

# HumeLink Community Newsletter

October 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](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

## In this issue:

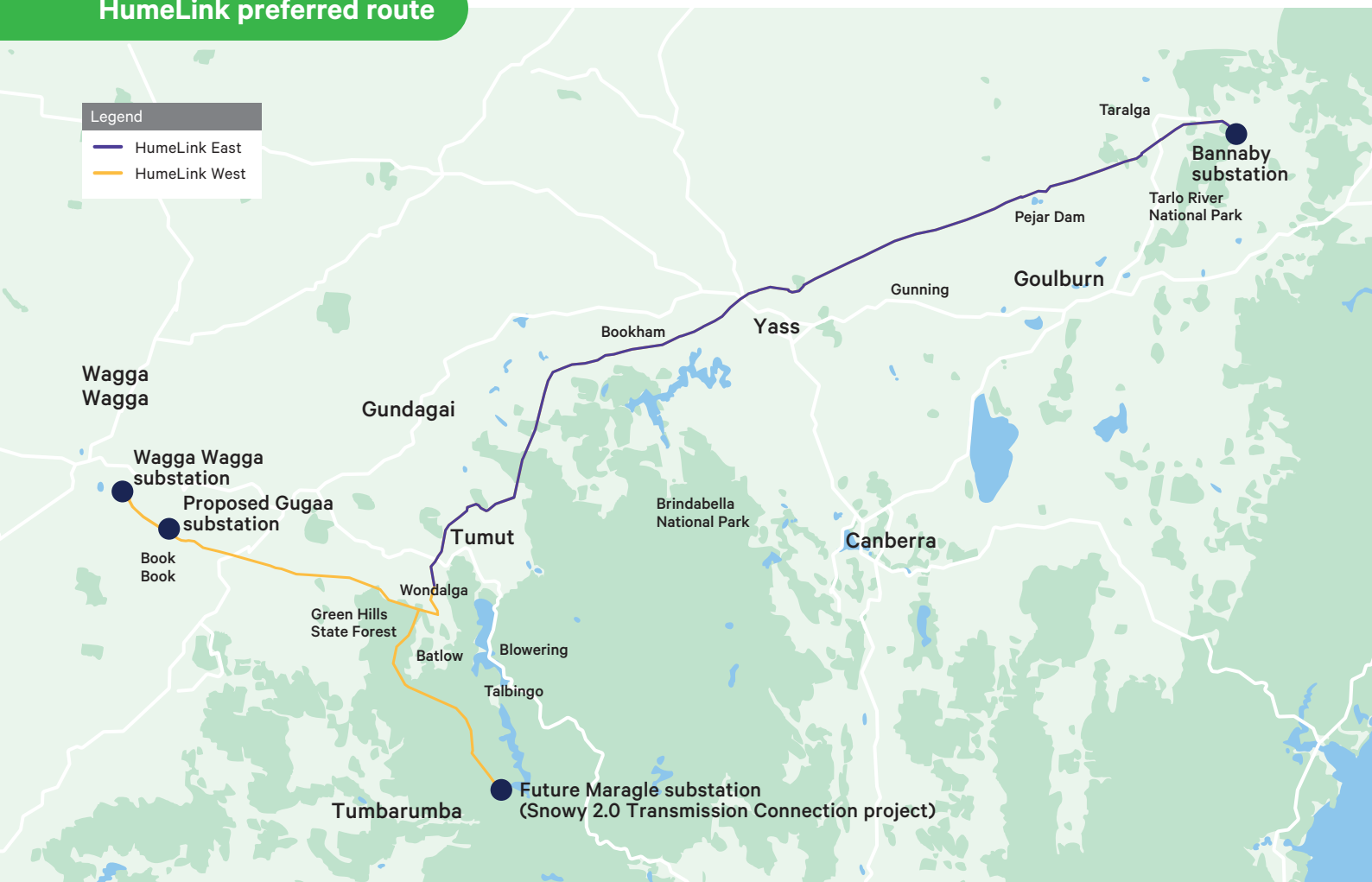
Join HumeLink East's final Business Buzz event of the year

Round 2 of the Community Partnerships Program now open

Enabling works and construction timeline

In the community

## HumeLink preferred route







## What's coming up?

### Join HumeLink East for the last Business Buzz event of the year in December 2024

Join HumeLink East for a breakfast barbecue in Yass for its last Business Buzz session for 2024.

Since HumeLink East started hosting these sessions, the team has connected with more than 250 business representatives. We are looking forward to meeting you to discuss project opportunities and how your businesses might get involved.

Our quarterly Business Buzz information sessions are tailored to businesses and sole traders located near the project footprint and provide an opportunity to engage with the HumeLink East project team. The sessions outline upcoming work packages, pre-employment programs and how the project team can support local business collaboration.

If you would like to join HumeLink East in Yass for the next Business Buzz, RSVP [here](#).

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



Scan the QR code to register for the next Business Buzz session in Yass.

**Image:** HumeLink East's Business Buzz session in Crookwell in August 2024.

### Apply for Round 2 of the Community Partnerships Program

Transgrid has opened applications for Round 2 of its Community Partnerships Program (CPP). This program offers grants of up to \$5000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations and project areas.

To apply or learn more please refer to Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program [webpage](#). Applications close on 8 November 2024.

Thank you again to everyone who applied in Round 1. We provided grants to 25 organisations across the HumeLink project footprint in August, including Country Hope in Wagga Wagga, Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council and Yass & District Historical Society. You can view these and other beneficiaries [here](#).





## Project update

### HumeLink enabling works and construction timeline

When planning approval is granted for a Critical State Significant Infrastructure project such as HumeLink, the next step is to receive the NSW and Commonwealth Ministers' Conditions of Approval. These outline the requirements for the project's next stages.

The Conditions of Approval inform the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which is submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for approval before main construction begins.

### What are the next steps?

#### Preparatory works

Preparatory works would take place following project approval and in parallel with the development of the CEMP.

These works include:

- installing erosion and sediment control measures to reduce soil erosion, such as detention basins (surface level basins which store water run-off)
- biodiversity surveys and archaeological testing
- dilapidation surveys and investigative drilling.

### Site establishment and enabling works

After preparatory works, site establishment and enabling works will take place. This involves laying down the foundations for main construction.

These works include:

- Limited vegetation clearance to help set up access tracks, construction compounds, worker accommodation facilities and other ancillary facilities
- Setting up services and utilities such as water supply points
- Building access tracks and associated minor waterway crossings to allow construction machinery and vehicles to safely travel between project work sites. Waterway crossings will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and avoided where possible
- Road improvement work to ensure heavy vehicles travel safely between work sites
- Establishing worker accommodation facilities and construction compounds.

An Enabling Works Management Plan (EWMP) has been developed to describe how these works will be managed, and this was submitted to the DPHI as part of the planning approval process.



**Image:** Example of access point works on Transgrid's EnergyConnect project.



## HumeLink project construction phases draft timeline

Work phases	Planning approvals	Activities involved
<b>February to late 2024</b> (Until environmental planning approval)		
Site investigations and associated activities	Post contract award and pre-environmental planning approval These works are undertaken by Transgrid's delivery partners and are assessed and approved via Transgrid's environmental assessment framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental surveys (biodiversity, heritage, contamination)</li> <li>• Building and road precondition survey</li> <li>• Utility investigations</li> <li>• Geotechnical investigations</li> <li>• Installation of instrumentation and monitoring equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>Late 2024 to early 2025</b> (Post-environmental planning approval)		
Preparatory works	Post-environmental planning approval and before construction approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage testing</li> <li>• Environmental controls</li> <li>• Biodiversity surveys</li> <li>• Dilapidation surveys and investigative drilling.</li> </ul>
Site establishment/enabling works	Post environmental planning approval and pre-CEMP (managed under the EWMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access point establishment</li> <li>• Access tracks</li> <li>• Accommodation facilities and compounds</li> <li>• Laydowns</li> <li>• Service relocation</li> <li>• Heritage salvage and limited vegetation clearance related to the above works.</li> </ul>
<b>Beginning of 2025</b> (Post-CEMP approval)		
Construction works	Post-CEMP approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All construction activities under CEMP.</li> </ul>

Figure 1: HumeLink project construction phases draft timeline.



## In the community

### The EmPOWERing Regional Women Program kicks off in Yass

HumeLink East has launched its innovative pre-employment program aimed at increasing female participation in the construction industry, with a specific focus on Yass and surrounds.

A diverse group of 17 women have commenced the program, and over seven weeks they will be upskilled with fully accredited training and supported with initiatives like mentoring, resume writing, interview skills and a wellbeing program.

The program is a great step towards diversifying the workforce and creating opportunities for regional women. It has been made possible through a grant from the NSW Government, Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program.



**Image:** The EmPOWERing Regional Women Program information session in Yass.

### Meeting community at Henty Machinery Field Days

The HumeLink project team returned to the Henty Machinery Field Days, held from 17-19 September 2024. Henty Machinery Field Days is southern Australia's biggest agricultural event, with more than 50,000 visitors each year.

Representatives from HumeLink and other Transgrid projects in the region, including EnergyConnect, spoke with many

community members about opportunities available to local businesses and communities.

Our teams appreciated the opportunity to chat with more than 200 community members over the three days. Thank you to everyone who came to say hello!



**Images:** The team at Henty Machinery Field Days 2024.







## HumeLink East at the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo in Western Sydney

HumeLink East joined 50 exhibitors and more than 1000 attendees at the Western Sydney Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo on 7 and 10 September 2024. The project team enjoyed participating in two jam-packed events, chatting to students, parents, career changers and job seekers looking to navigate their training and career paths.

The team spoke with attendees about the range of employment opportunities available on the project, including:

- Pre-employment programs
- Apprenticeships in civil construction
- Traineeships
- Entry level positions
- Mentoring for all apprentices and trainees.

To find out more about HumeLink East's employment opportunities, please register your expression of interest [here](#).



## 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/](https://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](https://transgrid.com.au/HumeLink)**

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