

# HumeLink Community Newsletter

December 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. The construction will occur in two sections known as HumeLink East and HumeLink West.

To view HumeLink's interactive route map go to [www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/humelink](http://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/humelink):

## In this issue:

Commonwealth government approval for HumeLink

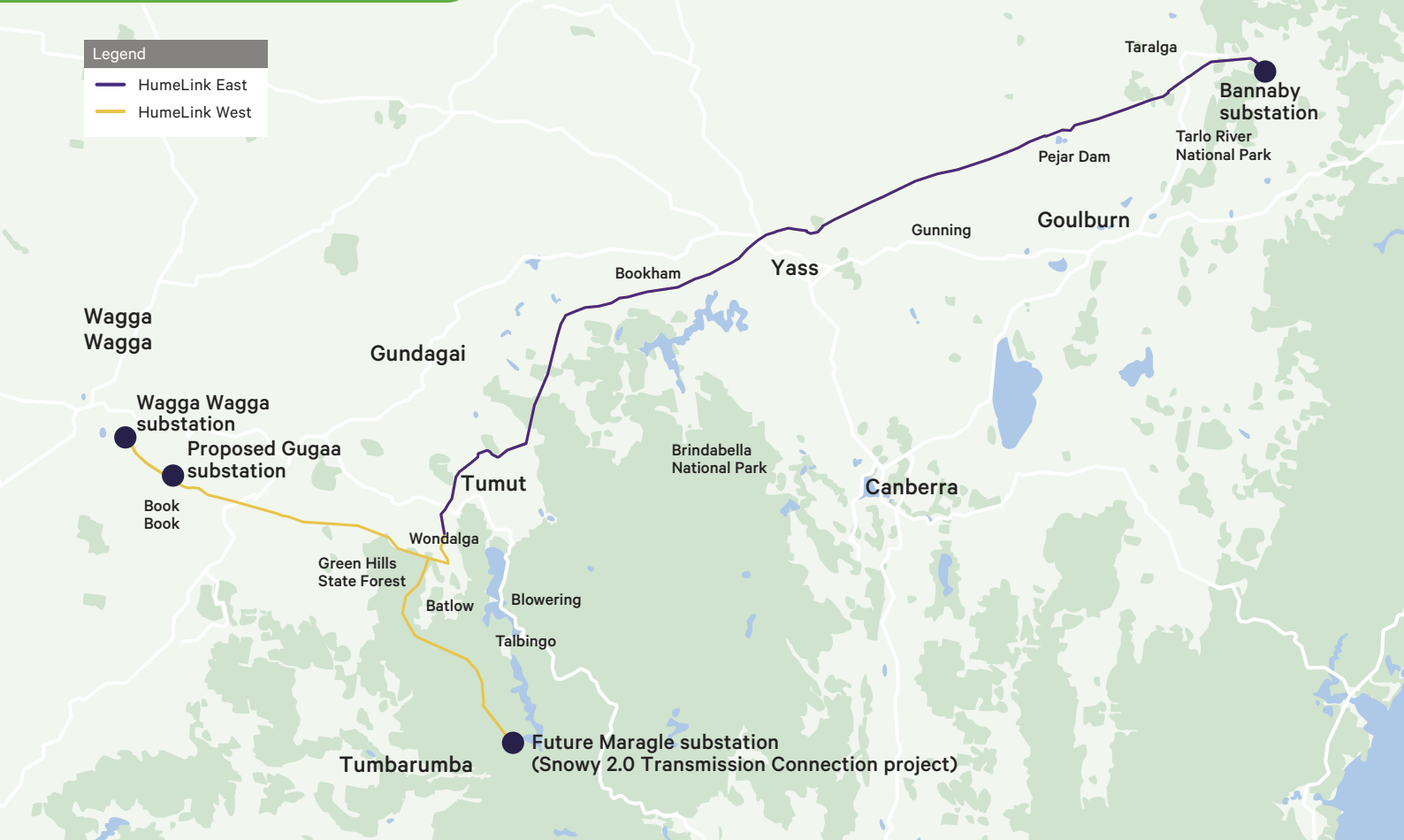
EmPOWERing Regional Women Program graduation

Yass accommodation facility information session

Riverina Major Projects information session

HumeLink East's final 2024 Business Buzz session

## HumeLink preferred route





## Project update

### HumeLink planning approval from the Commonwealth government

The HumeLink project has reached its final major planning milestone after receiving Commonwealth government approval from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. A Final Investment Decision has also been made by Transgrid's Board, allowing enabling works to begin shortly.

Based on the current program, enabling works such as site establishment will begin in early 2025 and construction on transmission lines and substations will begin later in 2025.

We would like to acknowledge the landowners, community members and other local stakeholders who have engaged with the HumeLink team during the development of the project to date. We will continue to work with communities and all local stakeholders throughout construction and we are committed to keeping them informed as the project progresses. We will also continue to prioritise local employment, provide training and skills development to build the workforce and focus on lasting community benefits.

The Commonwealth government approval has set out a range of conditions to manage and minimise potential environmental impacts relating to the project.

This follows a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, incorporating an Amendment Report and Submissions Report, and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report that is recognised as one of the largest ever completed in NSW.

The HumeLink project received State government approval from the NSW Minister for Planning and Public spaces on 14 November 2024. The NSW approval was accompanied by Conditions of Approval to minimise or offset potential environmental impacts, including consulting with the community, managing traffic and controlling noise and vibration during construction.

HumeLink will deliver cheaper and more reliable power for consumers by increasing the amount of renewable energy that be delivered across the national electricity grid and helping to transition Australia to a low carbon future.

The project is being designed and constructed by the delivery partners, HumeLink East: Acciona and GenusPlus Group Ltd Joint Venture (JV) and HumeLink West: UGL and CPB Contractors JV.

Further information is available on the project website: [transgrid.com.au/humelink](https://transgrid.com.au/humelink).







## In the community

### Congratulations to the EmPOWERing Regional Women Program graduates

The full cohort of HumeLink East EmPOWERing Regional Women Program participants graduated in late November from this innovative program, which aims to boost female participation in the regional NSW construction industry.

The seven-week program included accredited training, mentoring, and health and wellbeing support. The graduates are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to apply for a range of job opportunities on HumeLink East and in the wider construction industry.

Following the graduation ceremony in Yass, graduate Sage Rasmussen said, ***“It has highlighted alternative pathways for me to enter the industry...Balancing the male-to-female ratio will bring lots of benefits, and I feel that over time, my skills and confidence will grow, and having the support and network from this program will benefit me on any future worksite.”***

The EmPOWERing Regional Women Program has been made possible through a collaboration between Transgrid, HumeLink East delivery partners ACCIONA and GenusPlus, The Umbrella Collective and a grant from the NSW Government Women in Construction Industry Innovation Program.



**Image:** Yass Valley Mayor Jasmin Jones congratulating the participants.



**Image:** Graduates of the EmPOWERing Regional Women Program, November 2024.

### Pop-up information session about the Yass worker accommodation facility

Thank you to everyone that joined us at the pop-up community information session on 27 November 2024 at the Yass Valley Men's Shed.

The HumeLink project team visited Yass with our Remote Access Community Hub (RACH) to provide information on the potential relocation of the Yass worker accommodation facility from Faulder Avenue to Yass Industrial Park. The new location is further away from the township of Yass and closer to the project alignment, reducing travel of the construction teams between the project area and their accommodation. Additionally, the location at an established industrial park minimises impacts during site establishment.

If you couldn't attend or would like more information on accommodation facilities and the proposed location change, [view the interactive map](#) or phone the project team on 1800 317 367.

Thank you again to everyone who joined us!



**Image:** Pop-up information session with RACH at the Yass Valley Men's Shed.



## HumeLink West at the Riverina Major Projects information session

HumeLink West hosted the Riverina Major Projects information session at the Wagga Discovery Hub on 21 November 2024, in partnership with Workforce Australia.

The team shared information about HumeLink West, including upcoming job opportunities and practical tips to support job applications.

The team had invaluable conversations with various sole traders and businesses. Thank you to everyone who joined us. To find out more about our upcoming industry information sessions, visit the [HumeLink East](#) and the [HumeLink West](#) web pages.



**Image:** HumeLink West team presenting at the Riverina Major Projects Information Session at the Transgrid Wagga Wagga Discovery Hub.

## HumeLink East's final Business Buzz session for the year

The HumeLink East project team recently hosted their final Business Buzz for 2024 in Yass. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the session and breakfast barbecue. We had a fantastic turnout, with more than 70 local businesses and sole traders coming together to engage with the HumeLink East project team.

The session provided an opportunity to discuss upcoming work packages, pre-employment programs and how the project team can collaborate with local businesses.

HumeLink East and HumeLink West have held 18 industry events across Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Yass, Crookwell, Goulburn and the Illawarra this year, and will continue to hold these events in 2025. We'd like to thank everyone who has attended our industry events across the year. It has been great talking to and connecting with a diverse range of business who are interested in being part of the HumeLink project. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

## Engagement snapshot for 2024

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our community events this year, we appreciate you taking the time to talk with us.



**27** community information events



More than **60** phone calls via the 1800 number and more than **700** emails via the HumeLink inbox



**18** industry events hosted by HumeLink East and HumeLink West



**11** newsletters emailed to subscribers, and more than **13,200** letterbox drops



More than **980** individuals and businesses engaged with at our industry events



**46,775** HumeLink website page views





## Contact during the holiday period

The HumeLink team wishes everyone a safe holiday season. The project holiday shutdown period is from Saturday 21 December 2024 until Sunday 5 January 2025. The project team will be back on deck from 6 January 2025. Our community hotline (1800 317 367) and project email ([humelink@transgrid.com.au](mailto:humelink@transgrid.com.au)) will be monitored intermittently during this time.

We look forward to speaking with you when we return in the new year.

For any urgent matters, please contact 1800 027 253 (General Transgrid).



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

HumeLink Community Engagement  
Team, PO BOX A1000,  
Sydney South, NSW 1235

**Privacy statement:** Transgrid recognises the importance of privacy and protecting the personal information it holds, uses and discloses in line with the Privacy Act. It is committed to protecting personal information and handling personal information responsibly and in accordance with its obligations.

