

HumeLink Community Newsletter

September 2024



HumeLink is one of Australia's largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, 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. Subject to government approval of HumeLink, the proposed construction will occur in two sections known as HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

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

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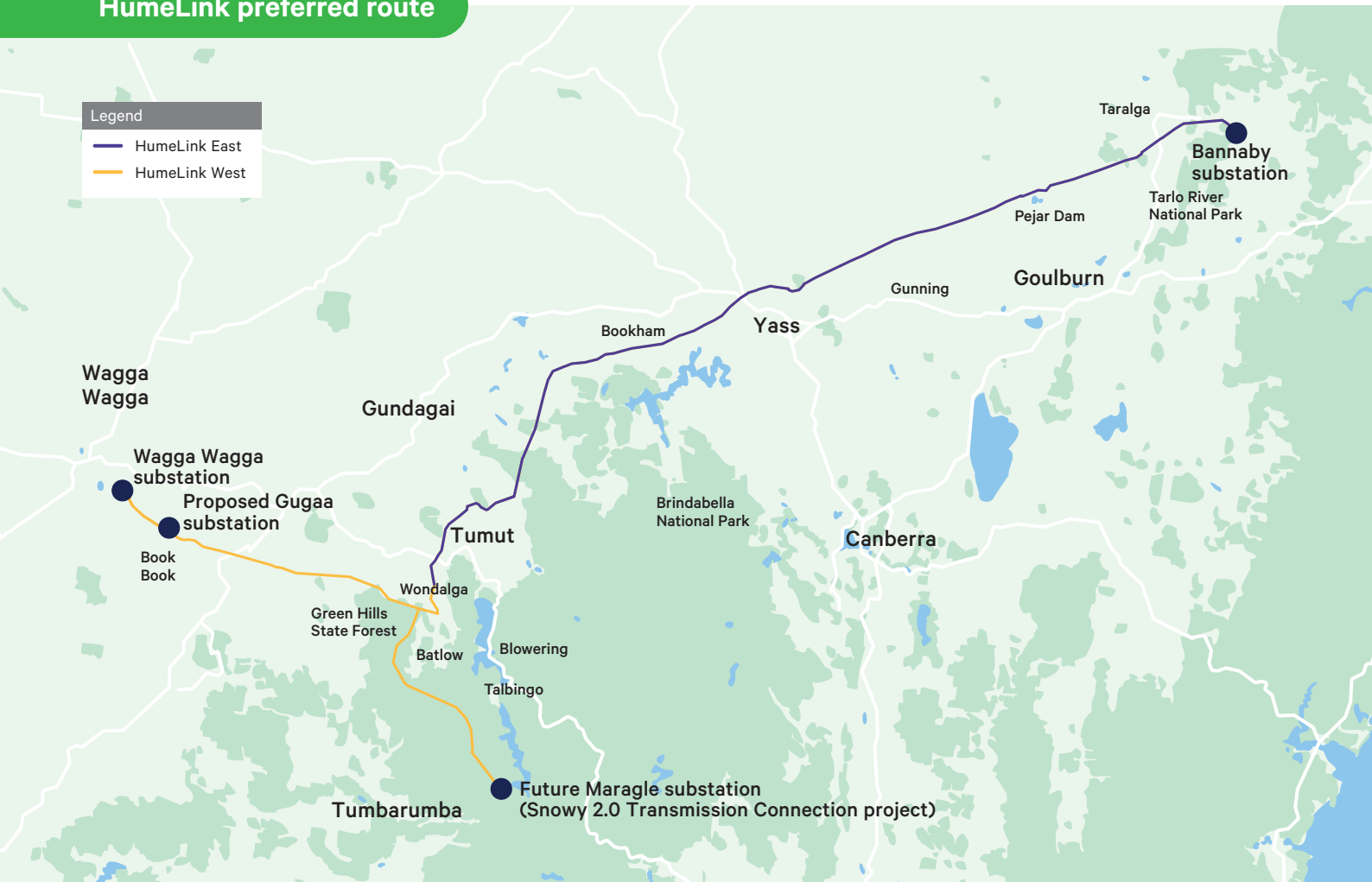
The next round of the Community Partnerships Program opens soon

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What's coming up?

HumeLink East launches the EmPOWERing Regional Women program



The HumeLink project is helping to kickstart the careers of regional women in construction by offering a free family-friendly work-readiness program for a range of job opportunities on HumeLink East.

The EmPOWERing Regional Women program will start on 15 October 2024 and provide training for 15 women in the Yass area, equipping them with valuable skills for the construction industry.

In the lead up to the program starting in October we kicked-off with an information session in Yass on 24 September.

Thank you to everyone that joined us in-person. Applications for this program are now closed, however HumeLink East will continue to host pre-employment programs in 2025.

The EmPOWERing Regional Woman program will prepare participants for a range of job opportunities on HumeLink East by providing:

- Nationally recognised and fully accredited training
- A structured mentoring program
- Resume writing and interview skills workshops
- A health and wellbeing program.

The program has been designed to support women who may have caregiving duties.

- A seven-week commitment, starting on 15 October 2024 (within the school term)
- Part-time program, three days per week: Tues-Thurs
- Generally during school hours
- Transportation available if needed.

To find more information about the program visit the [HumeLink East webpage](#).

Please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to register your expression of interest for future pre-employment programs with HumeLink East.



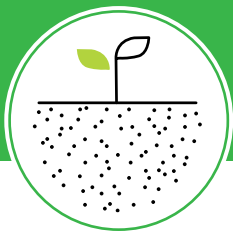
Applications for round two of Community Partnerships Program will open soon!

We are happy to announce that round two of the Community Partnerships Program (CPP) will open on 8 October 2024. Thank you to everyone who participated in round one, we were pleased to provide funding for 25 recipients across the project alignment. You can view the beneficiaries from this round [here](#). We're excited to be helping so many good causes in the region.

This program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations and project areas.

For more information on the program, see Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program [webpage](#).





Geotechnical investigations continue

Site investigations and associated activities will continue across the alignment for the remainder of 2024. While we await environmental planning determination by the NSW and Commonwealth governments, these activities will continue to ensure we stay on track with the project program.

This month we issued a work notification outlining what works will take place over the coming months, along with a fact sheet about geotechnical investigations. You can read the full work notification [here](#).

What are geotechnical investigations and why are they needed?

Ground conditions along the proposed HumeLink corridor are diverse. To help us better understand these conditions and assess the physical properties of the soil and rock beneath the ground, on-site geotechnical investigations are undertaken along the project alignment.

Geotechnical techniques include drilling bore holes, a narrow shaft drilled in the ground and collecting soil and rock samples.

These samples undergo a series of laboratory tests to determine properties, such as the strength and chemical composition of the ground, to inform decision making on the location of project structures.

The collected information is also used by engineers to inform the design and construction of transmission towers, the type of foundations needed, how deep foundations need to be and what type of drainage may be required.

The safety of workers and community is our top priority during all works.

How do geotechnical investigations work?

A work crew will establish a work zone:



The work crew is typically 3 to 5 people;

- a lead driller
- a drilling hand
- an engineering geologist, who logs activity and earth samples



This crew is accompanied by a truck, small drilling rig and support vehicles



Work zones are typically 15 metres by 10 metres to ensure sufficient space to store the excavated soil.

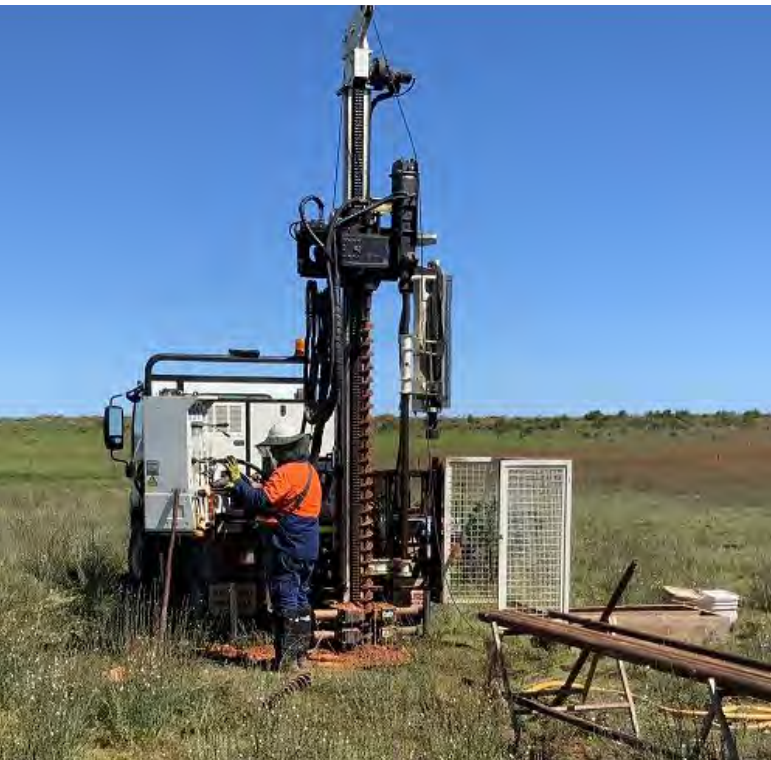


Image: Project Energy Connect conducting geotechnical investigations in Buronga, NSW.



Image: A standard bore rig with drill and support vehicle.

Borehole drilling

- Each borehole is approximately 10 centimetres in diameter and ranges from 5 to 25 metres deep
- The size of the borehole is dependent on the ground conditions and the depth and strength of the bedrock (hard, solid rock beneath surface materials such as soil and gravel)
- When work is complete, each borehole is backfilled with the soil that was removed by drilling
- After backfilling, there will be a slightly raised or mounded surface to prevent water pooling (this will compact over time).

To read more on how geotechnical investigations work, refer to our fact sheet on the [HumeLink website](#).



In the community

Thank you for attending our industry events

Sharing project information and upcoming opportunities with local businesses is a priority for both Transgrid and our delivery partners.

August was a particularly busy month for our industry engagement, with our inaugural HumeLink East and HumeLink West joint Meet the Buyer event in Tumut and HumeLink East's Business Buzz sessions in Crookwell and Goulburn. At these events we had more than 150 attendees and 100 businesses join us to hear about opportunities to work with us on the HumeLink project. This turnout led to hundreds of invaluable conversations and networking opportunities for local businesses and our project team. It was great to meet a wide range of individuals and businesses who are interested in the project, so thank you to everyone who joined us!

“ As project procurement progresses, the Meet the Buyer event was a great opportunity for HumeLink West to showcase the potential tendering opportunities available for our local businesses and subject matter experts in the coming months. It was a great venue and atmosphere, with the attendees all eager to promote their business capabilities to participate in delivering this major project. ”

Simon Adams, Procurement Manager for HumeLink West



Image: HumeLink East's Business Buzz session in Crookwell.

“ HumeLink East was thrilled to see an overwhelming display of enthusiasm and commitment with over 100 suppliers coming together for the Business Buzz Industry Breakfast in Tumut. This remarkable turnout highlighted to both delivery partners the depth of capability and capacity within the region and a great platform to network with the supply chain for upcoming tenders. ”

Alistair Smyth, Procurement Manager for HumeLink East

To ensure local businesses are informed of all upcoming opportunities on the project, HumeLink East and HumeLink West will continue to host industry events across the project footprint. These events are a fantastic chance to meet the team, learn about HumeLink's scope of work and how to apply for current and upcoming work packages. Keep an eye out for more email invitations and be the first to register for future events.



Image: HumeLink West and HumeLink East hosting the joint Meet the Buyer event in Tumut.

Local business register

If you have a business in the local government areas along the HumeLink project footprint and are interested in working with the HumeLink project, we would like 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 procure goods and services at various stages of the project.



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



Cultural site surveys for HumeLink

Transgrid's Yura Ngura Indigenous Advisory team members accompanied HumeLink's Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and archaeologists to conduct site walkovers across the project alignment.

Site walkovers are an important step in planning Transgrid's major projects. While we await environmental planning determination by the NSW and Commonwealth governments, these activities can occur to ensure we stay on track with the project program. The work is undertaken by the HumeLink East and HumeLink West delivery partners, in line with the relevant guidelines and approvals.

A cultural site survey is an important part of the planning process, primarily to understand and preserve a site's cultural, historical and social significance. These surveys are always done with the support and leadership of local Indigenous community members who have self-identified as RAPs. Involvement from the Indigenous community is essential in respecting the knowledge and values related to the sites and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the decision-making process.



Image: Location of site walkover in Green Hills. Completed by Yura Ngura Indigenous Advisory Team members and local HumeLink West RAPs.



Image: Previously recorded surface-level artefacts identified in Tarcutta.



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/.

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 HumeLink project.

Please connect with us for more information.



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