

Q3 2024

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## A message from the Project Director



It's been another busy few months on EnergyConnect with our teams continuing to hit milestones and work collaboratively

with our construction partner to deliver Australia's largest transmission project. Construction activities are now complete on the first 330kV transmission line, from the SA border to Buronga. Commissioning is underway at Buronga substation, and assembly of the first 500kV towers has commenced.

We have had the chance to host the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner which was a great chance to showcase some of EnergyConnect's construction

and our community engagement activities firsthand.

I was also fortunate to get out on country recently for a workshop with some Indigenous Elders to better understand the importance of protecting Aboriginal culture.

We are looking forward to announcing the recipients of our latest round of Community Partnership Program funding.

Thanks again to our teams for all their efforts over the past quarter and thank you for your continued support as we continue to delivery EnergyConnect.

Rob Harrison

*Rob Harrison*

Project Director, Transgrid.



**Above:** Michael Lyons at the at the Cobb Highway camp cleansing ceremony.  
**Below:** Early Education River Region and Preschool are recipients of Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program (CPP). See page 6 for more stories from the community.



**Image:** Paul McFadyen, Engagement Lead pictured with children from Early Education River Region and Preschool Supervisor Heidi Plant.



# Project Snapshot



Approximately 1500 steel tower structures



700km transmission line from Wagga Wagga to South Australian Border



Over \$130 million revenue for local and First Nation businesses in the Riverina, Murray & Sunraysia regions



Largest substation ever built in Australia (Buronga)



Creating more than 1500 jobs



6 workers accommodation camps



Covering Local Government Areas of Wentworth, Hay, Balranald Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Edward River, Federation, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga

## Progress Update

### Line 1 Buronga to SA Border

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

1

### Buronga substation

- Stage 1A
- Stage 1B

SA border

Red Cliffs

4

### Line 4 Buronga to Red Cliffs

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

2

### Line 2 Buronga to Dinawan

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

5

### Dinawan substation

### Line 5 Dinawan to Wagga Wagga

- Tower foundations
- Tower assembly
- Tower erection
- Line stringing

### Wagga Wagga substation

- Tower foundations

Indicates progress of works completed



## Project update

Construction continues to progress on the 700km NSW section of EnergyConnect, with key milestones being achieved in the following areas:

### EnergyConnect West - South Australian and Victorian borders to Buronga

EnergyConnect has reached a major milestone with the construction completion of Line 1, stretching 135km from Buronga in south-western NSW, to the South Australian border.

This line includes:

- 1366 concrete foundations
- 291 towers
- 1900km of conductor cabling

The next step will be energisation of Line 1 which is planned for August.

Stringing works are continuing on Line 4, a 220kV line from Buronga to Red Cliffs in Victoria.



**Image:** Completed transmission towers on Line 1.

### EnergyConnect East - Buronga to Wagga Wagga

Construction works continue to progress on both Line 2 from Buronga to Dinawan (Bundure) and Line 5 from Dinawan to Wagga Wagga. Over 300 foundations have now been completed on Line 2 with 151 towers assembled and 66 towers erected around the township of Euston.

Tower assembly is underway on the first 500kV towers from Dinawan to Wagga Wagga. 179 tower foundations are now complete with foundations and assembly continuing to progress down the line.

Steel for the towers is supplied to each location in bundles and assembled into tower sections on site. These sections are lifted by a crane to form the completed tower.

Construction of the Cobb Highway Camp 40 kilometres south of Hay is also underway with early works including construction of access roads, earth works and vegetation clearing. Occupancy of the camp is expected in the final quarter of 2024. For more information on construction activities see our [Cobb Highway Construction Notification](#)



**Image:** First tower being erected on Line 2 from Buronga to Dinawan.

## Fun Facts



The 1900km of conductor cabling strung on Line 1 from Buronga to the SA border is the equivalent distance of driving from Sydney to Brisbane and back again

Steel for the towers is supplied to each location in bundles and assembled into tower sections on site. These sections are lifted by a crane to form the completed tower.



## Substation Update

Works are continuing to progress all three substation sites across the 700km alignment at Buronga, Dinawan (Bundure), near Coleambally and Wagga Wagga.

### Buronga Substation

Testing and pre-commissioning works of key pieces of equipment are underway within the substation including offline testing of the synchronous condensers which have been assembled at the site. Offline testing will ensure that the condensers operate safely and effectively prior to being connected to the grid. These condensers will play a vital role in maintaining grid stability and enabling the sharing of energy between NSW, SA and VIC.



Image: Buronga substation testing



Image: Buronga Substation in February 2023.

### Dinawan Substation

Workers are moving into the accommodation camp at Dinawan (Bundure) near Coleambally which has the capacity to house up to 460 workers. The 1.5ha camp site which opened in June has facilities including a laundry, kitchen, dining room, games room, spiritual room and gym as well as a water treatment plan. Works on the substation site are continuing with the substation bench works progressing well.

For more information on Dinawan Camp check out our [Dinawan Camp Notification](#).

### Wagga Substation

Construction activities are underway including drainage, civil works and earthing continuing.



Image: Buronga Substation in May 2024.

## How this will affect you

These works maybe dusty and you may notice an increase in construction vehicles in this area.

Please be mindful of any traffic management in place in this area.

For any enquiries about construction activities or for more information about the project, please call 1800 49 06 66 or email [pec@transgrid.com.au](mailto:pec@transgrid.com.au). We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation during these essential works.



## Community partnerships



### First Legacy 100 participants graduate at Buronga ceremony

Sixteen participants from the Legacy 100 program have completed their training and have celebrated with a graduation ceremony at the EnergyConnect project site at Buronga.

This first cohort of graduates have now gained valuable qualifications, knowledge and experience in building high-voltage electricity towers and lines.

Another 33 participants are currently at various stages of their training under the Legacy 100 program which allows participants to earn while they learn and gain a Certificate II in Transmission Line Construction.

Transgrid and its EnergyConnect construction partner Elecnor Australia launched Legacy 100 last year as the nation's first training initiative to boost skills in the power transmission sector across regional NSW.

The Legacy 100 graduates have diverse backgrounds ranging from the fitness industry, classical music, retail, sheep shearing, mining, carpentry, and logistics, also come from various locations.

Legacy 100 will result in up to 100 candidates completing qualifications in Transmission Line Construction as part of the \$1.8 billion EnergyConnect project.



Hear what some of our recent graduates have to say about the program.



## In the community

### On Country – EnergyConnect East

EnergyConnect team members recently engaged in an immersive on-Country experience led by local Wiradjuri Elder Uncle James Ingram and Mark Saddler, on the sacred lands of the Wiradjuri people around Lockhart.

The team spent the day exploring significant sites to foster and understand the processes to protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage on Country. The immersion deepened the team's understanding on how they can minimise their footprint and impacts, as EnergyConnect activities ramp up on the eastern section of the alignment.

In May, our team had an isolated find when they came across a flaked river cobble along one of the project easements. The artefact was able to be salvaged before clearing activities and will be repatriated once construction activities are complete.



**Image:** Artefact found on easement.

Most recently we got the opportunity to support our delivery partner Elecnor Australia at the Cobb Highway camp cleansing ceremony, located 40km south of Hay. The winter sun was shining as Wiradjuri Elder Michael Lyons hosted a Welcome to Country and cleansing for the teams and the camp.



**Image:** EnergyConnect project teams on site including Elder Michael Lyons and landowners Mac and Betty Wallace.

### EnergyConnect in the community

EnergyConnect's team hit the road updating councils across the Riverina and visiting recipients of Transgrid's Community Partnerships Program (CPP). The team engaged with Lockhart, Edward River, Murrumbidgee, and Federation councils.

Topics of discussion included

- Job creations for local people
- Worker's accommodation Camps at Lockhart and Dinawan (Bundure)
- Local procurement
- Legacy 100

While on this week-long excursion, it was great to get the opportunity to hear direct feedback on the positive impact the CPP initiative has on not-for-profit organisations like the Early Education River Region and Preschool at Deniliquin, Lockhart Football and Netball Club, Urana Bowling Club and The Rock Rural Fire Brigade.

We also supported our delivery partner Elecnor Australia at a pop-up session outside the information centre in Balranald to provide the community with an update on construction activities as well as discussions around Legacy 100 and the Community Partnership Program. Check out the [Balranald LGA Notification here](#)

The team got the opportunity to join the Lockhart leg of Triple M's Transgrid Community Connect Tour at Lockhart Recreation Grounds for the Lockhart Demons sponsors day. The team had the chance to connect with the community, providing information on the project which is now well underway around Lockhart as well as supporting the local football and netball teams playing on the day.



**Image:** Elecnor Australia's Leanne Hawkins and Jo Mazzocchi outside the Balranald Information Centre.



**Image:** Community Connect Tour at Lockhart.



## In the community



**Image:** Paul McFadyen, Engagement Lead, with members of The Rock Rural Fire Brigade.



### Celebrations at The Rock

Congratulations to The Rock Rural Fire Brigade on the grand opening of their new station. We were delighted to attend this momentous occasion and receive a certificate of appreciation in recognition of our support for the volunteers of the NSW Rural

Fire Service. The opening was a great opportunity for members and guests of the Riverina region to come together and celebrate the dedication of these volunteer firefighters.

### 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 EnergyConnect project.

**Please connect with us for more information.**



**1800 49 06 66** (free call)  
**pec@transgrid.com.au**  
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