

December 2021

Transgrid

CENTRAL-WEST ORANA REZ TRANSMISSION UPDATE

Delivering affordable, reliable and clean energy to customers

NEWSLETTER

Your feedback is helping plan new transmission infrastructure for Australia's first coordinated Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the State's Central-West Orana region.

Project overview

Transgrid is working with the NSW Government to plan new transmission lines and substations to support the delivery of a REZ in the Central-West Orana region.

Our existing substation at Wollar will also be upgraded as part of the project.

Investment in new transmission will allow renewable energy generators and storage projects in the region to connect to the grid and provide affordable, reliable and clean energy to NSW customers.

The project has received funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

What is a REZ?

REZs combine transmission, large scale generation (such as solar and wind), storage (such as batteries and pumped hydro) and connection infrastructure to ensure secure, affordable and reliable energy.

More information about REZs can be found at energy.nsw.gov.au/renewable-energy-zones

Community Engagement Feedback Report

The first Community Engagement Feedback Report has been published, summarising the views and feedback of landowners, the community and other stakeholders.

Key topics and concerns raised between the December 2020 – September 2021 community engagement period include:

- aesthetic impacts of towers and lines
- landowner compensation
- potential impacts on farming operations.

Read the report on our website or get in touch on the contacts below and we'll send you a copy.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their views to date. If you would like to provide further feedback, please:

- call us on **1800 313 212** (free call) to arrange a COVID-safe meeting
- leave a comment on the interactive map, available at transgrid.com.au/centralwestorana
- email your comments and questions to cwo@transgrid.com.au

Work to refine the study corridor, including community consultation, will continue throughout 2022.

Study corridor update

Following consultation with landowners between Merriwa and Cassilis, Transgrid has supported the NSW Government to consider alternative options for this part of the corridor, from the existing 500kV network to the Central-West Orana REZ.

The NSW Government is currently considering the viability of the alternatives and will decide the location of this section of the Transmission project. Once a decision is made, we'll communicate with landowners and communities.

Community information sessions are being rescheduled to take place in 2022 following Government's decision.

People. Power. Possibilities.

Environmental surveys

Field studies are underway to help us understand the local environment, identify potential impacts and determine where the new transmission infrastructure could be located.

Initial spring ecology surveys have been undertaken to identify existing vegetation types and animal and plant species. Further ecology surveys will be undertaken in 2022.

Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys are also planned for the new year and will be carried out with the assistance of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other key stakeholders. These studies will take some months to complete, with small teams walking the corridor to identify any sites of cultural heritage significance.

Before undertaking any surveys, your Land Access Officer will work with you to prepare a Consent to Enter to understand access requirements for your property. We will always contact you prior to entry to your property to confirm you are happy for the surveys to go ahead and provide an opportunity for you to advise us if conditions have changed.



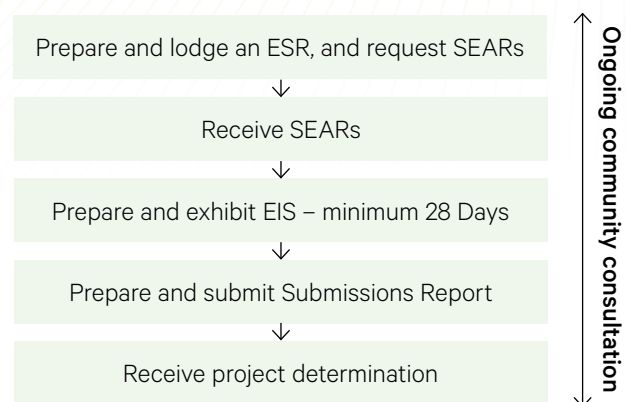
Ecology surveys will continue throughout 2022

Wollar substation upgrade planning approvals

Following lodgement of an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment for the upgrade of Wollar substation in September 2021, we have received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs set out conditions that must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The upgrade has been determined to be a 'controlled action' under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. This means the upgrade will require Commonwealth and NSW planning approval.

The planning process



Free support service for landowners

We recognise the Transmission project may have increased the level of stress and anxiety experienced by some landowners, and have engaged an external service provider – Assure Programs – to provide landowners with support including counselling.

We encourage landowners to access this free service should they need support by calling **1800 808 374**. Further details on this service can be found on our website.

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities to develop a route for transmission lines that minimises impacts on properties, local communities and the environment.

To share your views or find out more about the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission please contact us.