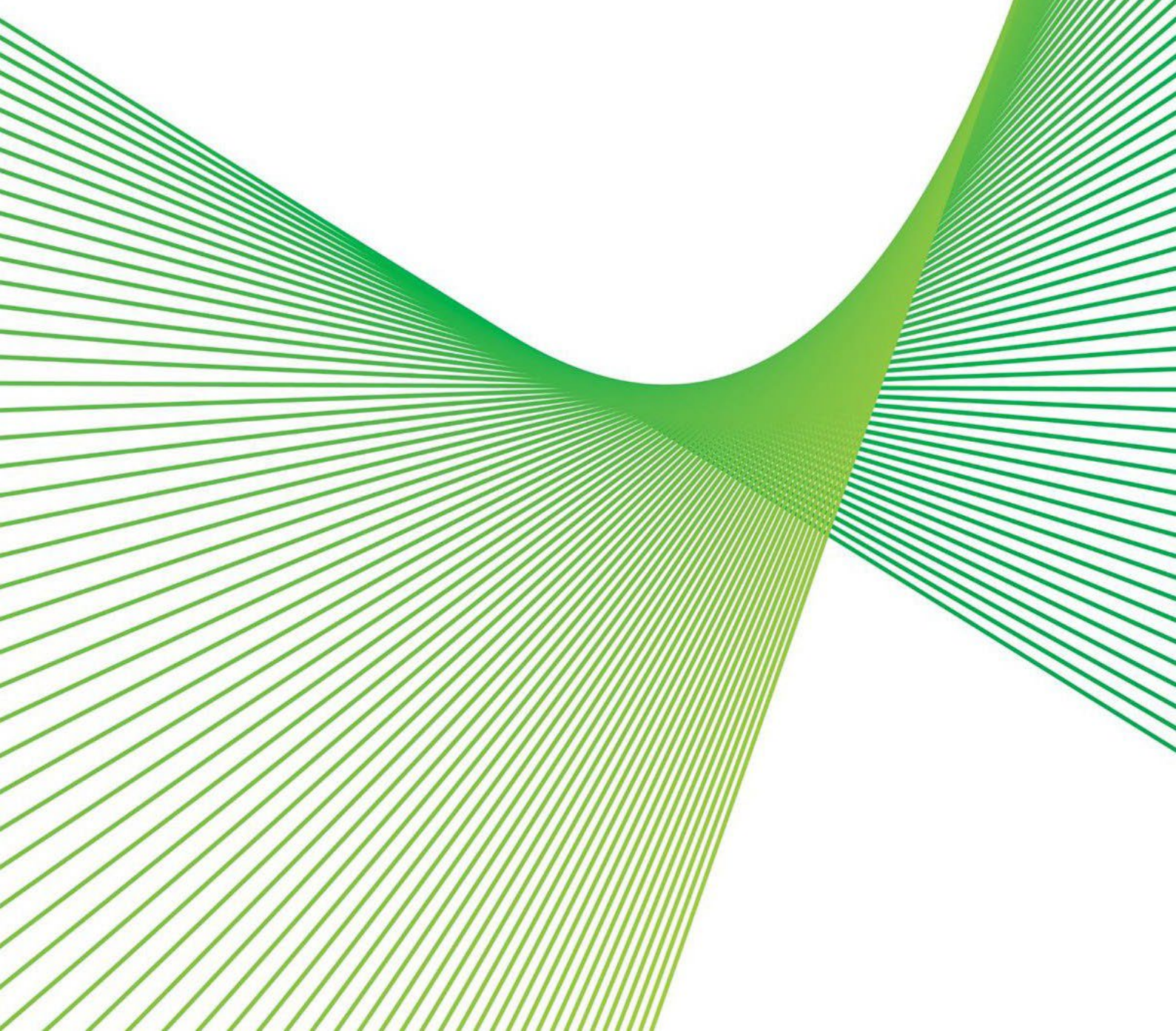


What we heard report

HumeLink West Community Information Session
Tarcutta 12 August 2025



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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to capture and share information discussed at the HumeLink West in-person community engagement session, held at Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club on Tuesday 12 August 2025. This report will be published on the HumeLink West project website as a record of engagement to ensure transparency in key outcomes for each session. The information gathered through the information session will be considered during the project's delivery phase.

Background

The HumeLink West community information sessions are designed to engage a broad audience of interested communities, landowners, local government and businesses. These sessions provide project updates and the opportunity to discuss future consultation.

The session, held at Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club, 6-8pm, Tuesday 12 August 2025, is the most recent of four information sessions held in Tarcutta by HumeLink West, following government approval of the project. Previous sessions held in Tarcutta were:

- Tuesday 25 February 2025, 11am-1pm and 4-6pm, Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club
- Tuesday 27 May 2025, 6-8pm, Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club

Following the session on 27 May 2025, HumeLink West hosted a stall at Tarcutta Village Market on Saturday 16 August 2025, 8am to 1pm to provide information and answer questions for those not able to attend the session on 12 August 2025.

During the planning stage of HumeLink and prior to the project receiving government approval, nine community information sessions and community street meetings were held at the Tarcutta Memorial Hall and outside Coffee@Joe's.

The community information sessions offer a practical two-way communication approach, allowing stakeholders to meet and discuss the project with representatives from Transgrid and HumeLink West senior management, engineering, logistics, property, traffic, environment, workforce development and community engagement teams.

Engagement approach

Community information session

The Tarcutta information session was held during the evening so community members would have an opportunity to attend after work hours or commute periods. It was held in the same central location, Tarcutta RSL and Citizens Club, for convenient access and to support meaningful conversations in a community gathering space. Information was displayed throughout the venue, with project representatives positioned around the room to allow for group movement and a natural flow of engagement. Light catering was provided to facilitate a more approachable atmosphere.

The session was broken into two one-hour portions. The first hour of the session consisted of an interactive sit-down presentation facilitated by the HumeLink West Project Director which delved into the community topics of concern, supported by visual aids and simplified content. Attendees were encouraged to engage in this portion, with questions answered by a

panel of HumeLink West subject matter experts to ensure accurate and immediate responses.

The second half of the session focused on targeted engagement, designed to address additional questions in an individual or small group settings. This format encouraged more in-depth discussions around specific community concerns..

Communications materials available at this session included:

- An interactive presentation facilitated by the HumeLink West Project Director and tailored to the local area, providing project updates, visual mapping of approved project vehicle movement plans, the Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment and specific information on project features, including Mates Gully Road widening, Tarcutta accommodation facility, and a proposed concrete batching plan at Cullinga Park Lane, Tarcutta.
- Maps identifying project alignment, water access points and other points of interest including accommodation facilities and construction compounds
- Community factsheets detailing design of transmission towers, enabling work activities and water use
- HumeLink West project quarterly newsletter
- Display map of the 365-kilometre HumeLink alignment outlining the two delivery partner packages: HumeLink East and HumeLink West
- Posters providing key information on project initiatives including employment opportunities and opt-in subscription to project updates.

Advertising

A multi-channel advertising campaign utilising print, digital and social media platforms was implemented to maximise reach of community members who live, work or commute around the Tarcutta area, accounting for the varying demographics and media preferences of the area.

Information about the time and location of the community sessions was distributed to more than 120 existing HumeLink West project subscribers via email including landowners, businesses, local information distributors and the general community. The key information was also published on the HumeLink project website.

Printed flyers were distributed in the Tarcutta town area to be displayed on noticeboards and shopfronts. Flyers were also distributed via Tarcutta post office for Tarcutta, Humula and parts of Keajura.

The session was advertised on 28 July and 12 August 2025 on the 'Tarcutta N.S.W Connect' Facebook site, with around 1,900 subscribers to this forum.

Key themes

Key themes from the community information sessions are outlined below, ranked from the most prominent theme raised to the least.

Traffic and transport

The most popular theme raised by community members indicated key interest in road safety, speed limits, compliance, worker transport and heavy vehicle types, movements and routes.

Tarcutta accommodation facility

Information on expected use of the facility, associated vehicle movements and power sources.

Construction

This theme involved providing information on suppliers, staging of work activities and how to receive more information on the project.

Design

Discussion on ground testing and quality control.

Community information session topics

This section provides an overview of the topics raised at the community information session and the response discussion. If you feel that any significant items are not noted in this report, please reach out to the HumeLink team on 1800 317 367 or humelink@transgrid.com.au.

Road safety audits

Road safety audits are not a requirement of the project's [Environmental Impact Statement](#). Safety is considered in the [Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment](#) (TTIA) and the [Traffic and Transport Management Plan](#). The change in level of service (a rating from A to F) was assessed in the TTIA and these roads remain at the highest level of service (A), meaning free flowing traffic. While not the only consideration, this indicates a minimal impact on safety. Safety will also be maintained with the driver code of conduct, supervision, monitoring and UHF call up system to coordinate the passing of heavy vehicles at appropriate and safe locations.

Project use of Westbrook and Keajura roads

In response to community feedback received previously, the project has installed UHF (ultra-high frequency) call up signs at:

- Westbrook Road between Hume Highway and Stewarts Road
- Yaven Creek Road between Snowy Mountains Highway and Ellerslie Road.

The project currently uses the following roads:

- Westbrook Road between Sydney Street and Stewarts Road – heavy and light vehicles
- Westbrook Road between Stewarts Road and Lower Bago Road – light vehicles only
- Keajura Road between Hume Highway and Burkinshaws Lane – heavy and light vehicles
- Keajura Road between Burkinshaws Lane and Tumbarumba Road – light vehicles only.

In response to community feedback, the project is considering the following restrictions:

- Keajura Road between Tumbarumba Road and Burkinshaws Lane – no project vehicles. Heavy and light vehicle access to Keajura Road between Hume Highway and Burkinshaws Lane must be retained to access the transmission line.
- Westbrook Road from Stewarts Road to Lower Bago Road – no project vehicles. Heavy and light vehicle access to Westbrook Road between Hume Highway to Stewarts Road must be retained to access the transmission line.

Please refer to the project [Vehicle Management Plan](#) for all project vehicle routes.

Note: Following this community information session, the project has:

- *Restricted access for all project vehicles on the following roads:*
 - *Westbrook Road between Stewarts Road and Lower Bago Road*
 - *Lower Bago Road between Westbrook Road and Yaven Creek Road*
 - *Keajura Road between Tumbarumba Road and Burkinshaws Lane.*
- *Restricted maximum speed to 80 km/h for project vehicles on the following roads:*
 - *Westbrook Road*
 - *Yaven Creek Road.*

Transgrid light vehicles will occasionally use the abovementioned roads to perform their regular transmission line inspection activities.

Completion of Tarcutta accommodation facility access lanes, speed limit and signage

The facility access lanes/road widening is anticipated to be completed in ten weeks. The speed limit at this section of Mates Gully Road will be 80 km/h with signs remaining where currently located.

Note: Following this community information session, the project has agreed with Wagga Wagga City Council to restore the speed limit of 100 km/h at Mates Gully Road once facility access point and lanes have been constructed. Construction has paused due to extended approval timeframes and is currently estimated for completion in October 2025, pending the required approvals.

Tarcutta laydown usage

The laydown located at the Tarcutta combined accommodation facility and compound area will be used for delivery and storage of tower steel, plant, equipment and building supplies.

Tower design and testing

Borehole drilling is carried out to test ground conditions, typically two boreholes at each tower site. A core is retrieved from the 20-30cm holes and tested to determine the best tower design to suite the ground conditions. The project uses a driven concrete pole instead of a bored hole in the Maragle area due to the high water tables in this area. Towers are tested at greater than the designed load, typically 115-122% more than what they were designed for, to ensure they meet quality and safety standards.

Purpose of UHF call up signs

UHF (ultra-high frequency) call up signs alert drivers in vehicles equipped with UHF two-way radios to the frequency/channel to monitor and maintain positive communication with other road users in the area. Most heavy vehicles and all project vehicles (including light and heavy vehicles) are equipped with UHF radio.

Type of heavy vehicles used on the project

The type of heavy vehicles used during the construction of HumeLink West include:

- 8x8 heavy rigids, semi-trailers and B-doubles transporting equipment and material
- Low loaders transporting earth moving equipment and piling rigs
- Concrete agitator trucks
- Truck and dog trailers
- Heavy rigid water carts (up 12,000L capacity)
- Fuel and oil service vehicles
- Crew trucks transporting workers to work locations

Will construction start at the Tarcutta/Wagga Wagga end of the alignment?

Enabling work has been most progressed at the Gregadoo – Tarcutta section of the alignment, so transmission tower construction will start at this end earlier than the Snowy Valleys section of the alignment. However, various work activities such as vegetation removal, access track construction and deliveries will be in operation simultaneously at many locations along the alignment.

Heavy vehicles turning around on Westbrook Road

Transmission tower locations have been designed to have an area for heavy vehicles to safely unload the material and turn around, before exiting onto the road. On the rare occasion a heavy vehicle does need to unload by the side of the road, it will be in a safe location under traffic management. If that vehicle needed to turn around, it would be under traffic management.

Westbrook Road widening, safety and suggestion to restrict project heavy vehicle speed limit to 80 km/h

Widening of Westbrook Road is not within the scope of the project.

The project will consider limiting speed of its vehicles on Westbrook Road to 80 km/h. Safety will also be maintained with the driver code of conduct, supervision, monitoring and UHF call up system to coordinate the passing of heavy vehicles at appropriate and safe locations.

More information on road safety measures are detailed in the project [Traffic and Transport Management Plan](#).

Note: Following this community information session, the project [Vehicle Movement Plan](#) has been updated to limit project vehicle speed on Westbrook Road to 80 km/h.

Project supply of gravel

Local quarries are preferred and used where possible, but capacity constraints may require the project to source further afield.

Vehicles accessing Tarcutta accommodation facility and compound, and subcontractor compliance with project Vehicle Movement Plan

There will be a large influx of heavy vehicle movements to the facility when steel arrives from Port Kembla in September 2025. Eight trucks a day will be on turnaround from September to March with additional equipment, supplies and plant deliveries. There will be peaks and troughs during this time.

Subcontractors must ensure compliance under the terms of their contracts which include a driver code of conduct and an In-Vehicle Management System (IVMS) to track compliance. Project-owned heavy and light vehicles, and subcontractor light vehicles are fitted with IVMS. Delivery vehicles are not fitted with IVMS as they are not dedicated to the project.

There will also be an increase in light vehicles accessing the facility in late September when workers move into the accommodation and offices at the facility, with ad-hoc travel between facilities and work sites, and light vehicle deliveries.

When the Tarcutta accommodation facility access point is completed, project vehicles will be unable to access the facility via Sturt Highway as the facility access is right-in and left-out only.

Power source for Tarcutta accommodation facility and compound

Mains power is preferred as the power source for the facility, but this would require a major upgrade taking about three years to implement. The facility will supplement the available mains power (about 10%) with generators. Use of generators will comply with the project [Conditions of Approval](#), including monitoring to ensure compliance with noise limits.

Worker transport

Workers are transported in crew trucks carrying up to seven workers and 12-seater mini-buses. Rosters are staggered so that not all workers need to be transported at the same time.

Liability in event of traffic incidents

Safety will be maintained by the project's driver code of conduct. Any traffic incident involving a project vehicle will be subject to the usual processes to determine liability as required under NSW legislation.

Notification of HumeLink West work and events

Email us at community@humelinkwest.com.au or call us on 1800 317 367 to be notified of upcoming work and events.