



TransGrid's Planning and Development Process



Moving Energy

TransGrid is the owner, operator and manager of the largest high voltage network in Australia, connecting generators, distributors and major end users in New South Wales. The network is interconnected to Queensland and Victoria providing a robust electricity system that facilitates interstate energy trading.

TransGrid's network comprises of over 12,500 kilometres of high voltage transmission lines and underground cables, as well as 83 substations and switching stations

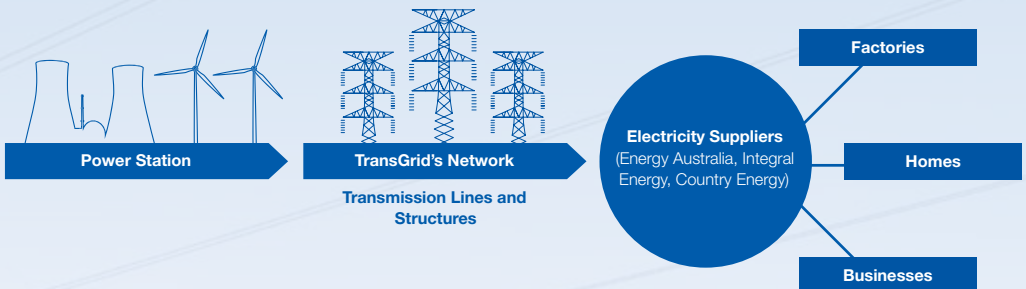


Overview

Before building electricity infrastructure in NSW, TransGrid undertakes a comprehensive planning and development process to overcome restrictions in NSW's electricity transmission network.

Where TransGrid fits in the electricity delivery process

TransGrid is the vital link between the generators of electricity and the distributors of electricity



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1 Planning Phase >

Forecasting and Planning

TransGrid's network planners continuously forecast electricity demand. These predictions are vital in maintaining the security and reliability of NSW's transmission network, as they identify emerging electricity needs in TransGrid's network. TransGrid to undertake upgrades and build new infrastructure.

These forecasts are published each year in TransGrid's Annual Planning Report which can be accessed from our website.

Initial Assessment

After the network needs are identified, a scoping report is prepared. The scoping report initiates an examination of the feasibility and costs of options to maintain the reliability of TransGrid's network.

Feasibility Report

If a transmission line, substation or underground cable is being considered as a solution, TransGrid will conduct a detailed analysis to determine the feasibility of constructing the infrastructure.

Non-Network Alternatives

TransGrid invites companies to provide 'non-network alternatives', i.e. solutions which do not involve the construction of electricity transmission infrastructure. These submissions could include the construction of power stations or electricity demand management solutions.

Below is a simplified guide to the stages in TransGrid's Planning and Development Process.



2 Consultation Phase >

Regulatory Consultation

All the network and non-network options are subject to a National Electricity Rules (NER) consultation and evaluation to ensure the final option selected by TransGrid is the most 'prudent and efficient' solution.

Selection of Study Area

If a transmission line or underground cable is identified as a solution, location(s) will be selected for further study.

If a substation is the preferred solution, a site for development will be selected based on the location of existing infrastructure, whilst also minimising the future impact on the community and future industrial and residential development.

Detailed Environmental Assessment

TransGrid will engage independent consultants to undertake an Environmental Assessment or Review of Environmental Factors (REF) within the study area(s) or proposed substation site.

If an Environmental Assessment is undertaken, the Minister for Planning (NSW) is required to approve the project before construction activities can commence.

Community Consultation

In transmission line or underground cable projects, landowners located within study area(s) will be directly contacted by TransGrid. Landholders, government entities and other interested groups will be invited to comment. All the information gathered will be compiled into the Environmental Assessment Report or REF, which will be made publicly available after its completion.

These phases may occur simultaneously depending on the project schedule



3 Construction Phase >

Preferred Route

A preferred route will be selected for the proposed transmission line or underground cable based on the feasibility study, environmental studies and ongoing landholder consultation. TransGrid then seeks approval for the project from the Minister for Planning (NSW) under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 which allows the project to proceed to construction.

Easement Establishment and Compensation

After the final route is selected for transmission line or underground cable projects, TransGrid begins to establish easements or 'rights of way' along the route selected. An easement ensures TransGrid can access the easement for construction, routine inspections and repairs, as well as emergencies. If property is acquired for the purpose of an easement, the landholder is entitled to compensation under

the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. For more detailed information, please refer to TransGrid's Easement Compensation Brochure.

Construction and Completion

Construction on the project may take several months or years. TransGrid will continue to provide regular updates to stakeholders, landholders and the local community on the project's progress until the infrastructure is completed.

Ongoing Maintenance

TransGrid requires access to easements in order to conduct routine maintenance and in the event of an emergency. In most instances, landowners will be notified prior to routine maintenance being undertaken. For more information on easement guidelines, please refer to TransGrid's Easement Guide.

To obtain more information regarding TransGrid's planning and development process, please contact TransGrid on the details provided:

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