

# Tomago to Stroud Project

## REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS INFORMATION SHEET

November 2011



An example of a 132 kV structure, which will be used for the proposed Tomago to Stroud Project

TransGrid owns, operates and manages the New South Wales (NSW) high voltage transmission network, delivering electricity from generators to distributors across the state. The proposed Tomago to Stroud Project will help maintain a safe and reliable electricity supply to communities on the NSW lower Mid North Coast.

### Project at a glance

The proposed Tomago to Stroud Project (Project) is required to increase the reliability of the electricity network supplying the lower Mid North Coast. It involves the construction of 67km of transmission line between Tomago and Stroud Road.

The Project will provide a more secure and efficient power supply to customers supplied from Ausgrid's new substation at Brandy Hill and Essential Energy's Stroud Road Substation.

### Review of Environmental Factors (REF) overview

A comprehensive REF has been prepared for the Project in accordance with Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The REF follows a number of feasibility studies and consultation undertaken by TransGrid, which considered environmental, social and economic factors. It includes detailed heritage, soil, water, flora and fauna studies. It also provides information on a range of management strategies, which will help minimise potential environmental impacts of the Project.

The REF has been placed on public exhibition for four weeks until 2 December 2011. During this period, stakeholders will be able to view the REF and provide comment by making a formal submission to TransGrid. All submissions will be responded to in TransGrid's Submission Report.

### Key findings

#### Biodiversity

TransGrid has a responsibility to ensure the safe and reliable operation of our transmission lines, which includes selected vegetation maintenance within our easements.

To minimise the amount of clearing required for the Project, approximately 55km of the transmission line will overlap and utilise an existing cleared easement. In addition, at creek and river crossings riparian vegetation will be largely unaffected.

However, approximately 28 hectares of vegetation will need to be removed, including one kilometre of vegetation near Tomago Substation. Flora and fauna assessments identified potential significant impacts to three threatened fauna species (koala, squirrel glider, and the olive whistler). As a result, a Species Impact Statement was prepared and received independent concurrence from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. This REF will ensure the relevant concurrence conditions and additional management measures will be implemented during vegetation work for this Project.

#### Visual

In response to community consultation, pole structures will be used for the majority (65km) of the proposed transmission line. The structures will be painted to blend

into the landscape and conductors along the entire length of the line will have a low reflective finish.

Where possible, the proposed transmission line has been designed to traverse cleared rural land and approximately 82 per cent of the line will utilise an existing easement.

### Construction Noise and Vibration

The majority of the proposed transmission lines will be located away from populated centres and rural residences. Construction activities have the potential to generate noise and vibration levels above industry standard objectives. Construction activities will generally occur during standard construction hours (7am – 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am – 1pm Saturdays), except as required by other authorities. All affected residents will be advised prior to construction works commencing and mitigation techniques will be used wherever possible.

### Heritage

The proposed transmission line avoids 89 per cent of all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified within 2km of the line's easement during Aboriginal heritage assessments. Consultation was undertaken with Indigenous representatives in regard to two sites which could not be avoided and permits have been obtained to undertake construction works at these sites.

### Electric and magnetic fields

The proposed transmission line has been designed to ensure electric and magnetic field levels within the corridor would be below the exposure limits set by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

### Make a comment

All submissions on the Project received by 5pm on 2 December 2011 will be considered and responded to in TransGrid's Submissions Report. A submission form may be downloaded from our website at [www.transgrid.com.au/tomago-stroud](http://www.transgrid.com.au/tomago-stroud)

Lodge your submission via:

**Phone** 1800 222 537

**Mail** Community Liaison Officer  
PO Box 93  
Waratah NSW 2298

**Email** [tomago.stroud@transgrid.com.au](mailto:tomago.stroud@transgrid.com.au)

All submissions received are regarded as public documents and any information contained in them may be published in subsequent assessment documents.

### Get more information

This document is designed to provide a brief summary of some of the key issues raised in the REF. For further information, please refer to the full version of the REF, which can be downloaded from [www.transgrid.com.au/tomago-stroud](http://www.transgrid.com.au/tomago-stroud), or attend our Community Information Session at King Park Function Room on Newline Road, Raymond Terrace, from 3pm – 7pm on Thursday 17 November 2011.

For all other information, please contact the Project team on 1800 222 537.

### Next steps

REF public exhibition closes  
on 2 December 2011

TransGrid prepares a  
Submissions Report to respond  
to all submission received  
during the exhibition period

Following a review of  
the REF and Submission  
Report, TransGrid  
determines the Project

### Contact us

Community Liaison Officer  
PO Box 93, Waratah NSW 2298

**Phone** 1800 222 537

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**TransGrid**

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