

## 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 - 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](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink)

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## HumeLink preferred route



Figure 1: HumeLink preferred route.



## What's coming up

### HumeLink West's Meet the Buyer event in July 2024



Due to an overwhelming response, registrations for HumeLink West's 'Meet the Buyer' event in July is now closed. We are in the final stages of organising our next event on Thursday 15 August 2024 in Tumut, which will be hosted by both HumeLink East and HumeLink West. Keep an eye out for an email invitation.

These events are for local businesses and contractors to learn more about work packages and meet with project team members.

If you're unable to join an in-person event but are interested in the HumeLink West work packages, you can submit an Expression of Interest on the [ICN website](#).



Image: HumeLink West team at a recent industry event.



Image: HumeLink East's May Business Buzz session in Yass.



### Join the HumeLink East Business Buzz sessions in August 2024

Our next round of Business Buzz sessions will be held in August.

Tailored to local businesses and workforce, our quarterly Business Buzz information sessions give an opportunity for local businesses to engage with the HumeLink East project team. Over the past year, the HumeLink East team has hosted nine in-person sessions across Yass, Tumut and Campbelltown, with more than 190 attendees.

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

Available work packages will be posted on the HumeLink East project's [ICN website](#), where an Expression of Interest (EOI) can be put forward.

See the schedule below and RSVP [here](#).

Date	Time	Focus area	Location	Venue
Monday, 19 August	9:30am – 2:00pm	First Nations Business support workshop	Goulburn	Goulburn Workers Club
Tuesday, 20 August	4:00pm-5:00pm	Procurement, training and work opportunities for local businesses	Crookwell	Crookwell Services Club

To see a copy of the presentation from our last round of Business Buzz sessions, visit the HumeLink website: [HumeLink East Business Buzz Presentation May 2024](#).



## Local business register

If your business operates in the local government areas along the HumeLink project footprint and you're 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 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](#).



## Project update



### Material Change in Circumstance Assessment Submissions Report

Transgrid would like to thank everyone who made a submission regarding our Material Change in Circumstance Assessment (MCC), published in April 2024.

Transgrid has reviewed and considered all submissions. In June 2024, we finalised the Submissions Report, which summarises

the feedback received and provides a response to the key issues raised in the submissions. The report is now available on the HumeLink project [webpage](#). Transgrid will also provide the MCC Assessment Submissions Report to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) for its information.



### Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report and Enabling Works Management Plan lodgement

As part of the environmental planning approvals process, specific reports and plans must be lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) to inform its assessment of the project.

On 26 June 2024, Transgrid lodged the following with the DPHI:

- the [Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report](#) (Revised BDAR), including updated mitigation measures
- the [response to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(DCCEEW\) - Environment and Heritage \(Biodiversity, Conservation and Sciences group\) submission on the Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#)
- an [Enabling Works Management Plan \(EWMP\)](#).

These documents are now publicly available on the [NSW Major Projects Planning Portal](#).

The EWMP outlines how enabling works will be completed. The enabling works are required to prepare work sites ahead of the start of main construction. They involve the establishment and operation of construction compounds and worker accommodation facilities, road works for new or existing access tracks and utility relocations. Enabling works will commence immediately following approval by the State and Commonwealth governments. To find out more about enabling works, refer to the [HumeLink construction fact sheet](#).



## The Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report

The HumeLink Amendment Report included a number of technical reports that assessed the potential impacts of the proposed amendments and refinements to the project and outlined mitigation and management measures.

The Revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is one of these technical reports and it supersedes the BDAR included with the EIS. Due to the complexity and extent of the biodiversity assessment for HumeLink, the Revised BDAR has been recognised as one of the largest biodiversity assessment reports produced in NSW to date.

The Revised BDAR assessed potential impacts to biodiversity that might occur during construction, from vegetation clearing and establishment of temporary ancillary facilities or access tracks, and during operation of the transmission line and substations. A very conservative and precautionary approach was applied, so the potential impacts represent a worst-case scenario.

The development of HumeLink has aimed to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity values.

Minimising biodiversity impacts has continued with the development of amendments and refinements identified in the Amendment Report. This has included the amendment of the transmission line corridor away from areas supporting intact native vegetation within Bago State Forest and on private land, to largely pine plantation within Green Hills State Forest.

The amended project also prioritises the use and upgrade of existing access tracks over the creation of new access tracks, where possible.



**Image:** Snowy Mountains Highway.

### Next steps

Now that all required environmental documents have been lodged, the DPHI will review and assess the EIS, Submissions Report, Amendment Report and EWMP as part of the project assessment process. Additional information may be requested from Transgrid by the DPHI.

Once the assessment is complete, the DPHI will recommend to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to either approve the project (with approval conditions) or provide reasons for refusal. The assessment report and NSW Planning Approval will also be provided to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for a decision on whether to approve the project with approval conditions.

If planning approval from the NSW and Commonwealth governments is granted, the respective Ministers will issue the Conditions of Approval for the project's next stage. The Ministers' Conditions of Approval outline how the potential impacts of the project need to be managed during construction and operation.

Subject to the NSW Government and Commonwealth planning approvals, the construction of HumeLink would commence in late 2024 and be completed in 2026.



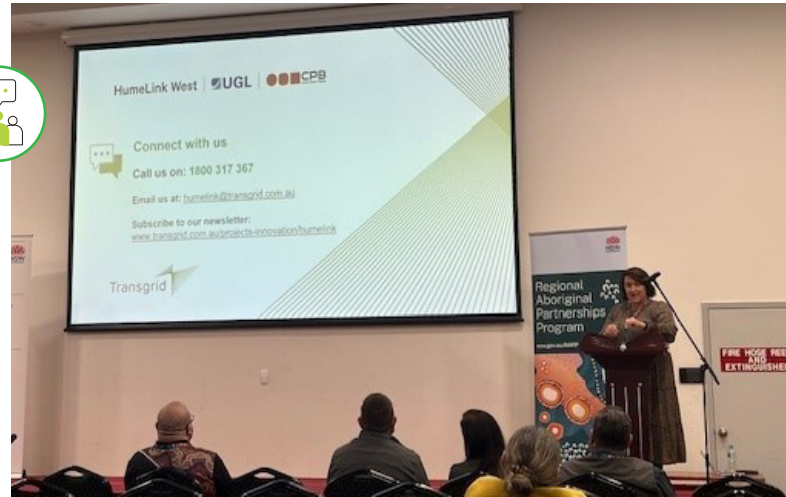


## In the community

### HumeLink West at Gather & Grow, Wagga Wagga

A Gather & Grow event was hosted in Wagga Wagga on 28 May 2024, to support the growth of the First Nations business sector in the region. Representatives from the HumeLink West team were pleased to join the event, hosted by NSW Treasury and Regional NSW. The team spoke with local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses about how they could participate in the delivery of the project.

The event offered networking opportunities with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses, government buyers, job seekers and business support services. Attendees also gained a better understanding of current and upcoming projects in the region.



**Image:** HumeLink West team at Gather & Grow in Wagga Wagga.



**Image:** HumeLink West and Clontarf academy students at the Riverina Employment Forum.



### HumeLink West at Clontarf Foundation's Riverina Employment Forum

The HumeLink West team was proud to participate in the Clontarf Foundation's 2024 Riverina Employment Forum in June. This forum provided an opportunity for Year 11 and 12 Clontarf academy students to meet regional employers and chat about employment and training opportunities. The project team participated in a 'speed-dating' style networking event with the students.

It was great to hear firsthand about the careers the students are interested in and provide them with information about the project and employment opportunities.

## Community partnerships



### Community Partnerships Program update

Thank you again to everyone who applied for the March round of the Community Partnership Program. We are in the final stages of reviewing applications and will announce the recipients soon.

Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for not-for-profit organisations that are local to our planning, operations, and major project areas. The next round of applications will open later this year. For more information on the program and past beneficiaries, see Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program webpage.

[www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program](http://www.transgrid.com.au/community/community-partnerships-program)



## 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 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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