

1.1 HumeLink Wagga Wagga Cootamundra Gundagai Community Consultative Group: 3rd Meeting

Time	12 -2pm
Date	16/02/2022
Attendees	<p>Chair: Brian Elton</p> <p>Secretariat: Ella Burgess</p> <p>Transgrid: Elli Baker, Craig Stellan, Tim Edwards, Naomi Rowe, Daniel Burn, Matthew Armstrong</p> <p>Community members: Phil McMurray, Serena Hardwick, Peter Lawson, Daniel Brear, Catriona McAuliffe</p> <p>Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Barbara El-Gamal</p> <p>Amplitude Consultants: Les Brand (attended part meeting)</p> <p>Observers: Deb Pobjie (Transgrid)</p>
Apologies	Clr Rod Kendall, Michael Keys, Rod Stowe, Cheryl Penrith, Brett Redman
Meeting location	Quest Apartments, Wagga Wagga
Meeting materials	Presentation
Purpose of meeting	Meeting 3

Item	Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	To note
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting began at 12:01pm. - The Chair welcomed all and gave an Acknowledgement to Country. - Introductions and involvement in the project from the representatives of the Transgrid HumeLink project team. - Introductions, background from community, landowner and organisation Community Consultative Group (CCG) members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elli Baker is the new HumeLink Project Director. - Craig Stellan, Transgrid Executive Manager Works Delivery attended in place of Brett Redman, Transgrid CEO. - Naomi Rowe is the new HumeLink Community Engagement Lead. - Apologies: Brett Redman, new Transgrid CEO due to COVID,

			<p>Clr Rod Kendall, Michael Keys, Rod Stowe, Cheryl Penrith.</p>
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No comments made on the previous minutes. <p><i>The minutes were previously adopted.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matters arising were noted as being discussed in the agenda for the meeting. 	
3	<p>HumeLink Project Update</p>	<p>Elli gave an overview of the HumeLink project update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See slide 5 of the presentation for a timeline of the HumeLink project. - At the end of 2021 Transgrid completed the Regulatory Investment Test – Transmission (RIT-T). Option 3C was identified as the preferred option with the highest net market benefit. - It was noted that there are sections of the route corridor that remain yet to be finalised. - The project team has strengthened with a number of new additions in recent months. - The EIS Scoping Report has been published. The Department of Planning will now prepare the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). Transgrid expects the SEARs to be issued in approximately four weeks. The SEARS set down the range of technical studies required to be undertaken and impacts required to be assessed for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including community and stakeholder engagement requirements. - In February Transgrid sent letters to some landowners confirming their being in/out of the preferred 200m study corridor after finalisation of the narrowing of the corridor in some sections from 1km to 200m. By mid-2022, the remainder of the preferred 200m study corridor is expected to be communicated to affected landowners. - 161 letters have been sent to 108 impacted properties over the last week. The letters indicated whether or not the properties were impacted by the final corridor or not. It was noted Transgrid only sent letters to properties in which they were certain are impacted by the 200m corridor. As the complete 200m corridor has not been defined, this has left a lot of landowners in the area anxious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See the link to the Scoping Report - The Scoping Report informs both the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - The SEARs specify what issues must be addressed by the proponent within the EIS. - EIS and SEARs to go on agenda for the next meeting to be reviewed by the CCG. - Transgrid to provide the CCG with a diagram explaining the relationship between planning and regulatory approvals and how they work together.

- In early 2023 the EIS is expected to go on Public Exhibition.

The Chair called for questions.

- Community CCG members noted that there was no reference to Option 2F or the Undergrounding Study in the Scoping Report.
- Tim explained that Option 2F and the Undergrounding Study are still progressing and moving forward, however due to project delivery timeframes (energisation by 2026), the current preferred route needs to continue to be progressed while 2F/Undergrounding are being explored. This does not prejudice the outcomes of the undergrounding study / Option 2F should they be found in whole or part feasible. The findings of the undergrounding study / Option 2F will be fed into the project development process and future project deliverables.
- Community CCG members commented that from day one Transgrid has approached the process with a "tick box" attitude and that the community quickly noticed the Scoping Report did not mention the Undergrounding Study.
- CCG members from community organisations commented that there is a serious need for Transgrid to educate landowners that there is no forgone conclusion. As part of the EIS, the proponent must prove that alternatives have been considered and community input has been incorporated into the design.
- The Chair noted that the rigorous process the Steering Committee has been involved in the Undergrounding Study is testament to Transgrid's commitment to exploring the feasibility of undergrounding.
- The Chair noted that it is often the case on large infrastructure projects, parallel paths of investigation occur.
- Community CCG members asked what happens in the case that 2F is deemed an option and the route is chosen but Transgrid has already announced the narrowing of the corridor to landowners.
- Elli noted that Transgrid has refrained from sending out 200m corridor letters in the relevant affected areas until after the 2F study has completed for that reason.
- Naomi noted that landowners between Bannaby and Gundagai have been advised if their properties will be included within the further refined 200m corridor. Naomi further explained

		<p>that these landowners received a phone call or an email prior to receiving the letter of impact. Properties that may be impacted by Option 2F were not notified. Transgrid are targeting the end of March to have the independent assessment of Option 2F complete and will follow up in April with what will be the refined preferred 200m study corridor.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Undergrounding Feasibility Report</p>	<p>Presentation slide 7</p> <p>Dan provided an update on the Undergrounding Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alongside the Steering Committee, Transgrid has gone through the process determining what was requested in the Request for Quote (RFQ). - Transgrid approached three consultants and received offers from GHD and WSP. With guidance from the Steering Committee and Amplitude Consultants, GHD was the chosen consultant. Both offers were broadly very good, however GHD's experience surrounding HVDC was better than what WSP proposed. There is one item associated with environmental studies that they are working with GHD to include in the study. - Les noted that there has been a lot of work completed by both Amplitude and the Steering Committee to reach this point. Les noted that GHD will produce the right options through the study. - Les explained that in the selection of the consultant, it was noted the team put forward by GHD had some significant HVDC experience, which was bolstered by the inclusion of Stantec – a reputable company associated with HVDC. - Tim noted that mid-April is the target date for GHD to complete the Undergrounding Study. - The Chair thanked those on the Steering Committee and Amplitude Consultants for their ongoing and committed work towards the Undergrounding Study. It was noted that the Steering Committee significantly improved the RFQ. - A community CCG member also on the Steering Committee commented that the process has worked well and noted that Amplitude's advice to the community members was particularly valuable, otherwise the community would have been steam rolled. - The Chair noted that Amplitude's role as an independent advisor to the Steering Committee has worked well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be an Inception Workshop between the Steering Committee and GHD on Friday 25 February at 1pm.

- Craig asked CCG members what Transgrid can do to not feel as though they are being steam rolled.
- Community CCG members noted that from the start of the project the information and transparency given to landowners had not been good enough. Many questions were ignored by Transgrid or landowners were given a very vague response. Many landowners have been anxious and without the work and energy put in by a select few in the community, there is a feeling that Transgrid would have never changed their approach and continued to not inform landowners properly. Prior to the CCGs community members could not get copies of meeting minutes and minutes that were obtained were not accurate. There was a general feeling amongst the community that much of what Transgrid did was simply "box ticking." CCG members noted that a higher standard of engagement and transparency needed to be set by Transgrid from the start of the project. It took 18 months before Transgrid realised its approach had to change. Due to this lag, there is now more pressure on timeframes for aspects of the project the community want to see such as the Undergrounding Study.
- Craig asked CCG members if the process of the CCG addresses any of those concerns.
- Community CCG members noted that the CCGs have made the process better than it had been prior to their implementation. However, the energy and time that it takes on top of everyday work for community members can be overwhelming. It was noted that after a day's work and coming home to read a 50-page report is draining people. There are limited people within the community who can and are willing to put in the time to digest information like that and those people are running out of energy. Over the last 18 months there has been a serious impact on local people as they have fought to be involved and have their voices heard. It was noted that these kinds of commitments and impacts show why people in the community do not want to get involved as they feel as though they will slowly be worn down.
- Community CCG members explained that everyone in the community wants to know what is happening regarding Humelink but only two or three people in the community are involved

		<p>because it is so hard to get answers to questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chair noted that in summary Transgrid needs to focus on the basics of engagement including listening to landowners, responding to questions in a timely fashion and doing what they say they are going to do. There needs to be a focus on building trust through consistency. - CCG community members noted that Transgrid should have asked landowners from the start how they would have liked to be engaged with. Even if landowners didn't know the best engagement approach for themselves, it is a process that should have occurred. - Community CCG members noted that Transgrid needs to outline the process and expectations of steps moving forward. Anxiety in the community is stemming from not knowing the next steps in the process. - The Chair noted that workshops around the Draft Engagement Strategy will be occurring in April. - The Chair noted that Barbara and Rod, the Independent Landowner Advocates are reviewing the way in which Transgrid are resetting their engagement. 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Engagement update</p>	<p>Naomi gave an update of the Draft Engagement Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See slide 9 of the presentation for an overview of the Draft Engagement Strategy (the strategy). - There are four pillars that the strategy has been built on. The strategy also incorporates all the 20 recommendations that came out of the Stowe Report. - Each pillar continues to have its own strength and dedicated engagement action plan. The pillars are all connected and rely on the application of each other to be effectively applied. - Social legacy was highlighted as a key area in which the CCG can inform the way in which Transgrid funnels resourcing into long term outcomes for the area. - Transgrid is aware that there is much work to be done and wants to work with the community and the CCG to deliver successful engagement throughout the delivery of the project and well beyond into the future. 	

- The Chair noted that there are two key messages outlined by the CCG during the meeting, 1. Transgrid needs to win social license and 2. the usual kinds of community benefits will not be good enough, broader community benefit and investment is required. Those two key messages sit behind the emphasis for social legacy.
- Community CCG members asked what weighting is behind each pillar.
- Naomi noted that it is an integrated strategy, and each pillar is weighted evenly however, they all overlap.
- Community CCG members asked if there is a financial figure on social legacy.
- Elli noted that there are figures that exist associated with Government policy for what should be spent on various aspects. Major projects such as HumeLink with so many interchanging and moving parts require significant attention in this area. Elli stated that over the last four to six weeks, the Transgrid team have been working to put frameworks around this.
- Elli acknowledged that in the past much around engagement strategy has been discussed at a high level and she is keen work with community and landowners to define tangible outcomes following the engagement workshops in April.
- The Chair noted that work needs to be done with the CCG to ensure that social license moving forward is effective. A good process outlines Transgrid's preparedness to invest and commitment to working with the community and works with the CCG to decipher priorities.
- Elli noted that the Place Managers on the ground are working to collate ideas from landowners to put forward for the strategy. Elli noted that what is needed to produce impactful outcomes are partners and people who are passionate about the outcomes.
- Community CCG members noted they are happy to give advice.
- Craig noted that Transgrid has been a member of the local community for the last half century and wants to be in the future. He noted he has a personal commitment to leaving a town following a project in a better shape than when the project began. Transgrid wants to remain positive members of the community going

forward. As a result they are looking to long term, substantial and sustainable investments.

- Craig gave the example of signing a partnership with Charles Sturt University to deliver high quality skills for the local community.
- Community CCG members asked if this approach flows through to compensation.
- The Chair noted that in the last meeting Transgrid received legal advice that it was possible to apply compensation in other ways rather than a one-off payment.
- Tim noted that there has been enormous work going on in the background surrounding compensation as Transgrid has investigated how this approach can be implemented across its projects company wide. There are currently ongoing talks with the Department, State and Federal Governments. When Transgrid has an update, the CCG will be informed.
- Craig noted that the Compensation Act exists by method of upfront payment versus annual payments. This approach is currently being reviewed and worked through.
- Community CCG members asked if Transgrid can leave legacy with individual landowners. The powerlines will result in a definite loss of capital for landowners. It was noted that it would be beneficial for Transgrid to think of ways to lift the capital value for landowners on an ongoing basis.
- Craig noted that it is possible and Transgrid can have detailed conversations with landowners about specific circumstances. It was noted that most people do not know that Transgrid are one of the largest telco providers and those kinds of items can also be upgraded.
- Elli commented that social legacy and investment has its own portfolio which is testament to how seriously Transgrid takes the issue.
- Naomi noted that if Transgrid has to use private access roads or gates etc. landowners can request improvement works.
- Organisational CCG members commented that a key concern around social legacy is the actual benefit for landowners. There needs to be discussions with landowners around what can be done for them and not just the local community. Landowners are waiting for individual consultation with Transgrid instead of

		<p>being educated on what can be done for the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elli noted she agreed and that this was a point she would like to discuss in the upcoming engagement workshops. It was also noted that ensuring various stakeholders receive the right engagement is a key objective moving forward. - Organisational CCG members noted that social legacy also needs to address rural infrastructure such as roads, weeds and rural amenity. Work with Indigenous communities needs to be carried out around aspects such as cultural burning. 	
6	Discussion and general business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCG members asked if there is a possibility that Option 1C will occur. - Craig noted it was discontinued due to the RIT-T process identifying 3C as the preferred option. Following a dispute on the PACR an addendum was published to include option 1C-new. The addendum confirmed Option 3C as preferred with the greatest net benefit of all options considered. - Organisational CCG members noted that while it was positive Transgrid is focussing on the engagement reset, there are community members that are frustrated little has happened on the ground. 	
7	Agenda setting for subsequent meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The next meeting will occur in April before Easter. Workshops surrounding the Draft Engagement Strategy will also occur at that time. - It is requested that CCG members attend the next meeting in person if possible, to gain the most out of the workshop and meeting. - Meetings will occur quarterly thereafter unless there is an extraordinary event. - Future agenda items will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o What is possible in terms of tailored outcomes for landowners o More focus on the engagement and the social legacy issues. 	
8	Meeting close	The meeting closed at 1:38pm.	

Open Actions

Action	Status or comment
Secretariat is to follow up with members on administrative details including signed Code of Conduct Agreements and sharing of contact details	Underway
If Place Managers or CCG members are aware of landowners who would be interested in the CCG, please pass them on to Brendan Blakeley – Brendan.blakeley@wsp.com	Underway
Transgrid to determine if they can send Wagga Wagga Business Chamber the draft HumeLink engagement plan so messages and communications channels can be complimented	Underway
Transgrid to determine if they can share the STOWE report with the CCG group	Provided in question tracker
Transgrid to institute the \$50 reimbursement for eligible members	Underway
Transgrid to provide CCG members with a diagram presenting how planning and regulatory processes relate	Underway
Transgrid to provide a timeline/diagram of HumeLink progress as it currently stands and a timeline of HumeLink progress if undergrounding or Option 2F are deemed feasible	Underway
HumeLink EIS and SEARs to be circulated to CCG members	Underway

Closed actions

Action	Status or comment
Transgrid is to make information available to members of the CCG as to what constraints it considers when defining the corridor	Complete
The 20 recommendations outlined in Transgrid's commitment to improve engagement are to be circulated for reference to members – link to report is here	Complete
Transgrid to share information with members of the CCG on the difference between single and double circuit towers, what they look like and their size	Complete
Interactive map for landholders and the community is to be shared with the CCG	Complete
Community Team available to the CCG	Complete
Transgrid to send CCG members the copy for member recruitment	Complete
CCG members to appoint a representative for the Steering Committee and find a technical advisor	Complete

Meeting minutes as endorsed by Brian Elton, Chair of the HumeLink CCGs.