

Community News



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100th tower milestone | National Tree Day planting in Tumut and Bannaby substation nears completion

National Tree Day planting with local students in Tumut.

Welcome to HumeLink East Community News

In October, we will mark a year since major construction started on HumeLink East. As we approach this milestone I wanted to take a moment to reflect on how far we've come and to thank you, the community, for your understanding and support as we build this nation-critical infrastructure project.

In the past 12 months, we have built more than 220 kilometres of access tracks, erected more than 130 towers, commenced helicopter stringing operations and awarded \$2 million in funding to local community initiatives.

None of this would be possible without the support of landholders and the broader community. We remain committed to working closely with you as construction progresses and we continue delivering HumeLink East.



Carel Nagel

HumeLink East Project Director

100 towers milestone

Construction reached a significant milestone in July, with the erection of the 100th tower on HumeLink East, near Tumut.

Since January, more than 130 transmission towers have been erected across Adjungbilly, Gurrundah, Bannister, Windowie and Dalton. In August, tower works also began in the northern section of the project between Bannaby and Pejar Dam, with the first tower in the area erected at Middle Arm.

Tower assembly and erection are now underway along the full length of the alignment and will continue throughout the rest of 2026 and early 2027.



100th tower completed on HumeLink East, near Tumut.

Helicopter stringing

The next phase of construction on HumeLink East is getting underway in the central section of the project between Pejar Dam and the Murrumbidgee River, with helicopters stringing of pilot wire between transmission towers. Stringing in this region began in late August 2026, starting between Dalton and Broadway.

Using helicopters for this work reduces ground access requirements and minimises disturbance in comparison with conventional ground-based methods - benefiting landholders, the community and the environment.

Helicopter stringing is continuing near Adjungbilly and Tumut and will progress along the rest of the alignment in 2027.

HumeLink East is also marking another civil construction milestone with more than 60 percent of tower foundations across the project now completed.



Helicopter stringing underway in Tumut and Adjungbilly.

Substation powering ahead

Bannaby substation works are nearing completion, with testing of new high-voltage equipment underway and installation of high-voltage connections. As part of these upgrades, more than 68 kilometres of new cable has been laid in the substation.

Throughout September and October, remaining civil works will be completed, including pavement, kerb and gutter installation, and drainage works. Civil and electrical upgrade works are on track for completion by the end of 2026.



Coolac RFS updating current fire warning signage.

Supporting the RFS in lead up to fire season

Firefighters across the Southern Tablelands and the Riverina have received grants for upgrades as part of the HumeLink Community Investments and Benefits Program.

RFS South West Slopes is using a grant for improved fire warning signage in the Cootamundra-Gundagai area.

In Goulburn, the RFS Southern Tablelands Logistics Brigade received a grant for new equipment to support them with their emergency work.

In Yass Valley, Bookham RFS received a grant for a concrete parking stand for trucks, a 45,000-litre water tank and fast fill pump that can pump 700 litres of water a minute.

The first stage of work, the new concrete parking stand for trucks, is now complete.

Bookham RFS Captain Oliver Kimpton said: "These improvements will greatly assist the brigade with vehicle access, appliance parking, training activities and station functionality for many years to come."

"Bookham Brigade would like to sincerely thank Transgrid and HumeLink East for their generous support of our station upgrade."



Bookham RFS Captain Oliver Kimpton.



New concrete hard stand at Bookham RFS.

Managing bushfire risks

Bushfire risk is managed in accordance with the project's Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan. Weather conditions and fire danger ratings are monitored daily, with work activities adjusted or suspended as required.

The project implements fire prevention, preparedness and response measures consistent with NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) guidance, including trained personnel, on-site firefighting equipment, vehicle-mounted fire kits on site vehicles, and dedicated water supplies at compounds and facilities. The project also maintains ongoing liaison with relevant emergency services throughout the bushfire season.

Delivery of new cabins a boost for Crookwell

Six new cabins have been delivered and installed at Crookwell caravan park in a major boost for local accommodation in Upper Lachlan Shire. The prefabricated buildings, constructed in NSW, are part of Transgrid's community investment funding for HumeLink to support the Upper Lachlan Shire Council's plans to provide upgraded tourist accommodation at Crookwell Caravan Park.

HumeLink East Project Director Carel Nagel said the cabins will serve a dual purpose.

"These cabins will ensure that we can house some of our workforce in the local community, close to where we're working, while we are building this nation-critical infrastructure."

"Once construction on the project is completed, the cabins will then be available for long-term rentals to residents or for tourist and visitor accommodation."

The cabins, which were constructed in Armidale, will provide a mix of one and two-bedroom configurations. HumeLink East workers will move into the cabins in September and will continue using them throughout 2027 before they are handed back to Council.

Upcoming on HumeLink East

- Helicopter stringing continuing in Dalton, Broadway, Tumut and Adjungbilly
- Ongoing tower assembly and erection from Bannaby to Adjungbilly
- Continuation of access tracks, tower pads and access points across the alignment
- Attendance at upcoming community shows including Battle of the Bidgee (9-11 October) and Murrumbateman Field Days (17-18 October)
- Completion of civil and electrical works at Bannaby substation
- Presenting HumeLink East project update at Yass Chamber of Commerce on 6 November
- Mental Health First Aid course - Yass Soldiers Club - 23-24 October.

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

HumeLink East donated more than 200 native plants to Riverina Highlands Landcare Network and Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc to enable students to learn about landscape restoration.

Students learned about NAIDOC Week while planting seedlings, including endangered species. Recent rain made for a muddy but rewarding experience.

The plants will play an important role in sustaining local biodiversity by expanding a seed orchard for critically-endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands, to ensure a reliable supply of seeds for any future revegetation works.

National Tree Day

At the end of July, members of the HumeLink East Community Engagement and Environment teams got their hands dirty supporting Snowy Valleys Council's Schools Tree Day at Bila Park in Tumut. More than 45 students joined 15 staff and volunteers to help restore the park's riverbanks, plant native trees and learn about the importance of caring for their local environment.

HumeLink East donated more than 750 native trees as part of a series of events at Brungle Public School, Bila Park and National Tree Day initiatives across the region.



National Tree Day activities in Tumut.

In the community

The HumeLink East team has been engaging with the local business community over the last quarter, attending local Chamber of Commerce events to provide project updates. In July and September, members of the team presented at the Yass Business Chamber breakfast, where they shared updates on how HumeLink East is progressing and provided information on the Community Investment and Benefits Program.

The project team also attended the Business Snowy Valleys event in mid-August to share a project update on the work occurring in the Snowy Valleys region.

We will continue to attend the local chamber meetings and community events towards the end of 2026 and look forward to keeping everyone updated on how the project is progressing.

Register to receive SMS updates

To help keep you informed about what is happening and when road convoys are in your area, you can register for SMS Alerts to receive updates on the project.

Scan the QR code below to opt in to SMS Alerts. By opting in, you consent to the HumeLink East project delivery partners using your details to provide you with project updates and information related to the project.



Community feedback survey

Your feedback is important to us, and we want to hear from you about how we can effectively communicate and engage with the communities in which we are working.

The project has a Community Communications Strategy (CCS) which describes how Transgrid and HumeLink East (AGJV) manages communication and engagement with the community throughout the construction of the project.

This strategy can be viewed on the Transgrid website, and we encourage you to provide feedback on this document.

This can be done by:

Calling the Community Information Line on **1800 317 367**

Emailing the community inbox at humelink@transgrid.com.au

Filling out the contact form at: transgrid.com.au/HumeLink