

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA REZ TRANSMISSION

Agricultural activities on a
transmission easement

FACT SHEET

Transgrid is working with the NSW Government to plan new transmission infrastructure for Australia's first coordinated Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the State's Central-West Orana region.

Investment in the new infrastructure will allow renewable energy providers from the region to connect to the grid and enable more affordable, reliable and clean energy for New South Wales customers.

The project is receiving funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

Working together to support agricultural operations

Most of our transmission easements run through rural land. Agricultural activities can be carried out on and near transmission easements as long as safety measures are met.

When designing transmission line routes, we work individually with farmers to understand current and future land use and agricultural operations, and find ways for farms to continue to run smoothly.

Livestock grazing

Running livestock for grazing in paddocks with new transmission lines and structures can continue as normal.

Farming activities

Farming activities such as ploughing and direct drilling can continue up to 20 metres from the base of structures. This buffer helps to ensure that machinery does not disturb structure earth straps.

Cropping can continue up to 30 metres from the base of any structure. This clearance provides ready access to structures for maintenance and repair purposes.

There may be some temporary interference with some farming activities during construction. We work with landowners to minimise any disruptions.

Farm equipment

Transmission lines for the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission will be constructed so that 4.6 metre high vehicles can safely move under the lines, without needing to check with us first. When greater clearance heights are required, we work with landowners to determine a mutually agreeable solution.

For safety reasons, equipment with an extendable boom such as excavators, cherry pickers and cranes requires an appropriately trained and qualified operator if the work is under transmission lines.

If you have any questions or concerns about operating your equipment near transmission lines or towers, please contact us (see contact details on back page).

What is an easement?

An easement is a 'right of way' on which we can build and maintain lines and towers on private land.

Trees and shrubs

Trees or shrubs with a mature height of less than four metres can be planted within an easement.

To maintain safety clearances, planting should be at least 30 metres from the base of any structure.

Fencing

When planning new transmission lines, we take existing fencing and gates into account and work with landowners to reduce any electrical safety hazards.

In general, fencing within or near an easement should be earthed and isolated. We do not fence-off easements or restrict ongoing access by a landowner.

New fencing should comply with our Fencing guidelines. The guidelines can be found on our website.

Irrigation

Many irrigation systems can be used safely near transmission lines and structures. Spray-type irrigation systems and flood systems are generally permitted. However, gun-type systems can pose a safety risk due to the solid water stream, which must not make contact with transmission lines. We also encourage you to use caution when moving large boom irrigators under transmission lines.

Prior to starting construction, we work with landowners to minimise any impacts on current or future irrigation systems.

Aerial operations

When planning transmission line routes, we discuss aerial operations and airstrip locations with landowners.

After new transmission lines and towers are built, low flying aircraft such as crop dusters need to be aware of the location of transmission lines and structures, and keep clear of them. For safety reasons, we recommend that you use caution and contact us to seek advice on transmission line flying zones.

Using Global Position Systems (GPS)

Transmission lines should not interrupt GPS signals. GPS signals are a higher frequency signal (similar to mobile phones) so signals from satellites shouldn't be impacted.



Transmission lines can interfere with radio frequencies where the signal is already weak. New transmission lines are designed to minimise any interference.

Other activities

For any other activities planned around transmission lines and structures, please check with us before you start work to ensure your safety and smooth operation.

Protecting your property

Managing bushfires

For safety advice about bushfires near transmission lines read Transgrid's Bushfire Management fact sheet.

Maintaining biosecurity

We understand the importance of biosecurity and are committed to working with landowners to ensure any biosecurity measures are adhered to when our teams enter a property.

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities to develop a route for the transmission lines that minimises impacts on properties, local communities and the environment. To share your views or find out more about the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission, please contact us.