

HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement

Agricultural Impact Assessment

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What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The HumeLink project has been classified by the NSW Government as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). All CSSI development applications must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS is to identify and assess the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the project to help the government agencies, relevant authorities, community and stakeholders to make an informed decision or provide an informed submission on the merits of the project.

EIS project footprint

The [HumeLink project](#) extends from the existing Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation to the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation and the future Maragle 500 kV substation.

The EIS footprint is based on an indicative 200 metre corridor and is defined as the area directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.

The final location of all proposed infrastructure will be confirmed during detailed design.

HumeLink planning approvals and EIS

As part of the planning approval process for HumeLink, Transgrid is preparing an EIS in accordance with the [Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements \(SEARs\)](#). The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS and essentially form its terms of reference. It includes the requirements from both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

A series of technical studies and reports to assess agricultural impacts are completed as part of the EIS. This includes Agricultural Land, which is covered in this fact sheet.

Can I provide feedback?

Once the EIS is finalised, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will place the EIS on exhibition and call for public submissions. You will be able to provide feedback on the EIS directly to the DPE during this public display period. More information on how to make a submission will be provided closer to the EIS exhibition period.

To learn more about the HumeLink EIS, please visit the [EIS Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website.



**Agricultural
land**

HumeLink Environmental Impact Statement Specialist Studies



Aboriginal heritage



Electric and magnetic fields



Social



Agricultural land



Greenhouse gas and climate change risk



Soils, geology and contamination



Air quality



Historic heritage



Surface water and groundwater



Aviation safety



Hydrology and flooding



Sustainability



Biodiversity



Landscape character and visual amenity



Traffic and transport



Bushfire risk



Land use and property



Economic



Noise and vibration



Agricultural Impact Assessment

As part of the EIS, Transgrid is undertaking an Agricultural Impact Assessment to evaluate the potential impacts on agricultural operations, livestock and machinery movements, crop production activities, irrigation and biosecurity risks from the construction and operation of the project. The assessment also includes proposed mitigation measures that may reduce potential impacts.

The assessment involved a desktop review of existing information including outcomes from previous community engagement, landowner and relevant stakeholder consultation and property inspections within the project footprint.

Representative properties were chosen to cover a range of geographic locations, project impacts and types of agricultural enterprises. Consultation with landowners included discussion about agricultural enterprises, crops and livestock, and perceived impacts.

What does this study tell us?

The Agricultural Impact Assessment study area comprised the project footprint with a 1.5 kilometre buffer, and the agricultural areas likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the project. Land within this study area is predominantly used for agricultural purposes including grazing (sheep and cattle), cropping and horticultural enterprises.

Key issues raised by landowners have been considered in the assessment. These issues included:

- biosecurity risks
- impacts to agricultural practices (including aerial operations)
- impacts to agricultural land capability and productivity
- restrictions to access and movement.

Overview of project location



Pictured: Proposed HumeLink project location.

Potential impacts

Construction and operation stages of the project will have similar types of impacts on agricultural land. However, in most instances the extent and magnitude of impacts will be greater during construction. This is due to the larger footprint and intensity of construction activities compared to operational activities. Construction impacts will be generally temporary, while operational impacts will be permanent.

Preliminary impacts identified as part of the Agricultural Impact Assessment include:

- potential impacts to agricultural land use from physical disruption in and around the project footprint
- potential biosecurity impacts due to weeds being spread
- temporarily restricted livestock and vehicle movements
- disruptions to on-ground, aerial and irrigation operations
- potential disturbance of livestock by noise
- potential radio communication and global positioning system (GPS) interference.



Pictured: A 500 kV transmission tower.



How are these impacts proposed to be managed?

A range of mitigation measures are proposed to minimise impacts on agricultural land as a result of the project.

This would include the development and implementation of Property Management Plans (PMPs) for directly impacted landowners.

The PMPs will be developed in consultation with landowners and stakeholders, and will outline the protocols that will be implemented to address landowner concerns during construction. This may include:

- information on proposed construction planning
- property requirements including access to easement and any relevant biosecurity protocols
- approach for livestock movement
- measures to minimise disruption to agricultural practices during construction
- property specific requirements such as:
 - » access tracks/roads
 - » the process for rectification of any damage to property infrastructure caused by construction
 - » the process for rehabilitation and stabilisation of disturbed areas following construction completion
 - » any fencing and gate requirements.

As the project progresses through the development of the EIS and detailed design, more information about the identified impacts to agricultural land as well as the proposed mitigation measures will become available.

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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