

HumeLink

Geotechnical investigations

FACT SHEET

About HumeLink

HumeLink is a new 500kV transmission line connecting Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. It will carry electricity to customers from new generation sources, including the expanded Snowy Hydro scheme. HumeLink is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Federal and NSW governments. The HumeLink project is critical to bringing more affordable, reliable and renewable energy to the grid as Australia transitions to a clean energy future.

What is happening?

The HumeLink project team is undertaking geotechnical investigations along the full length of the HumeLink corridor to understand the local geology in each area and inform the project design. Soil and rock samples will be collected from around 300 separate locations using borehole drilling which will involve boring a narrow shaft in the ground using a drill rig.

A crew of 3–5 people will complete the investigations at each location over two stages:

Stage 1

A walkover: undertaken prior to drilling to assess access, track conditions and determine suitable equipment to be used.

Stage 2

Borehole drilling: A single hole approximately 10 cm in diameter down to a depth of around 25 metres will be drilled at each location.

The boreholes or any other disturbance to the ground surface resulting from the work taking place will be restored to pre-activity ground level conditions.

Why is this work taking place?

Ground conditions along the proposed HumeLink corridor vary from alluvial flood plains to bedrock. We need to understand these local ground conditions to inform the detailed design.

Specifically, these investigations will help to inform the route alignment, the location of towers and the engineering of the towers to ensure structural stability.



Image: truck mounted drill rig on site.

Where is the work taking place?

Work will take place along the entirety of the proposed HumeLink route. Many of the work locations are on private land, while other parts of the work will take place within state forests.

We will seek consent from the landowner and NSW forestry organisations prior to work taking place.

Access to locations

Drilling and walkovers will only be conducted on sites where landowners have given consent to enter their property.

Dedicated Land Access Officers will work with landowners to understand their expectations and requirements. This will be done before undertaking the proposed activities on their land.

Land Access Officers will meet with landowners to discuss timings, understand the best access routes for work crews and to provide answers to any questions.

Due to geotechnical work being dependent on weather conditions, dates can be subject to change. Land Access Officers will call landowners if access dates need to be changed, providing as much notice as possible.

When is the work taking place?

Location walkovers commenced in late September. Drilling is planned to commence in October. A Land Access Officer will contact impacted landowners and provide specific timings.

Work is expected to take place between 7am and 6pm Monday to Saturday.

Work at each location is expected to take about one day. We will talk to landowners before committing to any work at each private property location and will schedule work at a time that is convenient for the landowner.

Impact to landowners

We are committed to working collaboratively with landowners and local communities to minimise impacts wherever possible.

Some noise will be generated by the works. Dust is not expected to be an impact. Wooden pegs will be temporarily left on site between walkovers and drilling. These mark out drilling locations and will be removed once drilling is complete.

Impact to landowners will be kept to a minimum by:



Maintaining a small crew of approximately 3–5 personnel on site.



Soil and rock data or samples will be taken using low impact methods, such as a small diameter borehole drilling.



Personnel will remain within the assigned work area and access route.



Machinery and equipment will be turned off when not in use.



The work area will be delineated from other areas using traffic cones.



Work areas will be restored to pre-work conditions following the completion of the work.



Crews adhering to HumeLink's Biosecurity Protocol 'Come Clean, Go Clean', this can be viewed on the Transgrid website.



Image: drill rig on site.

Connect with us

If you have any questions or would like to talk to the project team, please reach out.



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