

EnergyConnect

Fact Sheet

Connecting New South Wales,
South Australia and Victoria

What is the project?

EnergyConnect is Australia's largest energy transmission project. It involves building a new 900km transmission line, known as an interconnector, to connect the energy grids in New South Wales (NSW), Victoria and South Australia (SA). This will help improve reliability and security of electricity supply and allow for future connections to renewable energy sources.

The Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) project is a key element of the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan for a more sustainable energy future. Transgrid (NSW) and ElectraNet (SA) have partnered to deliver EnergyConnect.

What is an interconnector?

An electricity interconnector is a connection that allows power to flow in both directions between regions in the National Electricity Market (NEM), providing access to a larger number of electricity generators and greater reliability to meet varying demand where and when it is needed most.

Why is the project needed?

The Australian energy landscape is transitioning to a greater mix of low-emission renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. Several factors are driving this transition, including:

- Access to new generation sources as coal-fired plants close
- Government commitments to reduce carbon emissions
- The potential for renewable generation to lower energy prices
- Demand for a more reliable energy supply.

EnergyConnect will deliver the infrastructure required to support this evolution by connecting the energy grids of NSW, SA and Victoria. These connections will expand the wholesale electricity market across the three states, meaning increased reliability and security of electricity supply and lower power bills.

About EnergyConnect

EnergyConnect is being built between Wagga Wagga in New South Wales and Robertstown in South Australia, with a connection to Red Cliffs in Victoria. Supporting infrastructure is also being built or upgraded, including upgrades to substations at Buronga and Wagga Wagga and the new Dinawan substation being built at Bundure south of Coleambally.

ElectraNet has now completed building the South Australian component of EnergyConnect and Transgrid is currently building the 700km component in NSW along with our delivery partner ElecNor Australia. Construction in NSW started in 2022 and is split into two sections:

EnergyConnect West commenced in 2022 between Buronga and the SA and Victoria borders and includes building around 135km of new 330kV transmission line infrastructure between the SA border and Buronga, replacing about 22km of existing 220kV line between the Buronga substation and the Red Cliffs substation in Victoria, and a significant expansion of the Buronga substation to accommodate the new transmission infrastructure

EnergyConnect East has been underway since late 2023 and involves building around 375km of new 330kV and just over 160km of 500kV transmission line infrastructure between Buronga and Wagga Wagga. Works also include construction of the new Dinawan substation and upgrades to the Wagga Wagga 330kV substation to integrate the transmission line.



Image: EnergyConnect project map.



EnergyConnect Information

Construction workforce and hours

The workforce size will vary depending on the stage of construction and associated activities. Construction work takes place between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday, weather permitting. Our delivery partner Elecnor Australia will inform you of the work schedule in advance and notify you of any changes.

Camps

EnergyConnect is establishing six temporary camps along the project alignment to accommodate up to 1,400 workers. The camps are managed by our construction partner Elecnor Australia and will ease pressure on local rental markets and accommodation providers as well as reducing travel time to and from construction sites and ensuring staff are safe and comfortable while working away from home.



Image: Aerial view of Lockhart camp.

Key project dates

Project approvals		Construction	
2018-19	Preliminary investigations and project scoping	Mid-2022	Western construction commencement
Late 2018	Community and landholder engagement underway	Late 2023	Eastern construction commencement
Early 2020	Regulatory Investment Test (RIT-T) approval by the Australian Energy Regulator	Late 2024	EnergyConnect West ready for Inter-networking testing
Mid-2021	Western Environmental Impact Statement approvals	2025	Buronga - Wagga Wagga construction continuing
Mid-2022	Eastern Environmental Impact Statement approvals	Mid-late 2026	EnergyConnect East Inter-network testing

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the construction of EnergyConnect. Please connect with us if you need any information.



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Subscribe to our project newsletter at
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