

1.1 HumeLink Upper Lachlan Yass Valley Community Consultative Group: 4th Meeting 7 April 2022

Time	11:30 – 1pm
Date	07/04/2022
Attendees	<p>Chair: Brian Elton</p> <p>Secretariat: Ella Burgess</p> <p>Transgrid CCG members: Elli Baker, Tim Edwards, Naomi Rowe</p> <p>Transgrid presenters: Daniel Burn, Sumaya Osman</p> <p>Community members: Cr Adrian Cameron, Cr Pam Kensit, Russ Erwin, David Banham, Andrea Strong (via telephone)</p> <p>Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Rod Stowe</p> <p>Deputy Landowner and Community Advocate (Observer): Barbara El-Gamal</p> <p>Observers: Samantha Willoughby (Transgrid), Darryl White (Transgrid), Sherrie Anderson (Transgrid), Heather Wagland (Transgrid)</p>
Apologies	Ian Robson
Meeting location	Yass Soldiers Club
Meeting materials	Presentation
Purpose of meeting	Meeting 4

Item	Discussion Summary	To note
Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting commenced at 11:30am. - The Chair welcomed all and gave an Acknowledgement to Country. - The Chair particularly welcomed the new community members of the CCG and reminded everyone of the protocols for Observer attendance. - Introductions, background from community, landowner and organisation Community Consultative Group (CCG) members. - Introductions and involvement in the project from the representatives of the Transgrid HumeLink project team. - The Chair acknowledged comments about the inability to members to dial in remotely and allowed a community CCG member to dial in via telephone. 	

<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No comments made on the previous minutes. <p><i>The minutes of the previous meeting have been endorsed by the Chair and posted to the Transgrid website.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matters arising were noted as being discussed in the agenda for the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid to circulate the link to the SEARs to the CCG. - getContent (nsw.gov.au)
<p>HumeLink Project Update</p>	<p>Elli gave an update on the project milestones and timeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See slide 5 for the timeline of the HumeLink project. - Transgrid has now received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) that will inform the EIS. - The 200m corridor refinement has recently been announced, however small areas along the route still remain under analysis. Over the next few weeks conversations are commencing with landowners. <p>Elli gave an update on GHD's Options Assessment Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transgrid received the results from the report a few weeks ago but did not disclose the results as they wanted to contact all landowners before the report was made public. The GHD report was made public on Friday 1 April 2022. - The scope of the report was to independently compare the routes at Tumut North, Blowering and Kosciuszko (Option 2F). <p>The Chair called for questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A community CCG member commented that the figures in the report were derived from multi-level analysis. Concern was expressed that the GHD report rated the Tumut North route as having the least social impact, however aspects such as visual aesthetics etc were not taken into consideration. - Community CCG members noted their confusion associated with the social impact heads of consideration, the values and weighting placed on and about various aspects within the report. For example, prime agricultural land was labelled as a medium constraint while federal or state-owned land was labelled as a significant constraint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The link to the GHD Options Assessment report can be found here - The link to the fact sheets on each route refinement decision can be found here Tumut, Bannaby, Green Hills and Pejar Dam.

- ACTION: Transgrid to follow up with GHD for more insight into the social and environmental matters included in its model InDeGO (Infrastructure Development Geospatial Options), how they are weighted and the scoring methodology.
- An organisational CCG member commented that one concern that comes up repeatedly amongst landowners is that this project will impact many generations of landowners, not just the current ones. The federal government's desire to give people cheaper electricity is going to impact generational farmers for a very long time. The comment was made that the analysis of costs will not have taken into account multi-generational farmers.
- A community CCG member commented that Transgrid are not considering the community properly and attempts at engagement are more of a PR exercise.
- The Chair confirmed that from his perspective, the CCGs and the role of the Steering Committee in the undergrounding process has been open and transparent. The result of the Steering Committee led to a rigorous brief and scope for the undergrounding study and if the results of the undergrounding study provide a better option Transgrid will consider the other option.
- A community member asked why Transgrid are then moving forward with their current planning process whilst the undergrounding study is going on.
- Tim explained that the Undergrounding Study is 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 the Undergrounding Study is being explored. This does not prejudice the outcomes of the Undergrounding Study should it be found in whole or part feasible. The findings of the Undergrounding Study will be fed into the project development process and future project deliverables.

Route refinement decision – Tumut

- See slide 9 for an overview of the Tumut route refinement decision.

- Transgrid has determined that the Tumut North option is the preferred route. Landowners now not included in the preferred route as well as those now included in the preferred route have been contacted.
- Broadly, Transgrid took three categories into consideration; social license, network resilience and cost.
- Transgrid have analysed the number of residences within 500m of the corridor as well as chosen a route that would have a lesser bushfire risk.
- Elli explained the concept behind network resilience and explained that there is greater risk when all lines are paralleled instead of including some differentiation between the lines to lessen the risk.
- Elli noted that at this stage the costs that Transgrid has determined for the route options are estimates. The costs across the three options have been completed on the same basis so all options can be compared.

Route refinement decision – Bannaby

- See slide 10 of the presentation for an overview of the Bannaby route refinement decision.
- Similar to the decision made regarding Tumut, an option was requested by locals and landowners to be explored that went through more national park. Taking this route would result in moving away from a particular group of residences, however would impact a similar number of residences elsewhere. The alternate route also had higher environmental and bushfire risk. The costs for the two routes were the same.

Route refinement decision – Pejar Dam

- See slide 11 for an overview of the Pejar Dam route refinement decision.
- Transgrid made the decision to move the transmission line north instead of traversing through the middle of the dam. Working with Goulburn Council, this has benefited the local recreation users of the dam and well as local residences. The cost of this decision was higher but Transgrid noted the significant benefit the decision would have for the community.

Route refinement decision – Green Hills

- See slide 12 for an overview of the Green Hills route refinement.
- The decision to alter the route through the State Forest has resulted in 0 residences being impacted instead of 5. Again, the decision will cost Transgrid more, but they see greater value in impacting 0 residences rather than 5.

The Chair called for questions.

- A community CCG member commented that a fact sheet is not sufficient information to give the community. A detailed methodology needs to be supplied on both the analysis and engagement processes. Frustration with the engagement process was expressed as it was noted landowners have been engaged for so long and yet the criteria such as visual aesthetics and land care have been ignored.
- An organisational CCG member commented that Pejar Dam is located in the Upper Lachlan Shire and questioned why Transgrid was consulting with the Goulburn Council.
- Naomi responded that Goulburn Council manage the dam, hence that was why Transgrid consulted with them to move the transmission line. Transgrid understands the main use of the dam is for recreational purposes, hence they approached the managers of the dam. Crossing the middle of the dam was have significant impacts on a number of different stakeholders who all use the dam.
- An organisational CCG member noted that the Pejar Dam is the gateway to the Upper Lachlan Shire and the Upper Lachlan Shire Council requested to be engaged next time the Transgrid consult on Pejar Dam.
- ACTION: provide a briefing to ULSC on Pejar Dam
- An organisational CCG member asked if the study of Option 2F actually deciphered if the residences were occupied or not, they could be shearing sheds etc. It looks to be a large number of residences in a sparse space.
- Naomi confirmed that Transgrid have had a lot of feedbacking and information about

	<p>the various dwellings in the area and confirmed Transgrid's analysis is accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elli confirmed the additional 26 residences impacted from Option 2F are a result of the route exiting the park into Yass which is a more populous area. - Sumaya noted that Transgrid investigated going through a larger proportion of the State Forest, however if you did so you would still be impacting landowners only in a different area. - A community CCG member commented that given the size of the transmission lines, the impact is going to be further than 500m of the lines. - Sumaya responded that within the EIS, a visual impact assessment will need to be carried out that is not constrained to the 500m corridor. The corridor includes space 500m either side of the transmission lines. 	
<p>Update on Planning and Approvals</p>	<p>Sumaya gave an update on the planning and approvals process and timeline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See slide 16 for an update on the approvals process and timeline. - Transgrid is currently preparing the EIS, taking into account the guidelines of the SEARs which have just been received. - The SEARs were noted as being fairly standard, with some details from various governmental agencies including Heritage NSW etc. - The EIS will be a large and complicated document and Transgrid is interested to hear what the CCG would like to hear about within the EIS report and the technical studies that will inform the report. - The EIS is an open process in which the public can provide comments on at any stage. Feedback can be given through place managers, the HumeLink hotline 1800 317 367, humelink@transgrid.com.au as well as a formal process that occurs when the EIS goes on public exhibition for six weeks. The feedback received during this time goes directly to the Department and Transgrid must prepare a report of responses. - The key general aspects of the SEARs are outlined on slide 17 of the presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HumeLink Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment (nsw.gov.au)

- Naomi noted that leading up to the formal EIS process, Transgrid's goal is to incorporate the informal commentary as well. Transgrid would appreciate the CCG's advice about which briefings would be pertinent on certain technical studies to inform the local community as best as possible.
- An organisational CCG member asked if studies have been done and will be done to test the transmission lines in particularly windy areas such as within the Upper Lachlan Shire.
- Dan replied that is encompassed within the Australian Technical Standards. Transgrid have 500km of the same structures across Australia that they are planning to use for HumeLink.
- ACTION: Transgrid to provide the CCG with technical information explaining how the structural integrity of the transmission lines is maintained in windy conditions.
- Tim explained that the towers are tested all the way up to cyclone rated conditions to confirm their strength. The design process will take into consideration the wind loading required for the geography where the towers will be installed.
- A community CCG member noted that surely that should be a cost incorporated into the comparison between undergrounding and overhead.
- A community member asked if any of the 500kv lines between Bannaby and Bayswater have come down?
- ACTION – Transgrid to confirm with the CCG if any of the transmission 500kv lines between Bannaby and Bayswater have come down.
- An organisational CCG member asked if the EIS will look at biosecurity issues as feral pests using the lines to travel are a major concern for farmers.
- Sumaya confirmed that the biodiversity studies will cover weed and pest management that includes both terrestrial and aquatic. Biosecurity matters will also be covered in ecological and heritage surveys.

Update on the Undergrounding Feasibility Report

Dan gave an update on the Undergrounding Feasibility Report.

- See slide 14 of the presentation for an update on the Undergrounding Feasibility Report.
- GHD presented their technical findings to both Dan and Amplitude on the morning of the 6th of April 2022 ahead of the meeting with the wider Steering Committee on 12 April 2022.
- Dan noted there are several technical items that GHD need to address. The meeting between GHD, Dan and Amplitude was aimed at ensuring the solution will be what the community wants for them to then work through the costs and impacts.
- The route options in the Undergrounding Report are similar to those outlined in the route refinement slides.
- The final report is due on 10 May 2022.
- The Chair reminded the CCG of comments made at the CCG in February the undergrounding study is running in parallel to the project as it advances. If the outcomes of the undergrounding study produce a better option than the current option, Transgrid will be obliged to consider it.
- Dan noted that the process of the Steering Committee has led to what the group has felt as a balanced input, so whatever the outcome is, we trust that it will be balanced. Amplitude Consultants worked hard to revise the scope and rewrite it ahead of it going to market.
- A community CCG member, also on the Steering Committee, noted that having Amplitude as advisors has helped the community members on the Steering Committee enormously and helped them engage in the discussions.
- A community CCG member, also on the Steering Committee expressed concern with GHD's approach to focussing on finding the best available route.
- The Chair noted that this concern can be voiced to GHD and Stantec at the upcoming options workshop.

<p>Update on the HumeLink Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Naomi gave an update on updated engagement collateral.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that the engagement strategy workshop following the CCG meeting would be where the majority of the conversation about engagement would occur. - The Transgrid team have heard from landowners and community members around bushfires, easement compensation and electric and magnetic fields. - This information has informed new factsheets on each subject available on the Transgrid website. - Bushfires – LINK - Easement compensation - Electric and magnetic fields – LINK - A community CCG member commented that it looks as though cost is the sole aspect that Transgrid is considering to determine the route. - Elli responded that as stated at previous CCG meetings, Transgrid is not a commercial enterprise and they cannot decide what their revenue is, unlike a windfarm who is a private entity making a commercial decision. Transgrid is in a different regulated environment to those that supply windfarms. The external regulator sets Transgrid’s process, and they only allow Transgrid enough revenue to cover what they deem Transgrid’s costs to be. The Australian Energy Regulator determines what prices Transgrid can charge their consumers and in what context, Transgrid are forced to follow what is set as a compensation regime. - Naomi gave an update on the upcoming community engagement activities which are outlined on slide 22 of the presentation. 	
<p>Agenda setting for subsequent meetings</p>	<p>Next meetings</p> <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday 29 <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday 12 <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday 7 <p>The Chair noted that the current CCG membership guidelines state that if a member’s property comes out of the refined</p>	

	corridor they must resign from the CCG. The Chair would like to ask that members have a conversation with him before resigning from the CCG as those members are still impacted by the corridor in some way or can contribute meaningfully to the CCG. This was agreed.	
Meeting close	The meeting closed at 12:45pm.	

Meeting minutes endorsed by HumeLink CCG Chair, Brian Elton on 16/05/22.

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.	Ongoing
Transgrid to institute the \$50 reimbursement for eligible members	Ongoing
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
Transgrid to follow up with GHD for more insight into their value scoring methodology and reasoning, including the difference in value between agricultural land compared to State Forest.	Underway
Transgrid to follow up with GHD for more insight into the social and environmental matters included in its model InDeGo (Infrastructure Development Geospatial Options), how they are weighted and the scoring methodology.	Underway
Transgrid to request the value of the multiplier from used in their report.	Underway
Transgrid to provide the CCG with technical information explaining how the structural integrity of the transmission lines is maintained in windy conditions.	Underway
Transgrid to confirm with the CCG if any of the transmission 500kv lines between Bannaby and Bayswater have come down.	Underway
Transgrid to confirm with the CCG if any of the transmission 500kv lines between Bannaby and Bayswater have come down.	Underway