

# EnergyConnect Community Newsletter

Q4 2024



**Images from top left:** Aerial view of Buronga substation. Wentworth Shire Mayor Daniel Linklater with Transgrid Project Delivery Director Rob Harrison, Elecnor Australia Project Director Felipe Delgado and Transgrid Major Projects Executive General Manager Gordon Taylor at the EnergyConnect milestone event on 25 November. Invited guests also toured the expanded Buronga substation complex as part of the event.

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## A message from the Project Director



As a team we are thrilled to share an incredible milestone for EnergyConnect and Australia's energy future.

We have completed the first stage of the project, an expansion of the Buronga substation into one of the largest facilities in the Southern Hemisphere and delivery of new transmission lines from the substation to the South Australia border and Red Cliffs in Victoria.

This is a massive achievement and an important step forward, marking the completion of our construction scope for EnergyConnect West. This is the result of millions of hours of teamwork and dedication by everyone.

Handing over these assets for final testing to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) paves the way for energy to flow between three States - an exciting step in Australia's transition to a more sustainable and connected energy grid.

Works continue to progress on EnergyConnect East, with major foundation works being completed at Dinawan and stringing works commencing on Line 2 from Buronga to Dinawan, near Coleambally.

Our teams onsite have been able to facilitate visits from major stakeholders, while also getting on with the job of building Australia's largest transmission project.

With energy operators around the world watching as we power-up Australia, EnergyConnect is demonstrating leadership and helping to set benchmarks for the industry.

Thanks again to our teams for all their efforts over the past quarter and thank you for your continued support as we continue to deliver EnergyConnect.

Rob Harrison

*Rob Harrison*

Project Director, Transgrid.





# Project Snapshot



Approximately 1500 steel tower structures



700km transmission line from Wagga Wagga to South Australian Border



Over \$180 million revenue for local and First Nation businesses in the Riverina, Murray & Sunraysia regions



Largest substation ever built in Australia (Buronga)



Creating more than 1500 jobs



5 workers accommodation camps



Covering Local Government Areas of Wentworth, Hay, Balranald Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Edward River, Federation, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga



## Line 1 Buronga to SA Border completed

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

1

### Buronga substation

- Stage 1A completed
- Stage 1B

SA border

Red Cliffs

4



## Line 4 Buronga to Red Cliffs completed

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

2

## Line 2 Buronga to Dinawan

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

5

## Line 5 Dinawan to Wagga Wagga

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

Dinawan substation

## Wagga Wagga substation

- 

Indicates progress of works completed



## Project Update

### EnergyConnect West - South Australian and Victorian borders to Buronga NSW

EnergyConnect is proud to announce its most significant milestone yet with the successful connection of the NSW, Victoria and South Australia electricity grids.

Following extensive inspections, outages, testing and commissioning works, Line 1 (135km from SA Border to Buronga substation) and Line 4 (24km from Buronga substation to Red Cliffs substation) are now energised.

Critical key equipment also underwent months of offline testing to ensure safe and effective operations prior to being connected to the grid, and weeks of online tests after synchronisation with the grid.

The energisation of Line 1 on 31 October followed the commissioning on Line 4 in September, with all three states now connected via the expanded Buronga substation.

The lines and key equipment are now ready for inter-network testing by AEMO when conditions allow. Inter-network testing will ensure this part of EnergyConnect can operate as required to deliver 150 MW of power between NSW, Victoria and South Australia.



Find out more about these important project milestones by reading our latest media release

The project team is progressing with the removal of redundant towers and destringing of the old Buronga – Red Cliffs transmission line and undertaking associated works as part of the decommissioning of the former line.



Image: A completed tower on Line 1.

### EnergyConnect East - Buronga to Wagga Wagga

Construction works continue to progress on both Line 2 from Buronga to Dinawan (Bundure) and Line 5 from Dinawan to Wagga Wagga. Over 448 foundations have now been completed on Line 2 with 511 foundations, 415 towers assembled and 283 towers erected on this 375km stretch of line. Stringing works have also commenced on the western side of the Murrumbidgee River between Buronga and Balranald.



Visit <https://www.secureenergyjv.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/OOHW-Construction-Notification-Line-2-Stringing-Final-1.pdf> for the latest notification for Line 2 stringing works or scan the QR code.



Image: Stringing works on Line 2.

Towers have now started to be erected on Line 5 from Dinawan to Wagga Wagga. These 500kv towers are the first of their type to be erected in Australia. Over 70% of tower foundations are now complete with 95 towers assembled and 49 towers erected, out of the 336 towers.



Image: Line 5 Tower.





## Fast Facts



There are currently over 600 people working on Line 2 from Buronga to Dinawan and Line 5 from Dinawan to Wagga Wagga.

Over 9000 cubic meters of concrete have been poured on Line 5 so far which is equivalent of nearly four Olympic swimming pools.

Construction of the Cobb Highway Camp 40 kilometres south of Hay continues to progress.

Occupancy of the camp is expected early December 2024.



For more information on construction activities see our [Cobb Highway Construction Notification](#)



## Buronga substation energised

The first section of the new Buronga substation (Stage 1A) has achieved a significant milestone becoming energised. Specialist teams have connected the 220kV and 330kV sections to the existing Buronga substation allowing power to flow in from the network for the first time. Synchronous Condenser unit 4 (syn con) model validation tests, online testing and heat testing has been successfully completed ready for inter-network testing.

The first of five 374 tonne phase shifting transformers has also been energised at Buronga. This transformer is the first of its size to be installed in Australia and Buronga will be the first to house five transformers.

Meanwhile mechanical and electrical works are continuing for Buronga Stage 2, which is forecast to be commissioning by the second half of 2025 when the Synchronous Condenser unit 5, 4 additional Phase Shift Transformers and 3 more reactors will be in service.





**Dinawan Substation** – The EnergyConnect Substation team at Dinawan, Bundure, near Coleambally have successfully completed the second major pour for the concrete foundations for the second synchronous condenser.

This second pour completes the foundations for this key equipment which will provide system stability and circuit strength to the grid.

- Major foundations are nearing completion for shunt reactors
- Civil works well underway for spill oil tank, stormwater draining and gantries.

Check out the [Dinawan time-lapse video](#) October 2024.



**Image:** Works progression from Q3 to Q4 at Dinawan.

**Wagga Substation** – Main civil works are nearing completion in the coming weeks. The substation team recently completed the replacement and installation of new sections of Busbar A and B both of which are essential components of the substation's electrical infrastructure, facilitating the connection of lines and equipment. This upgrade was vital as part of the project's ongoing substation expansion, which will connect two new 330kV transmission lines and relocate two existing 330kV lines to new line bays currently under construction.

### 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.



## Cultural Repatriation in the West

The EnergyConnect project team along with Elecnor's subcontractor Everick Heritage recently kicked off a two-week program of cultural repatriation of artifacts after working in consultation with the RAP's to determine how best to return these artifacts back to country.

Prior to construction activities commencing extensive heritage survey works were completed to identify any objects or materials that could be impacted due to construction activities.

In consultation with the relevant stakeholders and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) any artifacts or cultural objects identified as being at risk were salvaged by hand, catalogued and stored in an off-site repository (keeping place) until the site was deemed safe to return the artefacts.

This was the first ceremony of its kind for EnergyConnect and represents a significant program milestone.



**Image:** Smoking Ceremony at Repatriation site.



**Image:** Shells (midden deposit) carbon dated to be 2000 years old, have been reburied on EnergyConnect West.





## In the Community



### Community Partnership Program Recipients

Transgrid provided grants to 61 not-for-profit community organisations in Round 1 2024 of our Community Partnerships Program. The program provides funding of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations in areas where our assets are located or under development. Some of the recent recipients along the EnergyConnect alignment include;

- The Rock Yerong Creek Football and Netball Club
- Wentworth District Rowing Club
- Hay Community Radio Association Inc.
- Homebush Recreation Reserve Balranald
- Uranquinty Rural Fire Brigade

**Image:** Paul with CPP recipients Katrina and Pauline at the Waterfront Pavilion Urana.

### Engaging with Community

Our team have been busy out and about across the EnergyConnect alignment meeting key stakeholders and engaging with local communities as the project progresses 700km from west to east.

A week-long visit to communities and council along the alignment included a stall at the Wentworth Show and a pop-up engagement stall in the main street of Hay.



**Image:** The EnergyConnect team were interviewed by Show Society vice president Ivan Behsmann for Show Radio, at the Wentworth Show.

Hay Shire Council was provided a project update as construction on the Cobb Highway accommodation camp and laydown continues south of the town, with occupancy scheduled for the end of the year.

Conversations at Wentworth Shire focused on the operationalisation of EnergyConnect West and the close out of construction on local properties while at Balranald Council discussions were around the progress of Line 2 from Buronga to the new Dinawan substation which passes through the local area.



**Image:** Transgrid and Elecnor Australia staff at Henty Machinery Field Days 2024.



Did you see us at the Henty Machinery Field Days 2024? It was great to be a part of Australia's largest agribusiness event, connecting with the local landowners and businesses from our southern NSW communities. A huge thank you to our delivery partners and everyone who took the time to visit our stall, share their thoughts, and learn about how we're working together for a cleaner energy future.

Murrumbidgee Council recently took a trip out to the Dinawan site for a tour of the 380-bed workers accommodation camp which has been occupied since June and the substation site which is currently under construction. We were delighted to be able to show them around the site and provide a project update and overview of the works taking place. Topics discussed during the visit included the project construction, community and landholder engagement, community investment, environment and biodiversity impacts as well as traffic constraints. Thanks to Mayor Ruth McRae, Deputy Mayor Cr Robert Black, CFO Kaitlin Salzke, Cr Tim Strachan and General Manager John Scarce for taking the time to visit the team at Dinawan.



**Image:** Murrumbidgee Council members at Dinawan substation.

A delegation from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water toured some of our project sites between Wagga Wagga and Lockhart. The group visited the Transgrid Discovery Hub before touring the Wagga Wagga 330kV substation at Gregadoo, our Lockhart accommodation camp and inspecting the progress of 500kV tower construction on Line 5.



**Image:** DCCEEW visit to EnergyConnect East.



EnergyConnect delivery partner Elecnor were proud sponsors of the Spirit of the Land Festival event for the second year in a row and presented two awards at the sculpture section of the festival.

Thanks to all who stopped by for a chat at our engagement stall in the town centre on Saturday and Sunday, it was a great opportunity to have informative conversations with the local Lockhart community and landholders about the EnergyConnect project.

**Image:** "The Quokka - Smile" which won the Elecnor sponsored category "Creative Cocky" Award.

EnergyConnect project team were delighted to make a sponsorship contribution and be in attendance at the annual Urana Courthouse Art Exhibition and Sale which also celebrated its 25th year. Congratulations to the committee on achieving this remarkable milestone.



### Transgrid at the Energy and Innovation Conference

Transgrid was pleased to partner with the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) this year at The Energy and Innovation Conference 2024 in Wagga Wagga. This event showcased the latest in energy efficiency and innovation in the region and across Australia. We had a great time learning from a range of industry leaders about the implementation of renewable strategies, the latest technologies and discussing the future of energy.





## 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/](https://assureprograms.com.au/book-an-appointment/).

## How are we doing?

We're welcoming feedback via participation in a survey to help us better understand the impact our engagement strategies are having on the local community, both positive and negative, during construction and operation of the project.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary and confidential.

All information collected will be managed in accordance with Transgrid's [privacy policy](#).



Scan the QR code to complete the [EnergyConnect Feedback Survey](#).

## 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.



As we approach the end of the year, the EnergyConnect team wishes you a safe and happy holiday.

The project will have a shutdown period from **Tuesday 24 December 2024** until **Friday 3 January 2025**.

**For any urgent enquiries during this time please call 1800 49 06 66.**

## 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](https://transgrid.com.au/energyconnect)**

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