# HumeLink Community Newsletter



February 2025

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. The construction will occur in two sections known as HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to <a href="http://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/humelink">www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/humelink</a>

### In this issue:

Enabling work has started

Community events in 2025

Upcoming Community Information Sessions

Social Impact Management Plan

Community Partnership Program



## **Project update**



## HumeLink receives Commonwealth Government approval

The HumeLink project reached its final major planning milestone after receiving Commonwealth Government approval from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 18 December 2024. A Final Investment Decision was also made by Transgrid's Board, allowing enabling work to begin.

We would like to acknowledge the landowners, community members and other local stakeholders who have engaged with the HumeLink team during the development of the project to date. We will continue to work with local communities and stakeholders throughout construction and we are committed to keeping them informed as the project progresses. We will also continue to prioritise local employment, provide training and skills development to build the workforce and focus on delivering lasting community benefits.

Further information is available on the project website: <u>transgrid.com.au/humelink</u>

## **Enabling work has started**



### Enabling work has started on both HumeLink East and HumeLink West

### What is enabling work?

Enabling work involves site preparation and takes place before the main construction phase. It includes preparing work areas such as setting up infrastructure and ancillary facilities, and ensuring the site is ready for the main construction activities to begin.

Enabling work activities include:

- property condition surveys (before the start of enabling work)
- establishing construction compounds, including excavations, surface preparation, access roads and utility connections
- establishing worker accommodation facilities including excavations, surface preparation, access roads and utility connections
- establishing new access tracks or making adjustments to existing access tracks and road improvements
- relocating and adjusting utilities
- limited vegetation clearance to help set up access tracks, construction compounds, worker accommodation facilities and other ancillary facilities
- heritage investigations and salvage.

For more information on enabling work, please view the <u>HumeLink</u>. <u>East Enabling Work Fact Sheet</u> and <u>HumeLink West Enabling Work</u> <u>Notification</u>.



### Work notifications

A work notification is a document that notifies the community of upcoming activities as part of the project's development.

The project team will inform the community in advance of enabling work. If you live within 500 metres of the project footprint, you may have received a work notification already or are likely to receive a work notification shortly. Each notification will include:

- scope of work
- location of work
- hours of work
- duration of activity
- type of equipment used and likely impacts, such as noise, traffic and access
- mitigation measures
- project team contact details (contact number, postal address and email address).

### How will the community receive a work notification?

All work notifications will be mailed or emailed to residents and business owners in the areas where the work is taking place.

Work notifications will also be published on the HumeLink website. Current work notifications for both <u>HumeLink East</u> and <u>HumeLink</u>. <u>West</u> are available on their respective website pages. To contact us about a work notification call 1800 317 367 or email us on humelink@transgrid.com.au.

#### Recent work notifications:

Work notification 3 February 2025 - Traffic camera installation Tarcutta

Work notification 29 January 2025 - Enabling Work Tarcutta

Work notification 30 January 2025 - Enabling Work Tarcutta

Work notifications 24 January 2025 - Enabling Work Batlow

Work notification 23 January 2025 - Enabling Work Kunama

Work notification 16 January 2025 - Enabling Work Ellerslie and Darlow

## In the community



## Community events in 2025

Transgrid and its delivery partners will be hosting various events across the HumeLink project alignment in 2025 to keep the community and local businesses informed. For information about our schedule, please visit the <u>HumeLink West</u> and <u>HumeLink East</u> website pages or subscribe to the <u>HumeLink distribution list</u> for updates.

Transgrid and its delivery partners will also be attending local community events throughout the year. On 22 and 23 February, the HumeLink West team will be at Tumbafest sharing information about the project. If you are planning to attend Tumbafest: <u>Tumbafest | Saturday 22 & Sunday</u> 23 February 2025, look for the HumeLink stand and come to have a chat with the project team.

### Upcoming community drop-in sessions

With the start of enabling work, HumeLink East and HumeLink West will be out in the community during February. If you're interested in learning more about enabling work and the Social Impact Management Plan (more details of the plan are on the next page) please join us at a community drop-in session. These sessions provide an opportunity to hear from the project team, ask questions and provide feedback.

### **Community drop-in sessions schedule**

| Date                        | Time            | Area        | Venue/Address   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Wednesday 12 February, 2025 | 7.30am – 9.30am | Yass        | Tootsie Gallery Café - 15 Harrow Lane, Yass                 |
| Thursday 13 February, 2025  | 10am – 12pm     | Gundagai    | The Coffee Pedaler - 18 Sheridan Street, Gundagai           |
| Friday 14 February, 2025    | 10am – 12pm     | Tumut       | The Coffee Pedaler - 43-45 Wynyard Street, Tumut            |
| Monday 24 February, 2025    | 4pm – 6pm       | Wagga Wagga | Transgrid Discovery Hub - 27 Kincaid Street, Wagga Wagga    |
| Tuesday 25 February, 2025   | 11am – 1pm      | Tarcutta    | Tarcutta RSL - 45 Sydney Street, Tarcutta                   |
| Tuesday 25 February, 2025   | 1pm – 3:30pm    | Crookwell   | Crookwell Shire Memorial Centre - Denison Street, Crookwell |
| Tuesday 25 February, 2025   | 4pm – 6pm       | Tarcutta    | Tarcutta RSL - 45 Sydney Street, Tarcutta                   |
| Wednesday 26 February, 2025 | 11am – 1pm      | Tumut       | Tumut CWA - 148 Wynyard Street, Tumut                       |
| Wednesday 26 February, 2025 | 4pm – 6pm       | Tumbarumba  | Tumbarumba RSL Memorial Hall - Winton Street, Tumbarumba    |
| Thursday 27 February, 2025  | 11am – 1pm      | Batlow      | Batlow Literary Institute - 67 Pioneer Street, Batlow       |
| Thursday 27 February, 2025  | 4pm – 6pm       | Batlow      | Batlow Literary Institute - 67 Pioneer Street, Batlow       |
| Friday 28 February, 2025    | 11am – 1pm      | Adelong     | Adelong Services & Citizens Club - 54 Tumut Street, Adelong |



### Social Impact Management Plan: share your feedback

We are inviting your feedback on the HumeLink West and HumeLink East Social Impact Management Plans (SIMPs).

The SIMPs will outline the process of managing and monitoring social impacts, as well as identifying opportunities to maximise the social and economic benefits of HumeLink.

The SIMPs will build on the management and mitigation measures proposed during the planning phase of the project, including those identified in the project's Social Impact Assessment.

Your feedback on these measures will help us to finalise the Social Impact Management Plans.

Please share your feedback and comments with us before **Friday 7 March 2025**.

Simply <u>click here</u> to be directed to the questionnaire or access it via QR code. Responses will remain anonymous and are collected to help our delivery partners prepare an effective Social Impact Management Plan.



## **Community Partnerships Program**

Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations and major project areas.

Last year, we provided grants to over 80 organisations across the HumeLink project footprint for a range of initiatives spanning from community infrastructure to workshops, along with inclusivity and accessibility projects. You can view these and other beneficiaries <u>here</u>.

The next round of Transgrid's Community Partnerships program will open in March 2025. For more information on the program and past beneficiaries, see Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program webpage.



### How to contact the team

Your feedback is valuable to us and helps improve our systems, processes and interactions with the community. We are committed to effectively engaging with you. If you would like to make an enquiry or provide feedback to HumeLink East or HumeLink West, simply fill out the feedback forms available on the website.

Follow the links below:

- HumeLink East feedback form
- HumeLink West Feedback form

You can also provide feedback by emailing humelink@transgrid.com.au or calling the HumeLink hotline on 1800 317 367 (free call, business hours).

### 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 HumeLink project. **Please connect with us for more information.** 



1800 317 367 (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.