Mt Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Network Project

Strengthening the grid to deliver affordable, reliable and clean energy to customers

PROPOSED ROUTE FACT SHEET - NOVEMBER 2022

The Mt Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Network Project will see a new 330kV transmission line established between our existing substations at Mt Piper and Wallerawang.

Why is the project needed?

The Wallerawang to Mt Piper Transmission Network Project will strengthen and reinforce the grid in the Central Tablelands, helping to ensure that power from the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) can be reliably moved back into the grid and to consumers.

Route selection process

To determine the best route for any new transmission line, Transgrid follows a rigorous route selection process that analyses technical, environmental, social and economic factors including:

- proximity to residences
- number of private landowners affected
- areas of Aboriginal significance
- impact to land use
- bushfire risk
- impact to the environment
- impact to visual amenity
- impact to public amenities
- design efficiency and constructability
- use of existing corridor and/or infrastructure
- cost to consumers.

Proposed new transmission line route

Following the initial stages of our route selection process, including consultation with directly impacted landholders, Transgrid has identified a proposed route for the Mt Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Network Project. The route is shown over the page.

About Transgrid

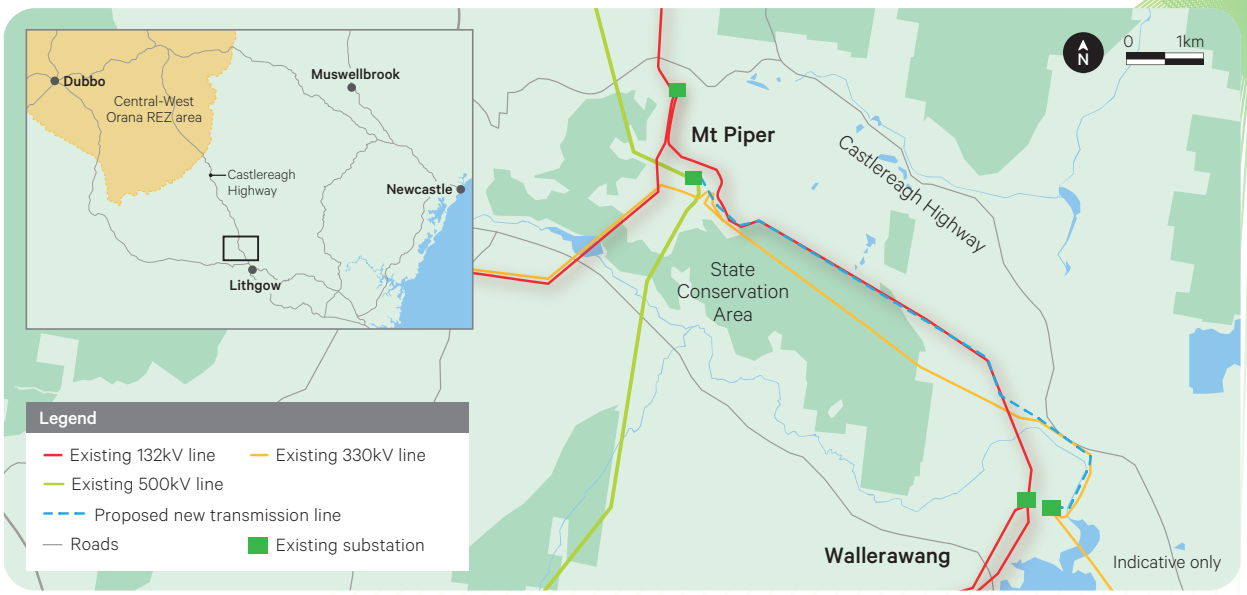
Transgrid operates and manages the high-voltage network in NSW and the ACT.

We operate a safe, reliable and efficient high-voltage grid that connects electricity generators to one in three Australians.

We are building the future grid to enable greater renewable integration and drive down wholesale electricity prices.

People. Power. Possibilities.

Map: Transgrid's existing assets and proposed new transmission line route



Route selection factors

This route has been identified as the most viable option based on the following factors:

- ✓ minimises impacts to stakeholders and community
- ✓ route parallels an existing Transgrid transmission line
- ✓ avoids direct impacts to residential properties
- ✓ minimises impacts to State Conservation Area (widening an existing easement on the park boundary)
- ✓ provides strong network resilience and efficient design
- ✓ affordability for consumers.

Community consultation

Transgrid recognises the vital role that landowners and the community have in the planning and delivery of our projects. We are committed to talking to the community to help us shape the best possible solution.

We are currently seeking community feedback on this proposed new transmission line route and encourage everyone to share their views and local knowledge throughout the planning process.

Key project dates

- Project announcement and community engagement starts — **Apr 2022**
- **Late 2022** — Consultation on proposed route
- Preferred route option selected/ Environmental assessment process starts — **Early 2023**
- Project determination — **Mid to late 2024**
- **2025** — Construction starts
- Project commissioning — **Mid 2020s**

Transgrid

Connect with us

1800 222 537 (free call)
community@transgrid.com.au

Find out more at:
transgrid.com.au/wallerawang

Frequently Asked Questions

How did you select this route?

Our team of specialists completed a comprehensive desktop assessment of the project area to understand local conditions, constraints and opportunities and developed several possible route options for the new transmission line.

A comparative evaluation was then undertaken to assess all identified routes against our key selection criteria and measure how well each option performed against a range of factors including technical feasibility, environmental and social impacts, design efficiency, constructability and cost.

Did you consider undergrounding the new transmission line?

While undergrounding a transmission line can reduce social and visual impacts, there are several other factors that need to be taken into consideration to determine if undergrounding is a viable option.

We assessed a number of underground options as part of the route selection process for this Project, however these options were not deemed viable based on the following factors:

- significant cost to consumers
- shorter asset life expectancy
- increased land disturbance and construction impacts
- maintenance and repairs are more costly and time consuming
- limited availability of qualified underground cable workers.

What are the environmental impacts of this Project?

Based on the preliminary environmental survey undertaken by an ecologist, no significant environmental impacts were identified for the proposed route option. The proposed route will require some vegetation clearing along the border of the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area, however this will be minimised by utilising and expanding an existing transmission line easement rather than creating a new corridor. Under the proposed route the existing easement will be widened by 15m.

What are the next steps for this Project?

We are currently consulting the community on the proposed route to seek feedback and understand any additional considerations. Following consultation, if we determine that this proposed route is still the most viable, we will progress to the next stage of investigations and undertake additional field studies to develop and refine the study corridor.

Once the transmission corridor is further refined, we will commence the environmental and planning approvals process, including ongoing stakeholder and community consultation.

Transgrid recognises the vital role that landowners and the community have in the planning and delivery of our projects. We are committed to talking to the community to help us shape the best possible solution.

We encourage you to:

- email us or call our community hotline (see details below)
- visit our webpage for project updates and to subscribe to receive the latest news
- share your feedback and ideas at community information sessions
- request a meeting.

Transgrid

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