

**Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Network Upgrades Project:
Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project
Community Newsletter
September 2026**

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Acknowledgement of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the preferred route is located. Traditional Owners have lived in the area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways of this region.

We pay our respects to the people and the Elders past, present and emerging. And we celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the land and water.

Message from the Project Director

It's been a busy few months on the Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project.

With EIS Approval, pre-construction activities commencing and a successful round of the Community Partnerships Program for local not-for-profit groups being awarded.

With the project approved, we are pleased to be working with our delivery partner, Zinfra, as we move into the next phase of the project.

Key project updates

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval

In May 2026, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, under section 5.19 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) approved the Project, subject to a number of conditions. For further detail see

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mount-piper-wallerawang-transmission>.

Getting to know our delivery partner

Following a competitive tender process, Zinfra was awarded the contract and appointed as the Principal Contractor for Transgrid's Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) Network Upgrades Project, including the Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project.

Construction is currently underway on other portions of the CWOREZ project in a number of locations across NSW including Wollar (in Mid-Western Council region) and Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter region of NSW.



Figure 1 The Transgrid and Zinfra team together at a CWOREZ site earlier this year

Pre-construction activities

Commencing this month, Zinfra is currently undertaking a number of pre-construction activities across Mount Piper to Wallerawang, including Biodiversity, dilapidation and heritage surveys.

Construction is currently planned to commence in December 2026 and to be completed by early 2028.



Figure 2 Flagging currently in place for pre-construction activities

In the community

Community Partnerships Program

In August 2026, Transgrid awarded funding to local not-for-profit organisations through the Community Partnerships Program (CPP), which provides grants of up to **\$5,000** for eligible not-for-profit groups that are local to our project areas.

Three not-for-profits local to Lithgow City Council area were awarded funding in this round.

Not-for-profit groups provide a range of invaluable resources for their communities. The program was created to give a boost to the people who live and work in the regions local to Transgrid assets or construction.

Indigenous engagement in the community

Indigenous engagement is continuing in the community with an expression of interest being prepared currently for the Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project's Indigenous Working Group. To find out more email

MtPipertoWallerawang@Zinfra.com.au.

About the project

The Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project comprises of the construction and operation of approximately 8 km of new 330 kV transmission line between the Mount Piper and Wallerawang 330 kV substations, on the lands of the Wiradjuri people and within the local government area of Lithgow. For more information, please visit www.transgrid.com.au/wallerawang

The project will carry out upgrades to our transmission network in the State's Central Tablelands to support the NSW Government's delivery of the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). These upgrades will strengthen and reinforce the grid in the Central Tablelands, helping to ensure that power from the Central-West Orana REZ can be reliably moved back into the grid and to consumers.

Project benefits

The project will deliver a range of benefits including:

- Cheaper electricity – improving the affordability of electricity for consumers by increasing supply and driving down electricity prices
- Improved reliability – delivering large amounts of new energy and strengthening and reinforcing the grid in the local region
- Reduced emissions – a greater mix of renewable energy in the National Electricity Market
- New local jobs - opportunities for local workers and businesses during construction.