



Dear Resident,

Welcome to the latest community update for TransGrid's Far North NSW Project.

Thank you to all community members and local residents who shared with us their ideas about the project in 2009.

Hearing your feedback firsthand has been extremely valuable. The input provided has informed TransGrid's decision for the preferred transmission line corridor.

We are now finalising the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Far North NSW Project, with the aim to have it ready for public exhibition in the new year.

TransGrid will be providing the community with additional opportunities to have their say about the project during the EA's exhibition period. We welcome your ongoing input into the project, and will advise of consultation details in early 2010.

Please read on for more information on the current status of TransGrid's Far North NSW Project.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the project and we look forward to working closely with you in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

The Project Team

Did you know?

- TransGrid's upgrade works will provide the base infrastructure required to attract renewable energy investments to the region
- The upgrades will increase network efficiency, saving more than 33,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year – the equivalent to taking 7,400 cars off NSW roads every year
- Peak demand for electricity in the NSW Far North Coast is expected to grow by more than 40 per cent over the next 10 years – a rate of growth above the NSW average
- TransGrid's \$227 million investment will provide reliable infrastructure to meet the forecast demand, providing a secure electricity service for the Far North Coast
- TransGrid has opened a project site office at 371 Rouse St, Tenterfield. Office opening hours are 8.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesday – Thursday
- You can sign up to receive email alerts of updates to the project website at: www.transgrid.com.au/farnorthnsw

Public exhibition set for the new year

TransGrid is currently finalising the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed upgrade. This is the document made up of technical studies that will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning for determination and will be publicly exhibited.

Following exhibition, the Minister for Planning will determine the project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*.

TransGrid is upgrading the existing transmission line between Tenterfield and Lismore, constructing a new substation at Tenterfield and connecting it through a new line to the Dumaresq Switching Station, near Bonshaw.

We anticipate the EA will be placed on public exhibition for comment in the first half of 2010.

During this time, TransGrid will consult with the community, with input feeding directly into the assessment process.

Tenterfield Site Office

TransGrid opened a project site office in Tenterfield during November. Michelle Wilson, our Project Support Officer, is on site three days per week.

Office Details:

Location: 371 Rouse St, Tenterfield.

Office hours: 8.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesday – Thursday

Christmas Closure:

The office will be closed from 24 December 2009 to 5 January 2010.

Infrastructure for renewable energy

TransGrid understands that communities across NSW will look increasingly to renewable energy for its future electricity supply.

This project will deliver a more reliable electricity network to the Far North Coast – which will encourage companies to invest in renewable technologies in the area.

Transmission infrastructure will be a key facilitator of the shift to lower emissions and renewable energy.

TransGrid recently connected the largest wind farm built in NSW to its network, located in Bungendore.

It is likely that in the future, more large scale wind farms will be located in areas remote from major population and demand centres. A reliable transmission network provides an efficient platform for renewable energy transport.

By investing in the infrastructure required for renewable energy, TransGrid is investing in a cleaner, greener NSW.

Community comments on the upgrade

TransGrid appreciates the feedback gained during the consultation process in 2009. Input was provided at public information sessions, individual meetings, focus groups, in feedback forms and questionnaire responses.

Your feedback has been central to shaping TransGrid's project, especially regarding the selection of a preferred transmission line corridor.

Some of the things we considered in selecting a preferred corridor, based on your feedback, included:

- Avoiding endangered ecological communities, threatened species and habitats
- Reducing the number of affected properties by avoiding densely built-up areas
- Minimising visual impacts for surrounding residents
- Ensuring access from existing roads is maintained

TransGrid has listened to the important matters the community has raised. We have incorporated your feedback into our project decision-making.

And we will continue to do so.

There will be more opportunities to have your say during the EA exhibition process. We will continue to keep you updated on opportunities for consultation in the new year.

Contact us

For specific project questions, to register your interest or make a personal appointment, please call TransGrid's toll-free project number: **1800 857 300**

Or send written enquiries or feedback to:

Reply Paid 75999
NORTH SYDNEY
NSW 2060

Christmas Closure

TransGrid's regional and Sydney offices will be closed from 12pm on 24 December 2009 to 4 January 2010. The Tenterfield Site Office will be closed from 24 December 2009 to 5 January 2009.

Contact us

Reply Paid 75999
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Phone 1800 857 300
Email dumaresq.lismore@transgrid.com.au
Web www.transgrid.com.au/farnorthnsw

