

Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project Community Newsletter



December 2024

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NSW Government reissues technical requirements

Indigenous cultural heritage excavations in Wallerawang

Trip to Barton Park Tree Arboretum

Latest round of community grants completed



A message from the Project Director



Over these past three months, the team has been busy as we progress through the project planning phase. We are getting closer to reaching a big project milestone of 85% completion for detailed design. This means we are near to knowing the technical specifications and modelling of each tower structure, which will help us understand details such as what each tower will look like and what foundations they will need. I look forward to sharing more information on the project as we achieve these important milestones.

The summer holidays are fast approaching and the whole team will take a well-deserved break over Christmas. Your Community Engagement Leads, Emily Eldridge and Erin Mamo, will be back onboard from 6 January and you can reach them via the contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

On behalf of myself and all the team, we wish you a safe and restful holiday break.

Daryn Mullen
Project Director

Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the project is on. Traditional Owners have lived in the area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways of this region.

We pay our respects to the people and the Elders past, present and emerging. And we celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the land and water.



Key project updates

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

The SEARs are a list of technical requirements and assessments that the project must include in the EIS. These are issued by DPHI and Transgrid is responsible for conducting all all investigative work and the gathering of information to present in the EIS. On 4 October, the NSW Government issued the final SEARs for the project. They required additional technical studies, including local road impacts and traffic.

Transgrid also received a supplementary SEARs from the Commonwealth Government, which outlines the additional assessments that are needed for its review.

You can view these documents on DPHI's Major Projects Planning Portal under the name 'Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission'.



Glossary

DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
PADs	Potential Archaeological Deposits
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report



Heritage excavation

In September, archaeological test excavations took place in the project footprint. Test excavations are required to identify and assess relics of local heritage significance and to help Transgrid understand what artefacts may be located on site.

A test pit was dug using hand tools in 5cm increments to create a pit of around 0.5 meters by 0.5 meters. The excavated material (the dirt on the ground) is then sieved into buckets to assess and identify any Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs).

The Transgrid Yura Ngarra Indigenous Advisory Team was on site for the duration of the works, along with members of RAPs and consultants from Ozark who were leading the excavation.

The tests took place over four days and the team braved the elements as the weather turned from very hot to very rainy across the week.

The findings of the test excavation will be published in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and will be put on display during the EIS public exhibition period in September 2025.

Transgrid would like to thank all the traditional custodians for working with us and sharing their wealth of knowledge, values and customs with the project team.



Images: Ozark and members of the Transgrid project team on site for test excavations.





In the community

Barton Park Giant Tree Arboretum

In early December, Transgrid visited the Barton Park Giant Trees Arboretum located at Lake Wallace, which received a grant under our Community Partnerships Program in March 2024. The arboretum is run entirely by volunteers and aims to create a world-class collection of the largest, longest lived and most rare and endangered trees on the planet.

Volunteers, Bruce, James and Mark greeted the Transgrid team with warm hospitality and inspirational passion for their project. They spoke proudly of the 1850 trees they have planted by hand and impressively knew the Latin and English names of each plant.

The team walked away with renewed appreciation for these trees that are predicted to grow over 85 meters high and 8 meters wide, over thousands of years. An impressive legacy for the Wallerawang community.

Transgrid would like to thank Member for Bathurst Paul Toole who enthusiastically joined the tree planting and is a patron of the arboretum.

You can read more about Barton Park Giant Tree Arboretum at bartonparkgianttrees.com



Images: Members of the Transgrid team planting trees with arboretum volunteers and local MP Paul Toole.

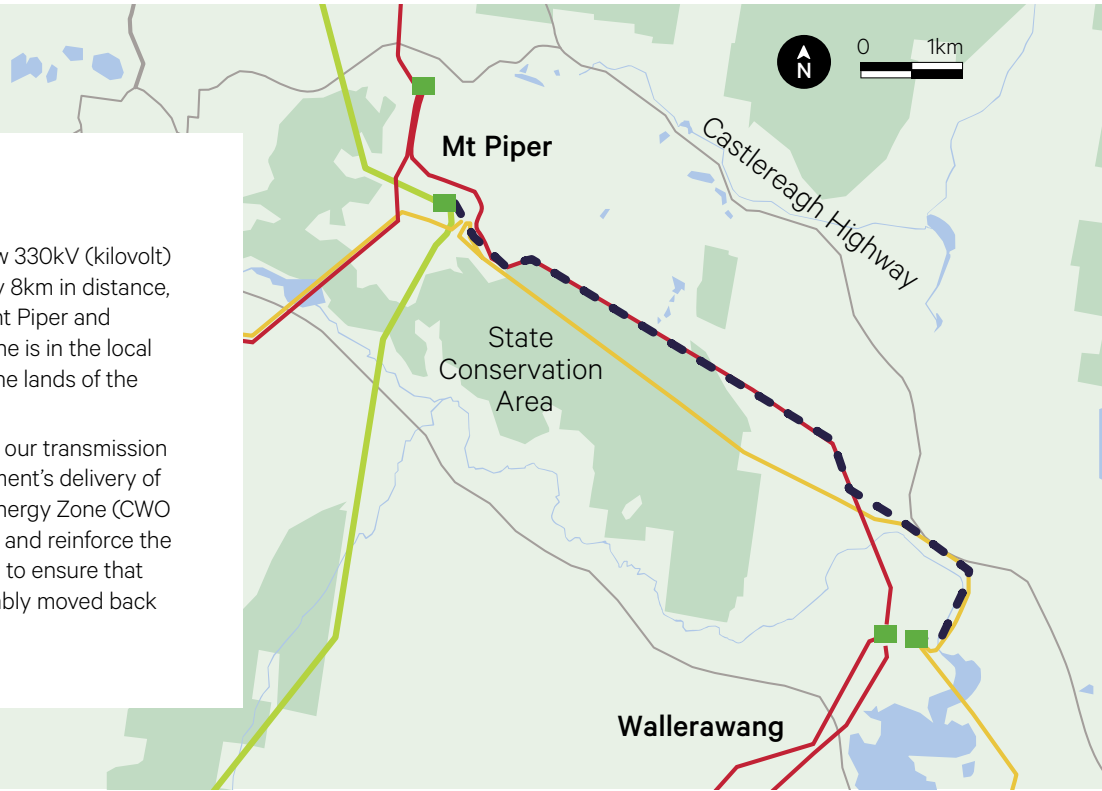


Community Partnerships Program

Our Community Partnerships Program (CPP) is designed to help not-for-profit groups to deliver initiatives that will have a tangible and lasting impact on local communities. Thank you to everyone who applied for the October 2024 round of funding.

We look forward to announcing the successful recipients in January 2025.

For more information on the program see Transgrid's CPP webpage Transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program



The project

Transgrid is proposing to deliver a new 330kV (kilovolt) transmission line that is approximately 8km in distance, between existing substations at Mount Piper and Wallerawang. The new transmission line is in the local government area of Lithgow and on the lands of the Wiradjuri people.

The project will carry out upgrades to our transmission network to support the NSW Government's delivery of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ). These upgrades will strengthen and reinforce the grid in the Central Tablelands, helping to ensure that power from the CWO REZ can be reliably moved back into the grid and to consumer.



Image: Lake Wallace

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project.

Please connect with us for more information.



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