

HumeLink Community Newsletter

May 2024

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of Australia’s largest energy infrastructure projects connecting renewable energy sources to the grid and 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. 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.



In the community



Transgrid Discovery Hub is officially open

More than 600 people visited the Transgrid Discovery Hub for its opening on 16 April 2024. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this celebration.

Community members were invited to participate in interactive workshops featuring local Indigenous weaving, tours of the Hub, face painting and presentations.

The Discovery Hub is a first of its kind for Transgrid, offering a consistent and accessible point of connection with community, landowners and businesses in the surrounding areas.

Visitors can engage with Transgrid and access information about our energy vision, major projects, operations and community-based activities at the Hub. There is a discovery space designed for schools and community members to explore the key concepts surrounding energy, engineering, and the environment. A program is currently being developed with educational professionals to provide class learning resources for secondary students.

There is also a community share space, designed to host community and visitor meetings and workshops.

Please see the details below for visiting the Transgrid Discovery Hub.

Transgrid Discovery Hub

27 Kincaid Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Community open hours 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday

Open for appointments 9am - 5pm

Events (Hub Partners only) 7am - 9pm

Closed weekends and public holidays

Discovery Hub enquiries can be made to:

(02) 6922 0203 or

discovery.hub@transgrid.com.au



Watch the video to hear from our team about how the Transgrid Discovery Hub will become a one-stop centre for visitors.



Pictured: Transgrid CEO Brett Redman and Wagga Wagga Mayor Cr Dallas Tout at the official opening of the Transgrid Discovery Hub on 15 April.



What's coming up



HumeLink East Business Buzz sessions

Attend an event

Tailored to local businesses and workforce, our quarterly Business Buzz information sessions provide an opportunity for local businesses to engage with the HumeLink East project team. During these sessions, we outline upcoming opportunities and discuss how we can support your collaboration with us.

These sessions provide information on pre-employment programs, commercial opportunities and [Industry Capability Network \(ICN\)](#) registration training.

The ICN is being used by the HumeLink East team as its industry procurement and supply chain specialist.

Available work packages will be posted on the HumeLink East and West project ICN websites, where an Expression of Interest (EOI) can be put forward:

- HumeLink East (icn.org.au)
- HumeLink West (icn.org.au).

Our next round of Business Buzz information sessions will be held in May. We encourage businesses to attend events that are of interest to you. See the schedule below and RSVP [here](#).



Date	Time	Focus topic/s	Location	Venue
Monday, 20 May	3:30pm – 4:30pm	Pre-employment programs and school engagement	Tumut	Tumut Golf Club
Tuesday, 21 May	7:45am – 8:30am	Commercial opportunities & ICN registration training	Yass	Yass Golf Club
Tuesday, 21 May	8:45 - 9:30am	Pre-employment programs	Yass	Yass Golf Club
Tuesday, 21 May	4pm - 5pm	Commercial opportunities & ICN registration training	Campbelltown	West's League Club, Leumeah

To see a copy of the presentation from our last round of Business Buzz sessions, visit the HumeLink website:

[HumeLink East Business Buzz Presentation February 2024.](#)



Pictured: HumeLink East's February Business Buzz sessions.



Local business register

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

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

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



Community Partnerships Program - recipients to be announced

The latest round of Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program (CPP) was open between 25 March 2024 and 30 April 2024. The program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for non-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations and major project areas.

Transgrid is proud to invest in a variety of initiatives creating change in our local communities. Recipients of the latest round of CPP will be announced in June 2024.

Thank you to all those who submitted an application. The next round of applications will reopen later this year.

To check your organisation's eligibility and apply to the next round when open, please visit [Transgrid's Community Partnership Program webpage](#).



Project update



Amendment Report and Submission Report lodgement

Following the public exhibition of the HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in September and October 2023, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) provided Transgrid with the submissions it received. Since this time, Transgrid has been reviewing submissions and preparing responses to the issues raised. We are currently finalising the Submissions Report, which collates, categorises and responds to the submissions received on the EIS.

A number of proposed project amendments and refinements were identified in response to issues raised in submissions on the EIS, including construction and design refinements. These will be assessed and reported in an Amendment Report.

Based on our current program, these reports will be lodged with the DPHI this month. Certain components of these reports, including the Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report and other information related to biodiversity (such as updated environmental mitigation measures and the response to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate submission on the EIS) will be lodged with the DPHI in June 2024. Both the Amendment Report and the Submissions Report will be publicly available on the [NSW Major Projects Planning Portal](#).



Frequently asked questions

What's in HumeLink's Amendment Report?

HumeLink's Amendment Report outlines project changes since public exhibition of the EIS, and helps the community, government agencies and DPHI understand the implications of these changes.

The HumeLink Amendment Report assesses several amendments and refinements made following feedback from stakeholders before and during the public exhibition of the EIS, as well as design and construction methodology development by the project's delivery partners. A number of technical reports have also been prepared to support the assessment of the proposed amendments and refinements. These will be appended to HumeLink's Amendment Report .

How does the Amendment Report fit in with the environmental planning approvals?

The Amendment Report will be reviewed and assessed by the DPHI alongside the Submissions Report and the EIS. The DPHI will then make a recommendation to either approve the project along with any conditions or provide reasons for refusal.

HumeLink requires approval from both the NSW and Commonwealth governments to proceed with construction.

If you are interested in hearing more about project progress, we invite you to register to receive email updates [here](#) or visit the HumeLink website transgrid.com.au/humelink.

For more information on environmental planning approvals, please visit transgrid.com.au/humelink#HumeLink-Environmental-Approvals-Update



In the community

HumeLink On-Country immersion

Transgrid and the HumeLink East team, led by our HumeLink East delivery partner Acciona Genus Joint Venture (AGJV), were invited to on an On-Country cultural immersion during a recent visit to Ngunnawal Country in Yass.

Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians shared stories and information about the culture and history that have shaped the Ngunnawal people's identity for generations.

The immersion deepened the team's understanding of our connection to Country, through cultural tours and visits to significant sites over a few days.

A specially commissioned artwork by proud Wiradjuri man Luke Penrith was unveiled during the visit. This artwork encapsulates our vision of integration between our project team, the community, transmission towers and landscape. The work represents our continuous commitment to respectful engagement and harmonious coexistence with the local environment and culture.



Pictured: Transgrid's Yura Ngura team with Wiradjuri man Luke Penrith's Connecting to Country.



Pictured: Transgrid project team on-country with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians.



What we heard at the last round of community information sessions

During February, March and April 2024, the HumeLink team hosted community information sessions in-person and online across the project area.

After each of our community events, we develop What We Heard reports to provide an overview of the event and highlight the key themes raised by attendees. The themes raised by community and stakeholders at our recent events included:

- opportunities for local businesses and job seekers
- local economic impacts

- traffic movement and traffic safety during construction
- the use of local roads and access tracks
- proposed construction compounds and worker accommodation facilities.

The What We Heard reports and presentation slides are available on the HumeLink website transgrid.com.au/humelink.



Street meetings

On Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 April the project team visited Tarcutta, Batlow, Crookwell and Yass with our remote community access hub (RACH).

The HumeLink team would like to thank everyone who joined us at the Transgrid Discovery Hub and street meetings. We appreciate you taking the time to speak with us and discuss the project.

Scan the QR code to keep up to date about upcoming events or visit transgrid.com.au/humelink



Newsletter distribution update

In the lead up to the Environmental Impact Statement, quarterly editions of our project newsletter were distributed via letterbox drop along the alignment. If you live or work in the local area, you are likely to have received a copy.

After submission of the Amendment Report, we will only distribute monthly project newsletters via email while awaiting final determination.

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



1800 31 73 67 (free call)
HumeLink@transgrid.com.au
transgrid.com.au/HumeLink

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