

HumeLink Community Newsletter

June 2024

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia’s largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid and increasing availability and market competition - helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

HumeLink is critical to bringing more affordable, reliable and renewable energy to the grid and is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. HumeLink is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

To view HumeLink’s interactive route map go to transgrid.com.au/humelink

In this issue:

Amendment Report and Submissions Report lodgements

Upcoming lodgements

In the community

HumeLink preferred route



Figure 1: HumeLink preferred route.



Major Planning Milestone

HumeLink's Amendment Report and Submissions Report have been lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).



What are the HumeLink Amendment Report and the Submissions Report?

The Amendment Report outlines several proposed amendments and refinements to the HumeLink project. This is in response to feedback received prior to, during and following the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), comments made in formal submissions on the EIS, ongoing design development and further construction planning. The Amendment Report has been prepared to describe and assess any different or new impacts arising from the proposed amendments and refinements and includes new and updated mitigation measures to manage potential impacts.

The Submissions Report collates, categorises and responds to the stakeholder and community submissions received by the DPHI on the EIS.



Where can I view these reports?

The reports were lodged with the DPHI in May 2024 as part of the environmental planning approval process and are now publicly available on the NSW [Major Projects Planning Portal](#).

[The Amendment Report is available here.](#)

[The Submissions Report is available here.](#)

The Submissions Report and Amendment Report cross-reference one another and should be read together.



What technical reports are included in the Amendment Report?

A number of technical reports have been prepared to support the assessment of the proposed amendments and refinements. These reports assess potential impacts, propose mitigation and management measures and consider submissions made on the EIS, where required.

The Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Revised Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment included in the Amendment Report supersede the reports prepared for the EIS. Other technical report addendums prepared to support the Amendment Report assess potential impacts associated with noise and vibration, air quality, contamination, agriculture, surface water and groundwater, bushfire risk, historic heritage, landscape character and visual amenity, social issues, and flooding. The technical reports are also publicly available on the NSW [Major Projects Planning Portal](#).



How has the community been engaged during development of the Amendment Report?

Throughout the development of the Amendment Report, the HumeLink project team has continued to engage with landowners, local communities, key stakeholders, local councils, government agencies, First Nations stakeholders and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), Community Consultative Groups (CCGs) and mineral title holders.

Engagement with stakeholders and community members leading up to the lodgement of the Amendment Report has involved:

- ongoing conversations and one-on-one negotiations with impacted landowners
- briefings with government agencies and local councils
- street meetings with near neighbours and adjacent landowners

- community information sessions, webinars and newsletters for the broader community
- CCG meetings
- correspondence with key stakeholders including First Nations stakeholders, mineral title holders and business chambers and groups.

Continuing our efforts to make information available throughout the planning process, we have also updated our interactive map on the [HumeLink website](#). The map has been updated to reflect the information included in the Amendment Report. It does not reflect the outcomes of individual negotiations with landowners and assessments on private property.



Upcoming lodgements

Transgrid will also be lodging the following documents with the DPHI in late June 2024 to inform its assessment of the project:



Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR)

HumeLink's Revised BDAR has been recognised as one of the largest biodiversity assessment reports undertaken in NSW to date, showcasing the complexity and extent of the assessment.

Given this complexity and the time required to analyse and assess the additional data collected during biodiversity surveys following the EIS exhibition, this technical report will be lodged with the DPHI in late June. The revised environmental management and mitigation measures for potential biodiversity impacts will also be submitted at this time.



Biodiversity Conservation and Science Directorate (BCD) submission response

The NSW Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCD) made a submission to the DPHI on the HumeLink EIS. The response to the BCD submission will be lodged with the Revised BDAR as it cross references this document.



Enabling Works Management Plan

An Enabling Works Management Plan (EWMP) will be lodged as part of the project's planning approval assessment. This plan will facilitate enabling works to begin after planning approval, and before the approval of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The EWMP includes details and management measures for the:

- establishment and operation of construction compounds
 - establishment and operation of combined worker accommodation and compound facilities
 - upgrade and adjustment of existing access tracks and roads, including widening and creation of turning lanes
 - construction of new access tracks and access road entry points
 - utility relocations and adjustments required for the project.
-



What's next

Once all required documents are lodged with the DPHI, they will be made publicly available on the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal. After this, the DPHI will review and assess the EIS, Submissions Report, Amendment Report and EWMP as part of the project assessment process. Additional information may be requested from Transgrid as part of the DPHI project assessment. Once the DPHI's assessment is complete, it will make a recommendation to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to either approve the project with recommended conditions of approval or provide reasons for refusal.

Subject to the NSW Government and Commonwealth planning approvals, the construction of HumeLink would commence in late 2024 and be completed by 2026.

If planning approval from the State and Commonwealth governments is granted, the respective Ministers will issue the Conditions of Approval for the project's next stage.

The Ministers Conditions of Approval outline how the potential impacts of the project and engagement with landowners and communities need to be managed during construction and may also include operational requirements.

HumeLink requires approval from both the NSW and Commonwealth governments. After the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces provides its decision, the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW) reviews the determination and decides whether to approve the proposal, including any conditions.

If you live or work in the project area, you may have received a quarterly printed edition of our project newsletter. While we await final assessment from the State and Commonwealth governments our newsletters will be sent via email.



In the community



Business Buzz sessions

Our quarterly Business Buzz information sessions are tailored to local businesses and workers and provide an opportunity for local businesses to engage with the HumeLink East project team. During these sessions we outline upcoming opportunities and discuss how we can support your collaboration with the project.

At our May sessions we provided information on pre-employment programs, commercial opportunities and Industry Capability Network (ICN) registration training.

To see a copy of the presentation from our last round of Business Buzz sessions, visit the HumeLink website: [HumeLink East Business Buzz Presentation May 2024](#)

The next Business Buzz sessions will be held in August – sign up to the local business register below to receive updates on our next schedule of events.

The ICN is being used by the HumeLink East and HumeLink West delivery partners as their procurement portal service. Available work packages will be posted on the ICN website and businesses can submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) through the portal.

[HumeLink East \(icn.org.au\)](https://icn.org.au)

[HumeLink West \(icn.org.au\)](https://icn.org.au)



Pictured: HumeLink East's May Business Buzz sessions in Tumut and Campbelltown.



Local business register

If you have a business in the local government areas along the HumeLink project footprint and are interested in working with us, we would love to hear from you.

Simply register your business and we will share your details with our delivery partners. The local business register will also be the project teams' first port of call when we are looking to source goods and services at various stages of the project.

If you are a local business interested in working on HumeLink, Register your business [here](#).





i3net and ICN Industry Breakfast

On May 7, the HumeLink East and HumeLink West teams presented to more than 150 local businesses at the i3net and ICN Industry Breakfast. The teams shared information about the HumeLink project, its scope of works and how to apply for current and upcoming work packages.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this event. It was great to speak to you all and discuss opportunities to increase local business participation on the project.

To view the presentation from the event, visit the HumeLink website: [i3net and ICN Industry Breakfast Presentation May 2024](#).



Pictured: HumeLink i3net and ICN Industry Breakfast.



Transgrid Community Connect Tour – Gundagai

On May 18, our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) joined the Gundagai leg of Triple M's Transgrid Community Connect Tour at ANZAC Park in Gundagai. Our team had the chance to connect with the community, discuss the project and support the local under-18 football teams. We really enjoyed the opportunity to show our support on behalf of the project. To everyone we spoke to, thank you for having us.



Pictured: RACH alongside the Triple M marquee – ANZAC Park, Gundagai

Support services for landowners

We recognise our transmission projects may have increased the level of stress and anxiety experienced by landowners. We are committed to supporting landowners who are impacted by the project, and have engaged Assure Programs, an independent, confidential counselling service, to provide free short-term support to anyone who feels they need assistance or simply wants to talk. If you are a landowner and would like confidential support and counselling, we encourage you to book a free appointment by calling Assure Programs on 1800 808 374, or requesting an appointment online at assureprograms.com.au/book-an-appointment/

Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this great land. We recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first explorers, scientists, farmers, astronomers and storytellers.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders both past and present and celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.



1800 31 73 67 (free call)
HumeLink@transgrid.com.au
transgrid.com.au/HumeLink

HumeLink Community Engagement
Team, PO BOX A1000,
Sydney South, NSW 1235

Privacy statement: Transgrid recognises the importance of privacy and protecting the personal information it holds, uses and discloses in line with the Privacy Act. It is committed to protecting personal information and handling personal information responsibly and in accordance with its obligations.