

HumeLink Community Newsletter

September/October 2023

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia’s largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid, increasing availability and market competition and helping to put downward pressure on energy prices in Australia.

The project consists of 360 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. HumeLink is subject to the approval of the Australian Energy Regulator.

To view HumeLink’s interactive route map go to transgrid.com.au/humelink.

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HumeLink preferred route



Figure 1: HumeLink preferred route.



Project update



Extension of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public exhibition period

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has extended the HumeLink EIS public exhibition period until **Tuesday 10 October 2023**. The EIS public exhibition process is managed by the DPE. This extends the public exhibition to a total of 42 calendar days.

During the public exhibition period, the community is invited to review the EIS and associated specialist studies and provide feedback on the merits of the project via formal submissions.

Submissions must be received by the DPE before midnight on Tuesday 10 October 2023.

The submissions received are used to guide the final determination, as well as any approval conditions for the project, with a decision on the project expected next year.



EIS public exhibition

Thank you to all the community members who visited the community information sessions and attended the webinars over the last few weeks to find out more about the HumeLink EIS. There were 18 in-person sessions held across the project alignment, including an additional two events held in Yass and Tumut in the last week of September, following the public exhibition extension announcement made by the DPE.

Following the EIS public exhibition, the DPE will place all submissions on the NSW DPE Major Projects Planning Portal website and provide Transgrid with the submissions received. Transgrid will then review the submissions received and provide a Response to Submissions Report to the DPE, which will be made publicly available.

In addition to this, once the public exhibition period has ended the team will prepare a *What we heard* report summarising the key items raised by you at the community information sessions. The What we heard report will be published on our website in the coming weeks.



Digital EIS (web-based user-friendly and interactive platform)

We understand that community members and stakeholders are interested in different aspects of the EIS relating to their local area or individual circumstances.

To support community and stakeholders to better understand the EIS, our team has developed a Digital EIS. The Digital EIS is a user-friendly summary of the EIS chapters that is accessed online.

This platform includes a summarised version of the EIS chapters alongside an interactive map where you will be able to identify and zoom in on specific parts of the project alignment relevant to you.

Over 1400 active users have visited the HumeLink Digital EIS platform since the start of public exhibition.

To view the Digital EIS, visit the [HumeLink website](#).

You can still make a submission!

There are a range of ways you can make a formal submission to the DPE on the HumeLink EIS, including options to provide [submission both online and in hard copy](#).

However, it is important to note the EIS exhibition process is run by the DPE and submissions must be sent directly to the DPE during the public exhibition period. Submissions can be made online via the [NSW DPE Major Projects Planning Portal](#) or provided directly to the DPE via Australia Post. Remember submissions must be received by the DPE before midnight on Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Additional information or questions

If you need any support on how to make a submission, visit the DPE 'Make a Submission' website www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say or call the DPE on 02 8217 2022.

Call the DPE regarding information included in the HumeLink EIS, please reach out to the project team by phone on 1800 317 367 or email humelink@transgrid.com.au.



Project equipment update

Transgrid has secured \$22 million in funding to purchase six shunt reactors required for HumeLink.

Shunt reactors serve as "pressure regulators" for our high-voltage power lines, maintaining electrical voltage at stable levels and preventing it from becoming excessively high. This ensures the efficiency and reliability of our entire network.

Additionally, Transgrid has finalised a \$100 million contract to purchase 17,500 kilometres of high voltage conductors – enough to stretch from Sydney to Dublin.

We are also finalising a separate contract with another Australian company to supply other locally-produced conductor elements.

These contracts are part of Transgrid's Powering Tomorrow Together program bundling procurement for major projects including [HumeLink](#), [Victoria and New South Wales Interconnector – West \(VNI-West\)](#) and [Project Energy Connect \(PEC\)](#). The purpose of the program is to secure the delivery of items that take a long time to manufacture and ultimately save Transgrid and energy consumers up to \$500 million. This program has allowed us to purchase materials like substation equipment so we can deliver projects faster and cheaper for consumers.

For more information about the Transgrid Powering Tomorrow Together program, [click here](#).



Transgrid's future transmission infrastructure in NSW

Currently in Australia, we're seeing first-hand the greatest transformation of our lifetimes as coal is replaced by renewables and our nation-critical transmission projects will play a vital role in facilitating the clean energy transition by revolutionising the National Electricity Market (NEM).

A deep decarbonisation of our economy would see Australia harnessing our abundant renewable energy resources, large landmass, significant mineral ores and access to Asian markets to revitalise our industries, grow our economy and create thousands of new jobs.

Transmission projects are at the centre of making that all possible. Transgrid is investing \$16.5 billion in transmission infrastructure in NSW over the next decade.

Our major projects will create an energy superhighway, connecting new renewable generation to a strong and flexible network.

These projects will:

- increase the capacity to share electricity between states.
- improve the reliability and security of electricity supply across the NEM.
- increase access to renewable energy sources.
- create an economic boost for regional communities through the provision of jobs, training and local supply opportunities.
- help achieve renewable energy targets and the overall decarbonisation of the NEM, while continuing to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to consumers.

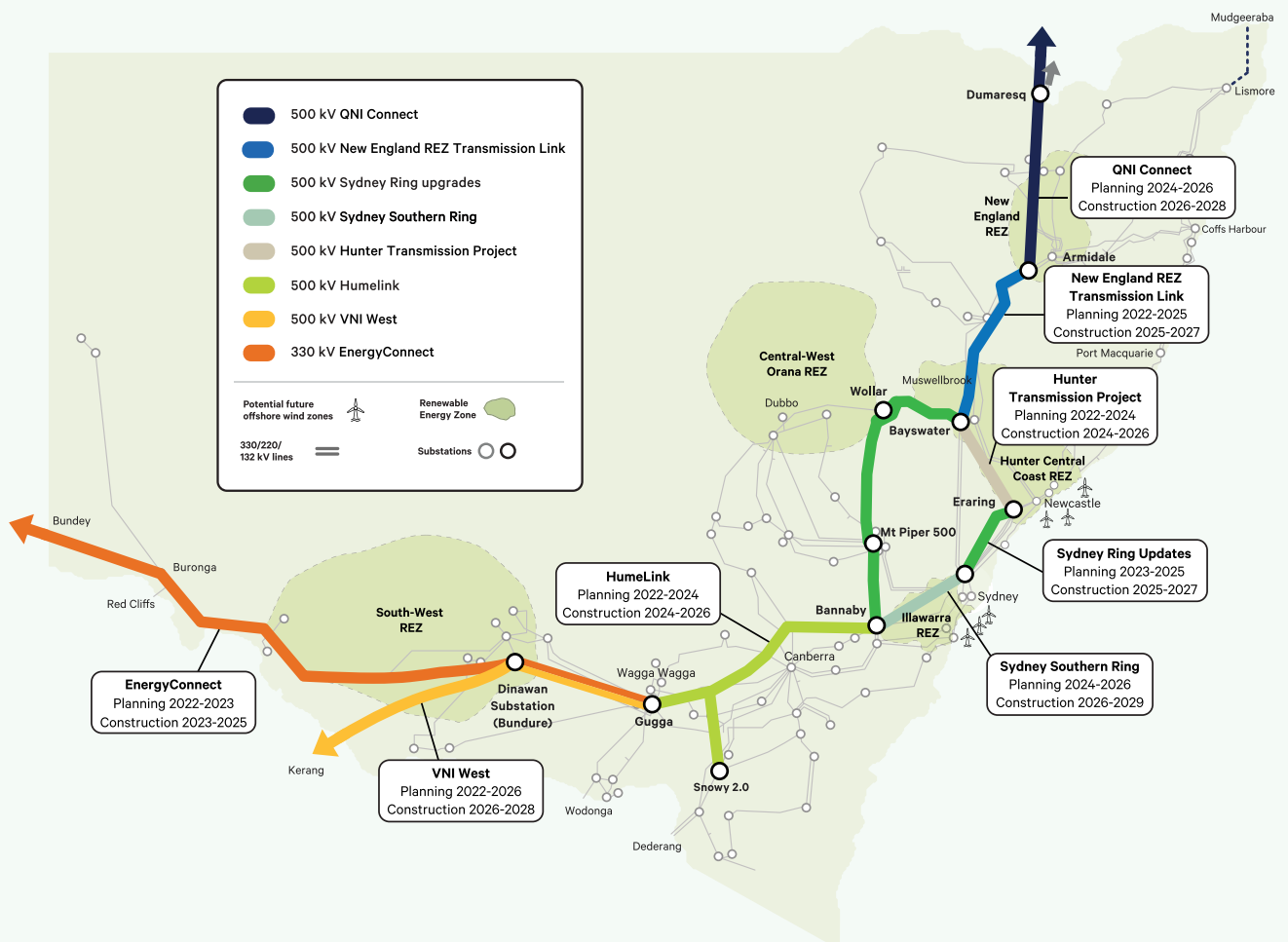


Figure 2: Transgrid's transmission infrastructure in NSW over the next decade.

Note: development and delivery timelines are based on 2022 ISP and does not take into account matters such as the acceleration of VNI West to 2028 completion. Completion dates for Future ISP Projects assume completion by the Earliest Delivery Date identified in the 2022 ISP.



In the community



2023 Henty Machinery Field Days

Our team was excited take part in the recent Henty Machinery Field Days from 19–21 of September.

Field Days is regarded as southern Australia’s single biggest agricultural event, attracting more than 60,000 visitors each year. Transgrid had representatives from project teams including [Humelink](#), [VNI West](#) and [PEC](#).

Members of the team showcased our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) and spoke to more than 150 community members who asked questions, provided feedback and learnt about technical studies which make up the Humelink EIS.

Our team, along with the Remote Access Community Information Hub (RACH) which houses all the HumeLink project information resources and laptops with satellite connectivity, were onsite to answer enquires around Transgrid’s transition to a sustainable energy future through the HumeLink project.



Image: Our project team at Henty Machinery Field Days.



Ongoing environmental surveys

During the next few weeks, you may see our Environmental teams out in the field as we undertake additional survey work on selected areas across the HumeLink project footprint. It is not unusual for survey work and fieldwork to continue beyond finalisation of an EIS on major infrastructure projects like HumeLink.

The additional surveys will assess potential ecological and Aboriginal heritage impacts.

The ecological surveys will include both day and night surveys looking at different types of fauna. This will involve work such as camera trapping and spotlighting.

The Aboriginal heritage surveys will be undertaken with our Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and will look for heritage items such as modified trees and artefacts.

As we progress with the detailed design of the project we will have ongoing survey and field work at some locations to inform design development and further identify ways we can avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts. These will also help us further inform the requirements which will likely be outlined in the project conditions of approval for the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) and associated CEMP sub-plans.





Local business register

If you have a business in the local government areas along the HumeLink alignment and are interested in working on the HumeLink project, we would love to hear from you.

Simply register your business and we will share your details with our construction delivery partners. The local business register will also be the project teams' first port of call when we are looking to procure goods and services at various stages of the project.

If you are a local business interested in working on HumeLink Register your business [here](#)



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 development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.



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