

HumeLink Community Newsletter

November 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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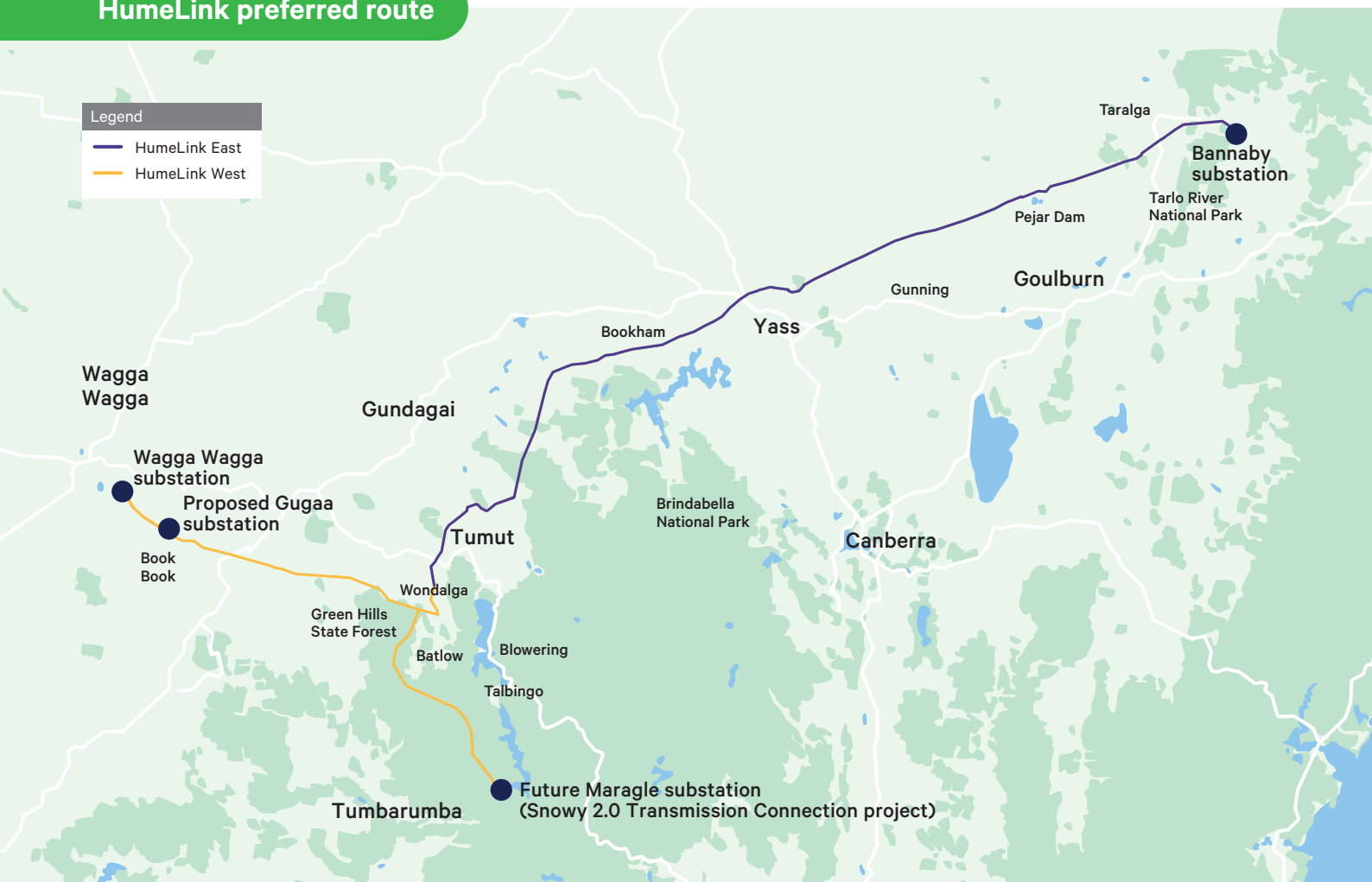
HumeLink receives planning approval from the NSW government

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HumeLink preferred route





Project update

HumeLink has received planning approval from the NSW government

The HumeLink project has reached a significant milestone with NSW government planning approval received on 14 November 2024.

This approval followed a detailed environmental planning process. The HumeLink project submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Amendment Report, Submissions Report and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), recognised as one of the largest biodiversity assessment reports completed in NSW.

The HumeLink project will now be assessed by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

What are the next steps?

The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has issued Transgrid with Conditions of Approval which shape engagement with landowners and the community, and guide how the potential impacts of the project must be managed during construction.

A requirement of the Conditions of Approval is for Transgrid to develop an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), which is a framework to identify, address and manage environmental issues during construction. Implementing an EMS will ensure the project meets the Conditions of Approval, regulatory and policy requirements.

Transgrid is also working with our delivery partners on their Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). Construction approval will be obtained before construction starts. The EMS will refer to the CEMPs, which outlines how our delivery partners will manage construction.

When is construction expected to start?

HumeLink will be designed and constructed by the project's delivery partners:

- HumeLink East: Acciona and GenusPlus Group Ltd Joint Venture (JV)
- HumeLink West: UGL and CPB Contractors JV.

Following detailed design, investigations, procurement and project mobilisation this year, site set up and construction works are expected to commence in early 2025.

New proposed location for the Yass accommodation facility

In response to council feedback on the proposed location of the Yass worker accommodation facility on Faulder Avenue, we are proposing to update the location of this facility to Yass Industrial Park.

The Yass Industrial Park location is:

- closer to the project alignment, reducing the amount of travel required by construction teams between the project area and their accommodation
- further away from the township of Yass, approximately 2.2 kilometres from the original location on Faulder Avenue
- at an established industrial site which minimises impacts during site establishment.

Temporary worker accommodation facilities have been proposed for the delivery of HumeLink project to address community concerns about potential pressure on housing availability and affordability.

Five temporary accommodation facilities were proposed in [HumeLink's Amendment Report](#) that was lodged to the DPHI in May



Figure: Location of original vs new proposed accommodation facility at Yass Industrial Park.

2024. The five facilities are located at Yass, Tarcutta, Green Hills, Adjungbilly and Crookwell. For more information on the

accommodation facility and the proposed location change, view [HumeLink's interactive map](#).

Ground investigations and site surveys on HumeLink West

HumeLink West have undergone site investigations needed for detailed design.

Types of surveys undertaken across the alignment include:

Geotechnical investigations – these typically involve drilling bore holes in the ground to collect the soil and rock samples.

- These samples help inform how the project team decide 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 foundation needed and how deep foundations need to be. For more information, read our [geotechnical investigations](#) fact sheet.

Topographical surveys - to confirm construction access points, the location of utilities and services, and road crossings. While most surveys take place on the ground, in some cases, drones have been used to gain an accurate view from above.

Heritage surveys - to understand and preserve a site's cultural, social and historical significance. These surveys always take place with the support and leadership of archaeologists, representatives from Registered Aboriginal Parties, Traditional Owners or local cultural knowledge holders.

While some site investigations will be ongoing, sufficient detailed design has been completed in preparation for the commencement of works.



Image: HumeLink West conducting geotechnical investigations.



What's coming up?

Registrations for HumeLink East's final Business Buzz session of 2024 are closing soon

Only a few spots are remaining for the Business Buzz session in Yass next month. Join HumeLink East for a BBQ breakfast, meet with the team and learn more about upcoming opportunities.

Since these events started in early 2024, HumeLink East has connected with more than 250 business representatives across Tumut, Yass, Crookwell and Goulburn. The sessions are tailored to local businesses and sole traders, and provide an overview of upcoming work packages, pre-employment programs and procurement process.

- Date:** Thursday 5 December 2024
- Time:** 7:30am-9:30am
- Venue:** The Clubhouse Hotel Yass
- Address:** 190 Comur Street, Yass NSW 2582



If you would like to join the next Business Buzz session, [RSVP here](#) or scan the QR code

Image: A Business Buzz session in Crookwell in August.



In the community

The second round of the Community Partnership Program (CPP) for 2024 closed on 8 November. Thank you to everyone who applied, we are currently reviewing applications and will announce the recipients of Round 2 soon.

The program was created to give a boost to the people who live and work in the regions local to Transgrid assets or construction. Grants of up to \$5,000 are offered for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations, and project areas. Since 2020, over 275 organisations have shared more than \$1 million in grants made available by Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program.

Applications for Round 1 of 2025 will open in the first quarter of next year. To find out more information about the program and to check your eligibility, please see Transgrid's Community Partnerships [webpage](#).



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.



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