

Fact Sheet

Brake and winch pads

July 2026

What is HumeLink?

HumeLink is one of NSW's largest energy infrastructure projects, with about 365 kilometres of new 500kV transmission line which will connect Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. The eastern portion between the existing Bannaby substation and Wondalga is being delivered by Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd and Genus Infrastructure (NSW) Pty Ltd in a joint venture as AGJV HumeLink East.

Stringing underway for HumeLink East

As part of construction for HumeLink East, the project is using helicopters to help string conductor cable between transmission towers. Helicopters are being used instead of ground-based stringing methods to reduce construction and environmental impacts.

To string conductor between tower insulators, pulley blocks are put in place to enable the conductors to be installed. During the stringing process, the helicopter installs the pilot cable (draw wire) through the pulley blocks from a winch site to a brake site. The draw wire is then used to pull the permanent conductor through the pulley blocks.

What is a brake and winch site?

The project is using brake and winch sites or pads along the HumeLink East alignment for the preparation, assembly and operation of equipment and machinery used for stringing conductors between transmission towers.

Each brake and winch pad is made up of a flattened earth area, topped with gravel, and measures from 50 metres x 50 metres up to 90 metres x 50 metres.

Where are brake and winch pads located?

Brake and winch pads are positioned approximately every six to eight kilometres along the alignment and located close to tower pads. Brake and winch sites may also be required where there is a change in angle or direction of the transmission line. While most of the brake and winch pads will be located within the HumeLink East easement, a site may fall outside the corridor when there is a deviation or change in angle in the transmission line.



An example brake and winch pad near Tumut.

What equipment is used at brake and winch pads?

A helicopter will fly low over brake and winch sites to pick up or release draw wires. These draw wires are then used to pull the permanent conductor through pulley blocks between towers.

Light and heavy vehicles travel to brake and winch sites via approved project access tracks. Each brake and winch site may have a range of equipment and machinery in use during stringing including:

- Drums of conductor, drum stands, supports and draw wire reels
- Winches to pull and tension conductor cables
- Concrete blocks and engineered block sleds
- Elevated work platforms, a Telescopic Boom Material Handler and a crane.



An example of a brake and winch pad near Adjungbilly.

What happens to the sites at the end of the project?

HumeLink East will work with landholders to ensure their land is respected and rehabilitated to an agreed state. The project has a progressive rehabilitation approach, which means rehabilitation of sites will start as soon as possible following tower construction, stringing and commissioning activities. Some sites will be rehabilitated while other parts of the project alignment are still being constructed.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss about any of the above, please contact our Community and Stakeholder Engagement team on **1800 317 367** or by emailing humelink@transgrid.com.au

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.



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