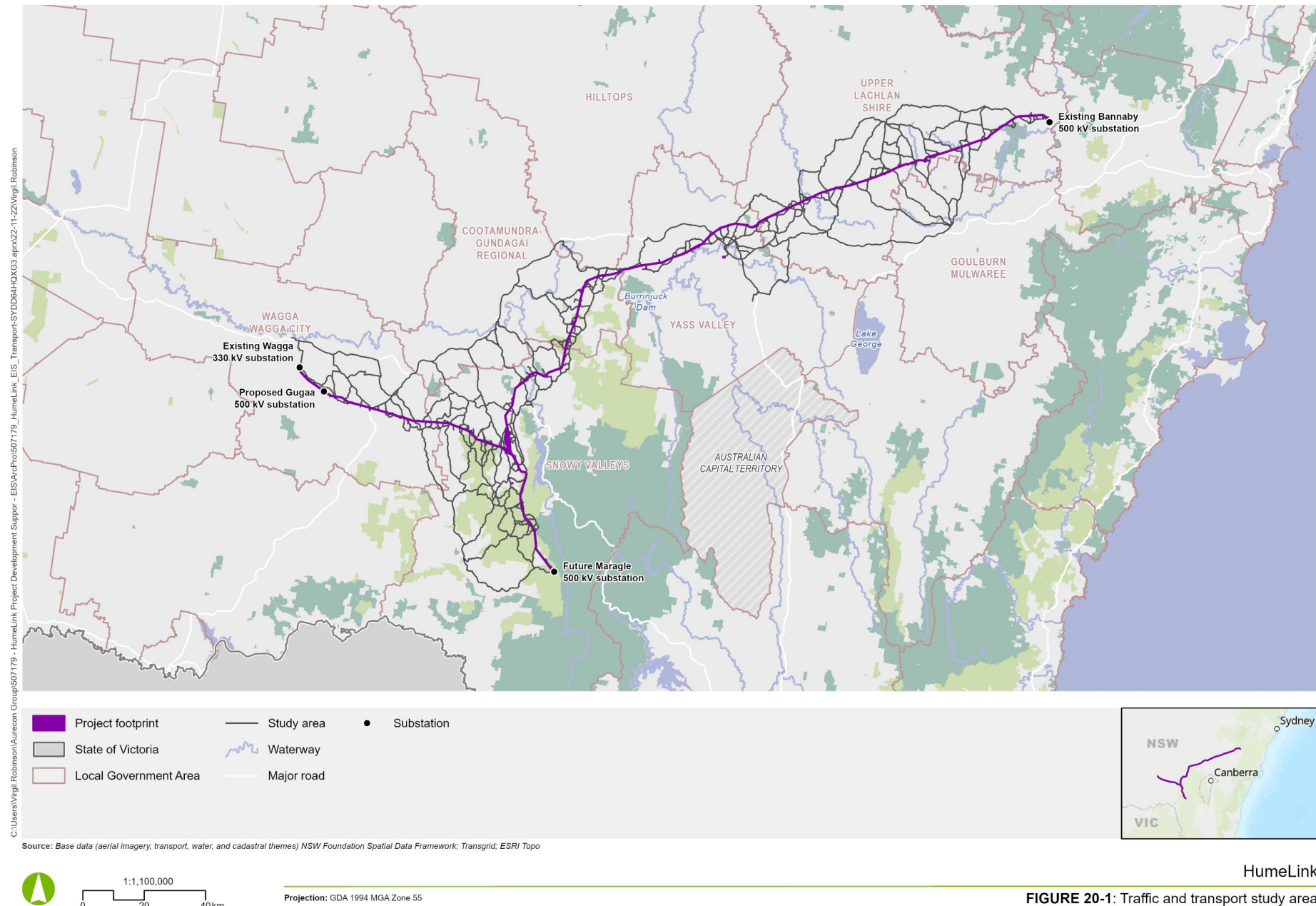   3. Progress with EIS process for overhead transmission lines of HumeLink project

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Break

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EIS Topic

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EIS Technical Studies

Aboriginal heritage

Agricultural land

Air quality

Aviation safety

Biodiversity

Bushfire risk

Greenhouse gas and climate change risk

Soils, geology and contamination

Economic

Electric and magnetic fields

Hydrology and flooding

Historic heritage

Landscape character and visual amenity

Land use and property

Noise and vibration

Social

Surface water and groundwater

Traffic and transport

Sustainability

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Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment – Study area

Source: Base data (aerial imagery, transport, water, and cadastral themes) NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework; Transgrid; ESRI Topo

1:1,100,000
0   20   40km

Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

HumeLink

FIGURE 20-1: Traffic and transport study area

Study area

Comprises the roads identified as being required to access the project during construction and operation across the following Local Government Areas (LGAs)

- Wagga Wagga City
- Snowy Valleys
- Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional
- Yass Valley
- Goulburn-Mulwaree
- Upper Lachlan Shire
- Hilltops.

Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment

Construction traffic

Transport of construction materials and equipment from multiple locations using national, state and local road networks, as well as access tracks.

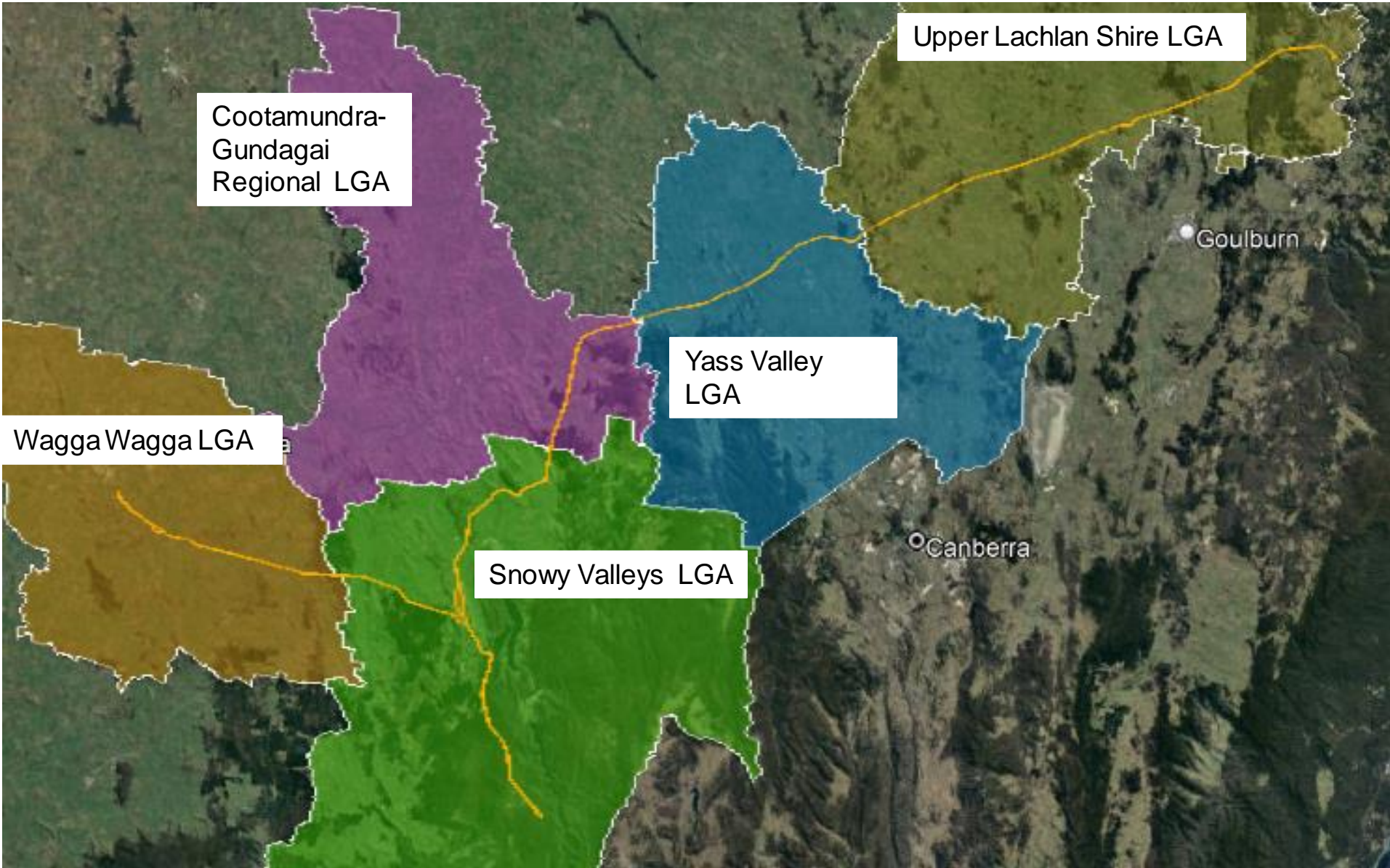Main national and state roads proposed to provide access to the project footprint include:

- Hume Highway
- Sturt Highway
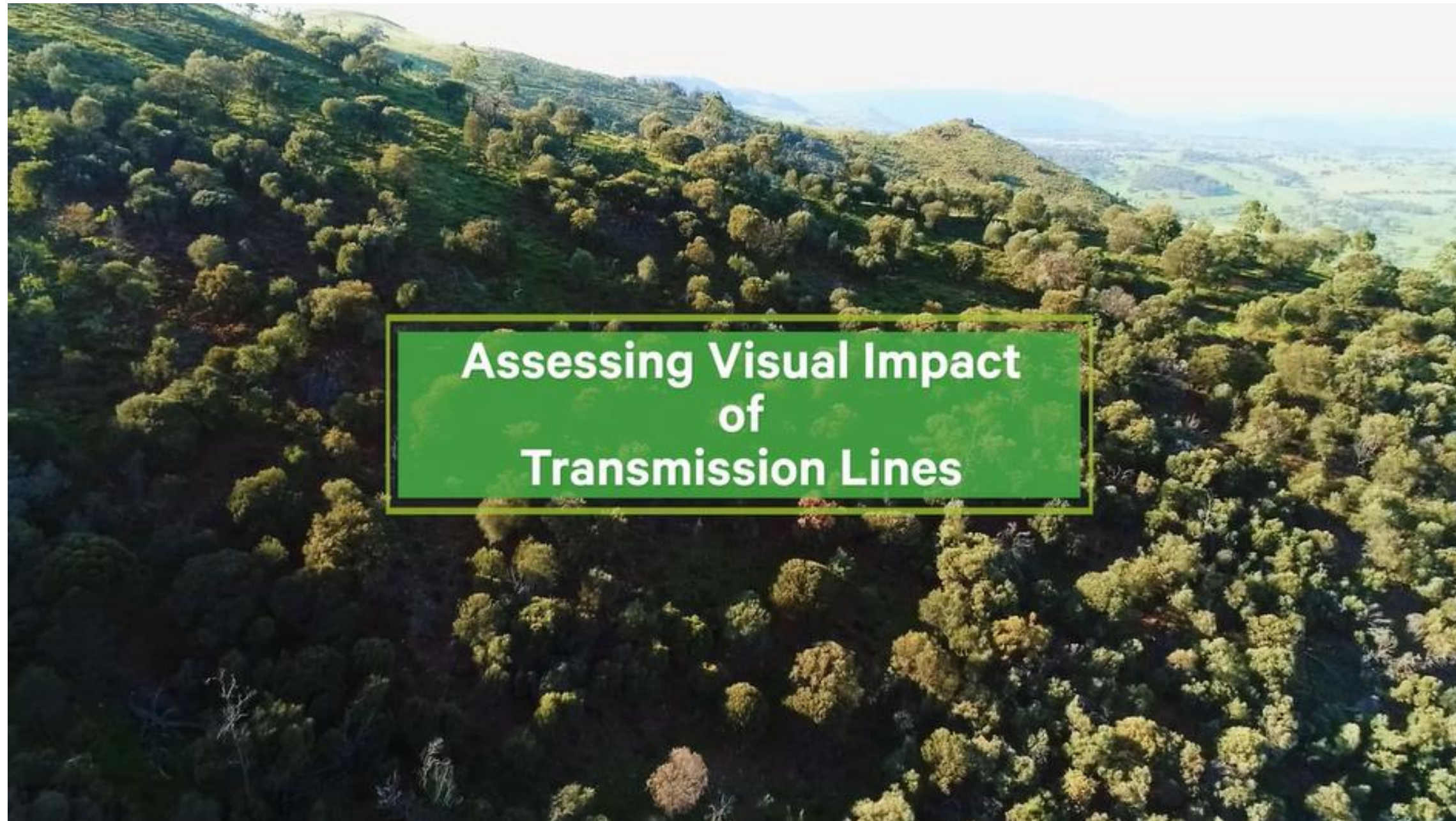- Snowy Mountains Highway
- Batlow Road
- Gocup Road.

Preliminary impacts identified

- Temporary increases in traffic movements on roads connecting work sites for the duration of construction activities – variable activity due to multiple work fronts
- Construction work to occur in a progressive manner along the project footprint.
- Road network performance
    – assessment done based on LoS
    – study area is expected to maintain the same level of performance
- Temporary land and road crossing during transmission line stringing
- Traffic during operation – infrequent movement – impact expected to be negligible

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Project road interactions by Local Government Area

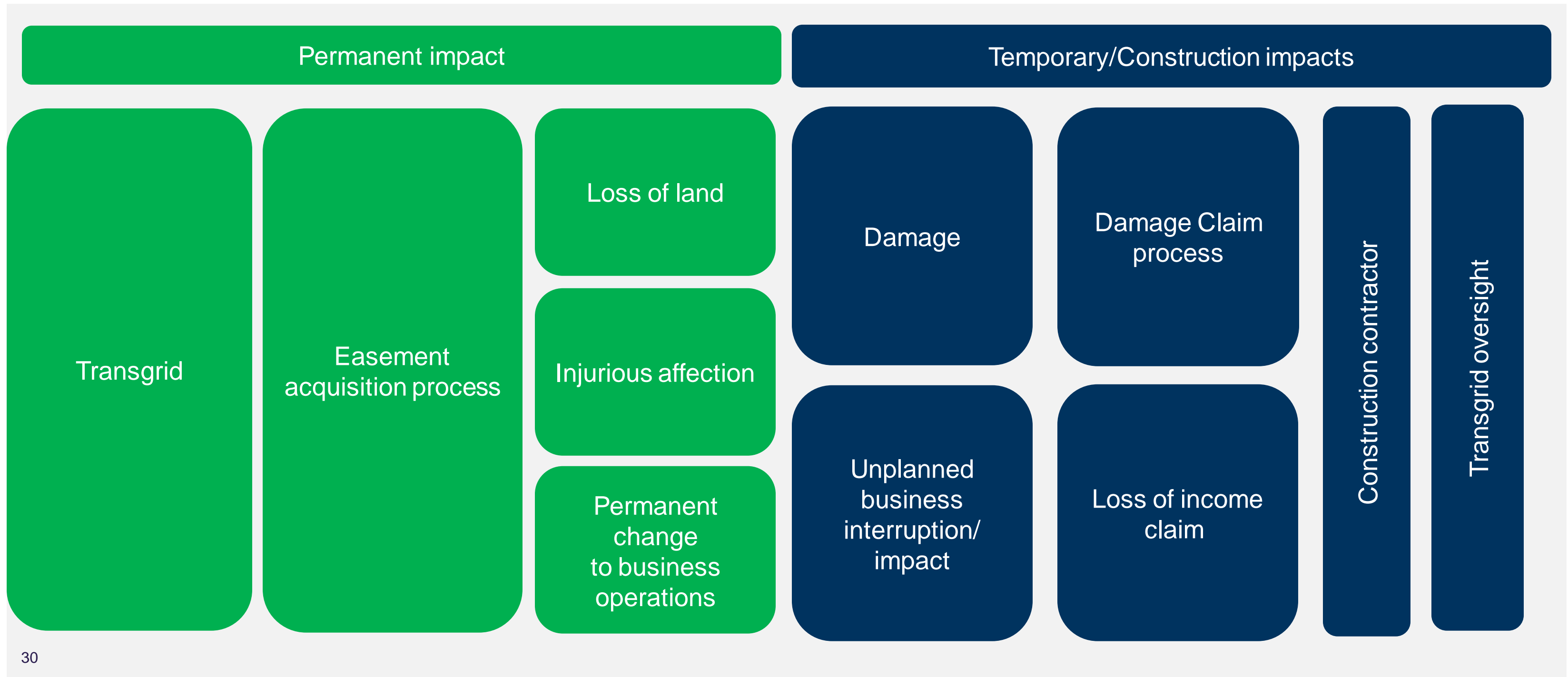| LGA	Road crossings identified
Wagga Wagga City	14 identified road interactions, including 2 TfNSW Classified Roads
Snowy Valleys	18 identified road interactions, including 4 TfNSW Classified Roads
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	5 identified road interactions
Yass Valley	13 identified road interactions, including 2 TfNSW Classified Roads
Upper Lachlan Shire	26 identified road interactions, including 3 TfNSW Classified Roads

LCVIA

Assessing Visual Impact
of
Transmission Lines

CCG members where show a draft version of the LCVIA information video and asked for feedback

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Compensation Claims Process

Compensation Claims Process

Permanent impact	Temporary/Construction impacts

Transgrid	Easement acquisition process	Loss of land	Damage	Damage Claim process	Construction contractor	Transgrid oversight
		Injurious affection				
		Permanent change to business operations	Unplanned business interruption/ impact	Loss of income claim		

30

EIS Collateral & Exhibition

EIS Engagement activities – Pre-EIS public exhibition

- **Face-to-face community information sessions** (throughout four roadshows prior to EIS going on public exhibition)

- First roadshow -
  - **16** sessions,
  - run over **3** weeks (from 21st Feb - 9th Mar)
  - Across **11** locations

- **Webinar community information sessions**, - focused on EIS specialist studies
  - Recent round based on LCVIA, LUP and Ag Land.
  - Next session in early-May focused on Traffic and Transport, Noise and Vibration and Air Quality.

- **RACH - Remote Access Community Hub**

- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders and government agencies

- Supporting collateral including newsletters, fact sheets, HumeLink interactive map, website updates and 'How to guide for the EIS public exhibition'

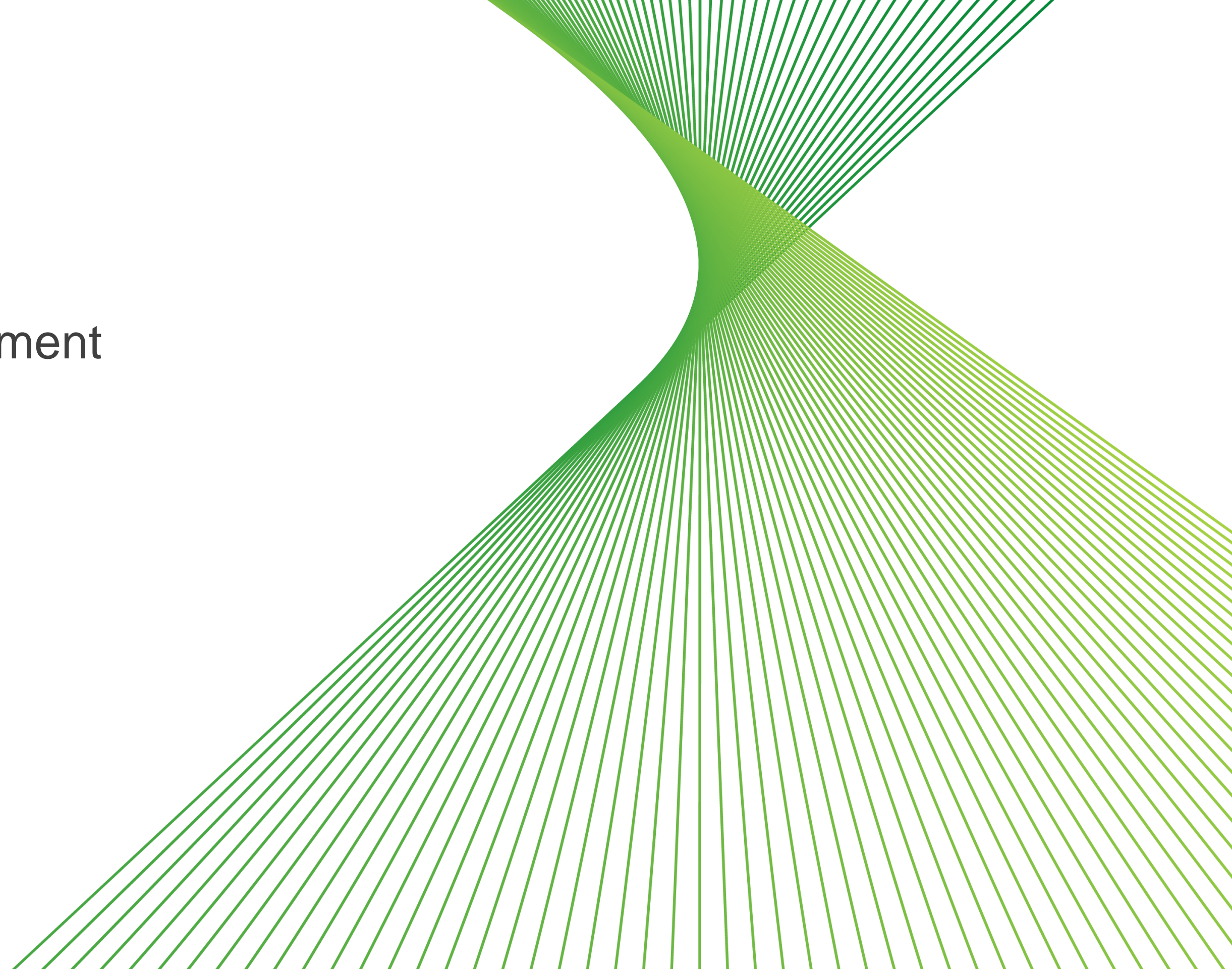- EIS specialist videos

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EIS Engagement activities – EIS public exhibition

- Key stakeholder and government agency briefings
- Face-to-face community information sessions
- Webinar community information sessions
- CCG meetings
- RACH - Remote Access Community Hub
- Digital EIS
- Broad advertisement on EIS going on public exhibition
- Ongoing supporting communication channels
  - 'How to guide for the EIS public exhibition'
  - newsletters
  - fact sheets,
  - website updates

Community Investment

Community and stakeholder engagement

Over 50,000 engagements since March 2021

Letters/forms – 1,347

Phone calls, including 1800 number – over 3,900

Emails – 5,783

Stakeholder meetings – 777

CCG meetings – 27

Consent to enter – over 67% of line length

Online engagements – over 2,400

SMS – over 400

Community information sessions – 33 in person, 11 online

Newsletters
34k (hardcopy) 2,300 (electronic)

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Community investment and benefits plan

Social Legacy and Investments
There are four initiatives that will comprise the Social Legacy Outcomes package of works with defined preparatory activities to be conducted during the Early Works.

Ongoing Community Engagement During Delivery
Transgrid retains responsibility for its social licence – however contractors will play an important delivery role in community investment & relations

Transgrid Community Participation Program
Launching 30 March 2023, For more information: www.transgrid.com.au/cpp

Initiatives within the Social Legacy Outcomes package of works are implemented:

Community investment and benefits include a multitude of local and regional economic development opportunities. Preferred Tenderers to develop aligned Community Investment Plans during ECI Phase 2 - Linked to social impact performance and evaluation KPIs. Scope would include contributions, grants and sponsorships, and partnership initiatives targeted to improve or promote one or several of the following focus areas:

Workforce development and local opportunity

- RDA Riverina Strategic Workforce Development Partnership
- Upskilling, training Energy Industry
- Energy Knowledge in Education and Youth Pathways
- Local business, participation and development
- Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy:
- (Target: 2.5% to 5%)
- Women in construction - participation and development initiatives

Social connectivity

- Connecting Community via 5G and Digital Inclusion initiatives utilising Transgrid Energy Infrastructure
- Social connection events
- Social inclusion and mental health initiatives
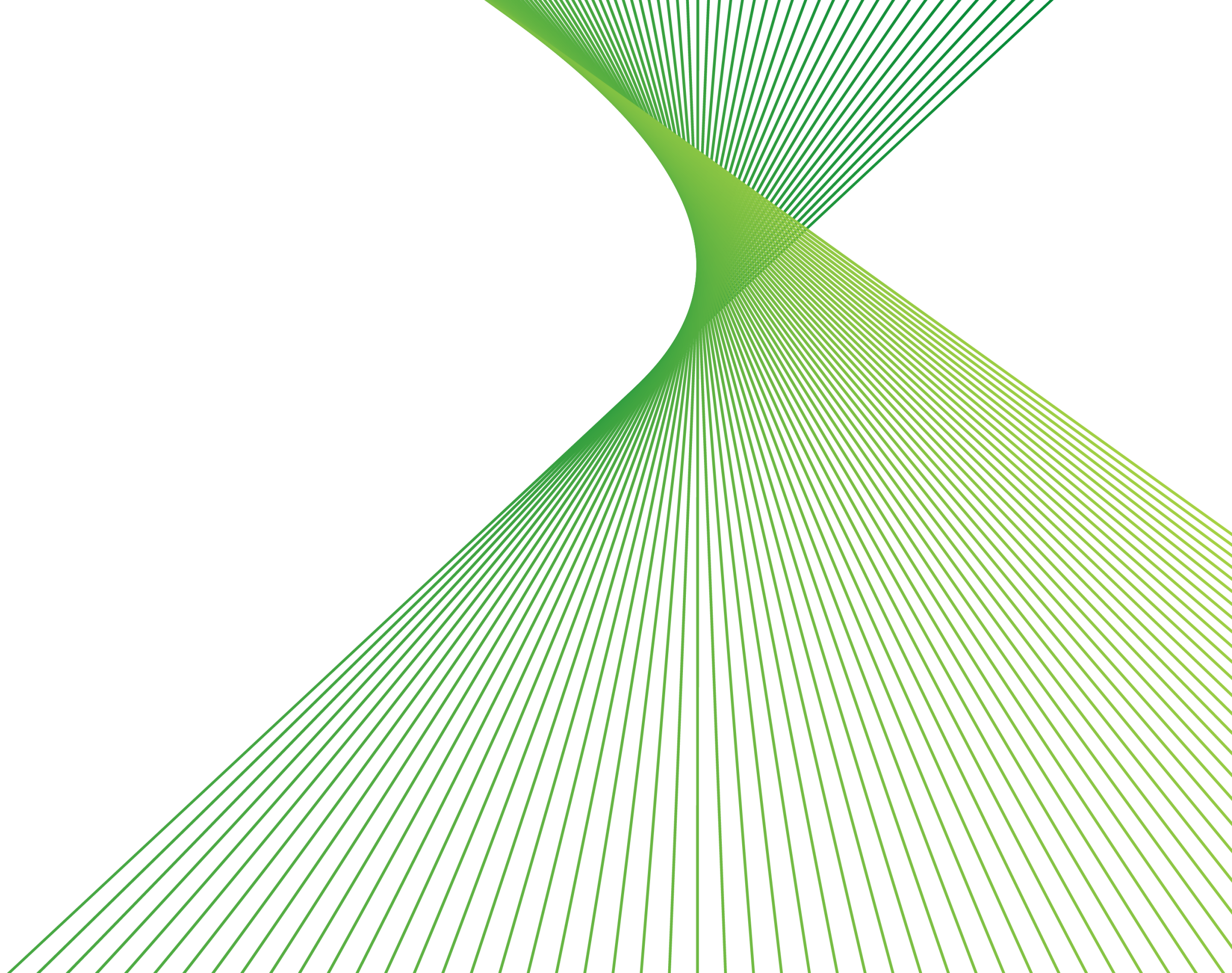
Care for Country

- Employment and Long-Term Jobs for Indigenous Communities
- Tree and Land Remediation – Indigenous Engagement and Plant Nursery
- Community Cultural Facilities and Programs
- Indigenous empowerment initiatives
- Cultural Heritage and Awareness Training
- Institutional Development.

Accessible Housing

- Repurposing worker accommodation for community housing/benefit in areas of unmet social need.

General Business

Thank you

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