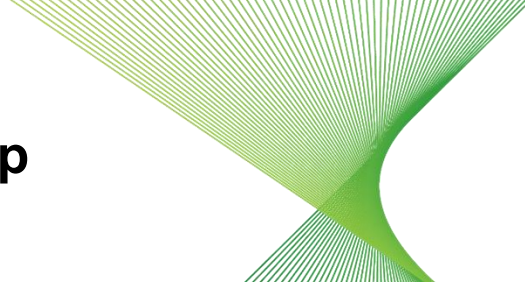


Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) Meeting summary

8 March 2022



Attendees

Location:	Via Webex		
Chairperson:	Robert Ephraums, Senior Advisor Stakeholder Engagement	Time:	12:30pm-3:00pm
Attendees			
Transgrid Advisory Council Members	Andrew Richards , CEO, Energy Users Association of Australia Brian Spak , Director Energy Transformation, Energy Consumers Australia Scott Young , Executive Director, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Andrew Blakers , Director, ANU Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems Tennant Reed , Head of Climate, Energy & Environmental Policy, AiG Gavin Dufty , Executive Manager Policy and Research, St Vincent de Paul Christian Zuur , Director Energy Transformation, Clean Energy Council Sam Fyfield , General Manager – Grid & SCADA, Goldwind Panos Priftakis , Head of Wholesale Regulation, Snowy Hydro		
Transgrid attendees:	Craig Stellan , Executive Manager, Delivery Kasia Kulbacka , Executive Manager, Network Planning & Operations Stephanie McDougall , Head of Regulation John Howland , Head of Network Planning Mark McEearney , Project Director VNI West and Sydney Ring Stephen Troughton , Project Director – PEC Carl Charlier , Commercial Manager (HumeLink) Mitch Hume , Stakeholder and Communication Manager (PEC) Jesse Steinfeld , Future Grid Planning Manager Taryn Woods , Communications Manager Robert Ephraums , Senior Advisor Stakeholder Engagement Catherine O'Neill Deyi Wu , Stakeholder Relations Advisor		
AEMO (VNI West Discussion)	Sandra Neilsen , Stakeholder Engagement Specialist		

Meeting summary

1. Welcome and introduction

Robert Ephraums, Senior Advisor Stakeholder Engagement, acknowledged ETWG attendees, Transgrid staff and outlined meeting agenda.

2. HumeLink Contingent Project Application (CPA)

Craig Stallan, Executive Manager – Delivery, provided an overview of the project corridor and benefits of HumeLink.

Craig outlined the staged CPA process, target regulatory milestones – including Transgrid's submission to the AER on 31 March 2022 – and the breakdown of the funding sought in the initial CPA. Craig explained the importance of Early Works expenditure on planning and design to achieve greater certainty on cost, scope, schedule and procurement before the project is approved, and sought ETWG's support on Transgrid's HumeLink CPA submission.

In discussions the following issues were raised:

- Delineating between the public land versus private land route, and the costs associated with public land due to biodiversity factors and difference in terrain.
- Costs/risks allocation between generators, transmission networks and energy consumers.
- Social licence costs associated with building in national parks e.g. broader public interest, legal challenge etc.
- Compensation process for landowners and payment models – alternative land use; one-off payments versus annual payments.
- CPA process – AEMO's role; Draft ISP timeline and its alignment with HumeLink's timeline.
- Snowy 2.0 output – existing capacity and future capacity once HumeLink is complete.
- The role of government in supporting projects in the short-term, and consideration of HumeLink within the NEM as a whole, rather than as an independent transmission project.
- Announcement of intention to close Eraring and its impact on the Draft 2022 ISP.
- The impact of changing assumptions, timelines and scenarios used by various governments and regulatory bodies on planning processes. Difficulty for planning and analysis to keep up with and account for present succession of public and private industry announcements.
- Supply chain risk present for succession of major transmission builds and the need for constant oversight of cost of the energy transition.

3. VNI West

Mark McEneaney, Project Director of VNI West, provided overview of the RIT-T process and the stakeholder engagement strategy.

In discussions the following issues were raised:

- Feedback that many end consumers currently don't see the value proposition of many major projects, and a bottom-up, customer-centric approach to the development of a project narrative was necessary.
- Project order and impacts of Marinus Link on other ISP projects.

Actions:

- Transgrid to examine messaging for VNI West project.

4. Sydney Ring

Mark McEneaney provided an overview of the Sydney Ring project in the context of the Eraring Power Station closure.

ETWG members responded positively to the need for the Sydney Ring project.

5. Project EnergyConnect

Stephen Troughton, Project Director of Project EnergyConnect, provided an overview of the project area and regulatory timeline.

Mitch Hume, Stakeholder and Communications Manager of Project EnergyConnect, outlined the current challenges and mitigation measures in place to address these issues.

In discussions the following issues were raised:

- The processes followed for property acquisition, the percentage of easements that would require compulsory acquisition and an update on the Property Acquisition Notice (PAN) process.
- The process and regularity of updating AEMO's transmission cost database, and future price pressures.

6. 100% Renewables Roadmap

Jesse Steinfeld, Future Grid Manager, outlined Transgrid's 100% Renewables by 2025 ambition and the project's objectives.

In discussions the following issues were raised:

- Differentiating between 100% instantaneous renewables versus 100% renewable energy and ways to define the parameters/scope of this project.
- The percentage of renewables within the energy system, and current thermal capacity required to maintain stability.
- The delineation of roles and responsibilities between Transgrid and AEMO in the transition.
- The role of other players in the market e.g. distributors, to examine system strength issues and grid forming mechanisms.
- Financial instruments that are in development and the potential role they can play in supporting projects.

7. Close and next steps

Robert Ephraums thanked all attendees for their contribution, and encouraged feedback on the agenda for the next ETWG meeting.

Actions:

- Transgrid to call ETWG members to seek feedback on meeting structure and content.

Meeting close

Meeting closed at 2.59pm.