

A message from the Project Directors

Celebrating construction completion

We are excited to share that construction of Australia's largest transmission project is now complete, marking the culmination of nearly four years of building activity from Wagga Wagga to the South Australia border.

EnergyConnect has provided a major economic boost for regional communities and brings reduced energy costs one step closer for millions of consumers in three states. The project will increase renewable energy sharing between NSW, Victoria and South Australia, reduce the cost of wholesale energy generation, and improve reliability and security of supply for households and businesses.

The EnergyConnect build has included 700km of new transmission lines, with more than 1,500 towers and over 10,000km of high-voltage conductor. The project also boasts one of the biggest and most advanced substations in the Southern Hemisphere at Buronga, a new world-class substation at Bundure, and a major expansion of the existing substation at Wagga Wagga. Completion of the Dinawan substation at Bundure in March was the final part of project construction.

The 540km stage 2 of EnergyConnect (Buronga to Wagga Wagga) will now undergo detailed testing and commissioning before the Australian Energy Market Operator can begin its inter-network testing to confirm the reliability and performance of the new infrastructure. The 160km stage 1 of the project, from the South Australian border to Buronga and into Victoria, became operational last year.

This achievement is a testament to the contribution of thousands of individuals involved in EnergyConnect who overcame complex engineering, design and construction challenges to work as one team to build the interconnector project. In the process, EnergyConnect has provided a social and economic boon to regional communities including much-needed jobs, education and training opportunities, skills development, support for local businesses, and community grants and partnerships.

EnergyConnect is truly a landmark achievement and has delivered an energy superhighway to support our transition to a clean energy future.

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John Burke

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Program Director,
Transgrid Australia

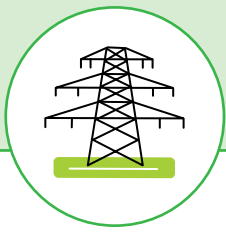


Felipe Delgado

Felipe Delgado

Project Director,
Elecnor.





Project milestone

Construction complete on EnergyConnect

Regional stakeholders from community, industry and government recently joined the EnergyConnect project team at the new Dinawan substation to celebrate the completion of construction on EnergyConnect, Australia's largest transmission project.

Transgrid and its delivery partner Elecnor Australia have finished building the 700km NSW section of this essential interconnector and marked the milestone with an event on 31 March.

"Today is a red-letter day in our transition to renewable energy, with construction completion of the first major transmission line in our transformation to Australia's clean energy future," said Gordon Taylor, Transgrid Executive General Manager Major Projects.

"This colossal construction effort has delivered a unified energy backbone to carry stable, low-cost renewable power exactly where and when it's needed most.

"EnergyConnect will benefit consumers through significant reductions in the cost of wholesale energy generation – the largest component of household bills – and help achieve Australia's climate change targets as we replace coal-fired power with renewable energy."

The project delivered much-needed benefits to regional NSW, ensuring EnergyConnect will leave a lasting legacy in communities across the Riverina, Murray and Sunraysia regions.

The project has invested over \$295 million in supply contracts with 347 local and First Nations businesses, helping them expand their workforces, skills, machinery and equipment. EnergyConnect has also provided educational opportunities and skills development in regional NSW including the Legacy 100 program, which trained workers in transmission line construction, and \$2 million in scholarships for engineering students at Charles Sturt University.

Transgrid sincerely thanks our delivery partner Elecnor Australia and its subcontractors as well as local councils, communities and landowners for working with us to deliver this nation-building project.

"Today is a red-letter day in our transition to renewable energy, with construction completion of the first major transmission line in our transformation to Australia's clean energy future."

Gordon Taylor

Executive General Manager of Major Projects



Images to the right from Dinawan Milestone Event



Project milestone





In the community

Working together for wildlife

Supporting local communities has been central to the delivery of EnergyConnect, and that includes working closely with WIRES and wildlife rescue organisations to assist injured and displaced native fauna across multiple camps.

Throughout project delivery, environmental teams have partnered with WIRES carers whenever wildlife assistance has been required. Whether responding to orphaned joeys, injured birds, turtles, possums or even an adult echidna, carers have provided timely support at all hours of the day and night.

“It didn’t matter if it was 6 in the morning or 6 at night — they would either pick up straight away or call back within half an hour,” said Environmental Coordinator Clare Oakley. “They’ve supported us 100 per cent of the time.”

Often project workers report injured fauna encountered on local roads, with the environment team coordinating assistance and transport to wildlife carers where needed.

Importantly, many of the animals assisted have not been directly impacted by the project itself. Increased workforce awareness has led to personnel stopping to check injured wildlife on roads, rescuing turtles from traffic, relocating lizards and assisting orphaned joeys discovered in deceased kangaroos.

Carers at times have had multiple joeys in care simultaneously, some requiring feeding every few hours. The level of dedication required is significant, with many carers balancing full-time employment alongside round-the-clock wildlife care.

For many project personnel, these encounters with rescued wildlife have left a lasting impression.

For Clare, one of the most powerful moments has been witnessing the impact these rescues have had on the workforce.

“When you place a tiny, completely dependent joey into the hands of a big, burly construction worker, they just melt,” she said.

Clare said those moments often create a deeper connection between people and the wildlife around them.

“One of the most powerful aspects has been seeing how people’s interactions with wildlife has impacted them,” she said.

“Wildlife rescue can create that connection and lasting impression. It’s that personal connection that drives genuine care and behavioural change.”

Clare Oakley

Environmental Coordinator

“I’ve observed that people are more likely to protect and advocate for something when they feel connected to it or are personally affected by it. Wildlife rescue can create that connection and lasting impression. It’s that personal connection that drives genuine care and behavioural change.”

Environmental Advisor Keeley Hartzler has also worked closely with WIRES carers through Camp 2 at Lockhart, assisting with the transport of injured wildlife and coordinating support efforts.

One rescue that stayed with her was a young joey named Poppy. “She was so tiny and crying the whole drive,” Keeley said. “I had nothing but my Elecnor jacket to wrap her in on a cold winter night. Hearing later that she survived, recovered and was buddied up with another orphan joey to continue growing was incredibly heartwarming. To feel like I was part of her story meant a lot.”

In recognition of the support provided by wildlife carers, EnergyConnect camps have coordinated donations of medical and first aid supplies, including bandages, saline, gauze, gloves, dressings and other treatment materials.

The most recent donation, supported by the project’s paramedical teams and Baseline Group, includes a significant quantity of medical supplies that will be distributed to wildlife rescue organisations across the region. Previously, donated medical items were also redirected to assist rescue centres responding to bushfire-affected wildlife.

Supporting wildlife rescue organisations is both environmentally and socially responsible, Keeley said. “Collaborations like this demonstrate that development and conservation can coexist responsibly.”





In the community



From left to right:
Jason Shields,
Matylda Cronan,
Janine Dunne
(Principal),
Kayleigh Banga



Vanessa
next to the
commemorative
plaque at
Deniliquin

School breakfast club boost

Lockhart Central School recently put Elecnor's recycling donation to immediate and meaningful use, supporting the school's daily student Breakfast Club program.

The funds raised through the Lockhart Camp Return and Earn initiative, and generously matched by Lockhart Hardware & Hire, were allocated to the school's Breakfast Club, which provides a free breakfast to students each morning to ensure every child starts the day with a healthy meal.

On most days, students are offered toast, cereal, juice and fruit, but thanks to Elecnor's additional support, the school was also able to host a special BBQ breakfast.

Elecnor and subcontractor, ESS Support Services provided enough bacon, eggs, rolls and sauces to feed plenty of hungry mouths. For a school of approximately 80 students, this meant the supplies could be stretched to provide two BBQ breakfasts instead of one.

On the day, more than 40 students and faculty enjoyed the BBQ breakfast. Principal Janine Dunne manned the BBQ, cooking eggs and bacon, while Principal Support Officer Bek Mathews and Carla Fletcher prepared rolls and helped coordinate the morning.

And there were plenty of happy smiles as students and teachers alike enjoyed a bacon and egg roll, a bacon roll, or just a plain roll.

The Breakfast Club program plays an important role in supporting student wellbeing, ensuring all students have access to a nutritious start to the school day. The BBQ breakfast was a welcome addition and a practical example of how community partnerships can directly benefit local families.

It's a great outcome from a simple initiative that shows how small actions can create meaningful impact beyond the project site.

Connecting with our First Nations

EnergyConnect Indigenous Engagement and Access Officer Vanessa Whyman recently travelled on Country to meet with First Nations communities stakeholder meetings along the project alignment, focusing on how local First Nations communities can be meaningfully supported.

Her journey included a visit to "The Flat" near Deniliquin, a site which was once home to Yorta Yorta families. A commemorative plaque honours these families - including Vanessa's father, Hewitt Whyman, who grew up there with his 13 siblings - as well as a longstanding 60-year partnership between the Deniliquin Salvation Army and the Deniliquin Rotary Club.

Vanessa also visited Jerilderie, named after the Jeithi word djirridhuray, meaning "with reeds". The Jeithi Jerilderie Aboriginal Corporation, located beside Billabong Creek, the world's longest creek at 321 kilometres, lead a range of cultural, environmental and community initiatives, including sunrise walks and native fish release programs.

In Narrandera, Wiradjuri Elder Uncle Michael Lyons of Sandhill Artefacts shared cultural knowledge through tours on Country, educating visitors about bush foods, medicines and survival skills.

The visit also included the Waddi Cultural Centre in Darlington Point, now a regional landmark which plays a vital role in preserving and sharing Indigenous culture. Visitors can explore storyboards on the Warangesda Mission by historian Peter Kabaila and purchase locally made First Nations bush oils, art and clothing.



In the community



Work Experience Students
at Buronga Substation

Students experience project life

EnergyConnect principal contractor Elecnor Australia has recently delivered the first work experience program of its kind in Australia.

More than 20 students from various universities across Australia, including students sourced via Elecnor's industry partnership with La Trobe University, to one of two week-long work experience programs.

Elecnor, on behalf of its client Transgrid, have constructed the last of 1,500 towers and completed stringing of 10,000km of conductor cabling across the 700km project. Elecnor saw an opportunity to provide students from diverse disciplines with first-hand exposure to the project's scale and complexity of infrastructure delivery. The students are studying engineering, surveying, environmental science, project management, marketing, commerce, and business analytics, reflecting a broad range of skills required on any large infrastructure project.

Elecnor's EnergyConnect Project Director, Felipe Delgado said with the project now in its final stages, this program provides students with a great opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to our industry, our company, and our project to assist with their career development.

Students visited the world-class Buronga substation and the Dinawan substation near Bundure, NSW. The students stayed at the project worker accommodation camps, where they had the opportunity over several days to spend time with a range of Elecnor's site and office based employees. They also met with core delivery and service team specialists to better understand the many roles that contribute to project success.

Head of Human Resources, Rachel Solomon, said "We wanted the students to understand that major infrastructure projects such as EnergyConnect require skills, knowledge, and experience from a

It's a once or twice in a lifetime opportunity that will better equip these students for the future.

Rachel Solomon

broad range of resources across both service and delivery roles to meet project deliverables."

The program reinforces Elecnor as an employer of choice, demonstrates the company's commitment to developing talent, and aligns with social impact goals.

"By engaging students early, we are identifying future talent pipelines giving students networking opportunities and real-world insight into whether a career in our sector aligns with their interests and strengths." Ms Solomon said.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity that will better equip these students for the future."

The students' enthusiasm stood out with their active participation and drive to maintain connections beyond the program. Feedback was extremely positive overall with students providing comments such as "Speaking with employees about their roles and career paths gave me a clearer understanding of how the industry works" and "This program touches on so many different aspects of the organisation. There really is something for everyone. The positive work environment and commitment to excellence that Elecnor promotes makes for a company that I'd be happy to work for," said another participant.

Elecnor Australia hopes to continue offering similar initiatives on future projects, helping ensure that the next generation of professionals, across a wide range of disciplines, can see firsthand the opportunities available within Australia's infrastructure sector.



Business spotlight

StructureCorp - partnership in practice, impact on the ground

In delivering EnergyConnect, principal contractor Elecnor has worked with more than 25 Indigenous businesses across the project corridor. One of these is StructureCorp, a New South Wales-based building and infrastructure company that supported construction activities at the Dinawan Substation.

Partnership built on trust, not just contacts

The relationship between StructureCorp and Elecnor developed through openness, respect and a shared commitment to getting the job done well. At Elecnor, our teams adapted our approach to work more collaboratively and in a way that respected the cultural and operational practices of an Indigenous business. For StructureCorp, the project was never only transactional, it was built on connection, shared values and mutual respect.

StructureCorp Director Simon Kay (<https://structurecorp.com.au/>) describes the partnership as one where the relationship came first: "The best contracts are the ones you don't need to pull out. Our relationship with Elecnor was built on trust."

Cultural recognition in action

A small but meaningful gesture surfaced early in the partnership. Elecnor workers began placing First Nations Goanna artwork stickers - supplied by StructureCorp, on their helmets. This simple act strengthened pride, visibility and cultural safety onsite. It helped normalise Aboriginal representation and gave workers a sense of belonging and identity in their workplace.

Business outcomes

StructureCorp's work on EnergyConnect focused on the fit-out for the building that houses specialised synchronised condenser equipment at the substation, including construction of internal partitioning walls, painting and priming and door installation, delivering:

- New capability – first EPC-tier experience with a major contractor
- Industry credibility – strengthened StructureCorp's profile for future major contracts
- Pathway to growth – EnergyConnect experience now positions StructureCorp to compete for larger-scale infrastructure work.

Community outcomes

Indigenous businesses typically reinvest in their communities, and StructureCorp is no exception. Profits and experience gained from this project contributed to:

- Investments in Aboriginal student education, including laptops provided through an IBA partnership.
- A First Nations Technology Program, supporting digital inclusion.
- Ongoing support for Aboriginal subcontractors focusing on capability, reliability and long-term development rather than identity alone.
- Local community initiatives and improved regional amenities.

These outcomes extend far beyond the project site, creating intergenerational benefits across Aboriginal families and communities.

A model for future partnerships

The partnership between Elecnor and StructureCorp shows what is possible when major contractors invest genuinely in Indigenous businesses as a shared commitment to better outcomes.

By choosing to partner with StructureCorp, Elecnor helped build capability, strengthen economic participation and support a business deeply connected to community benefit.

This initiative demonstrates that when companies take the time to listen, adapt, include and collaborate, the results are powerful: stronger businesses, stronger communities and a more inclusive energy future for Australia.

Elecnor Australia is proud to have supported StructureCorp's first EPC experience, a milestone that will continue to deliver value well after EnergyConnect is built.

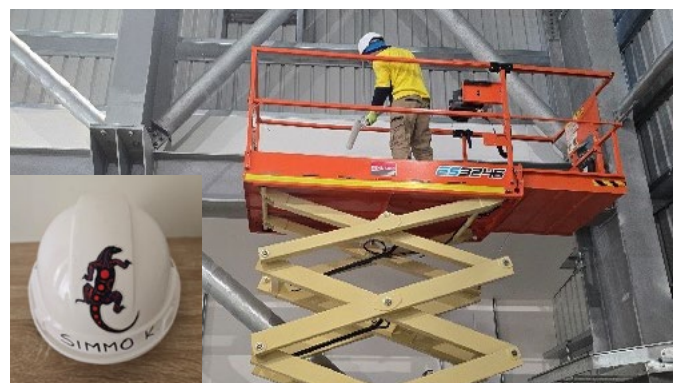
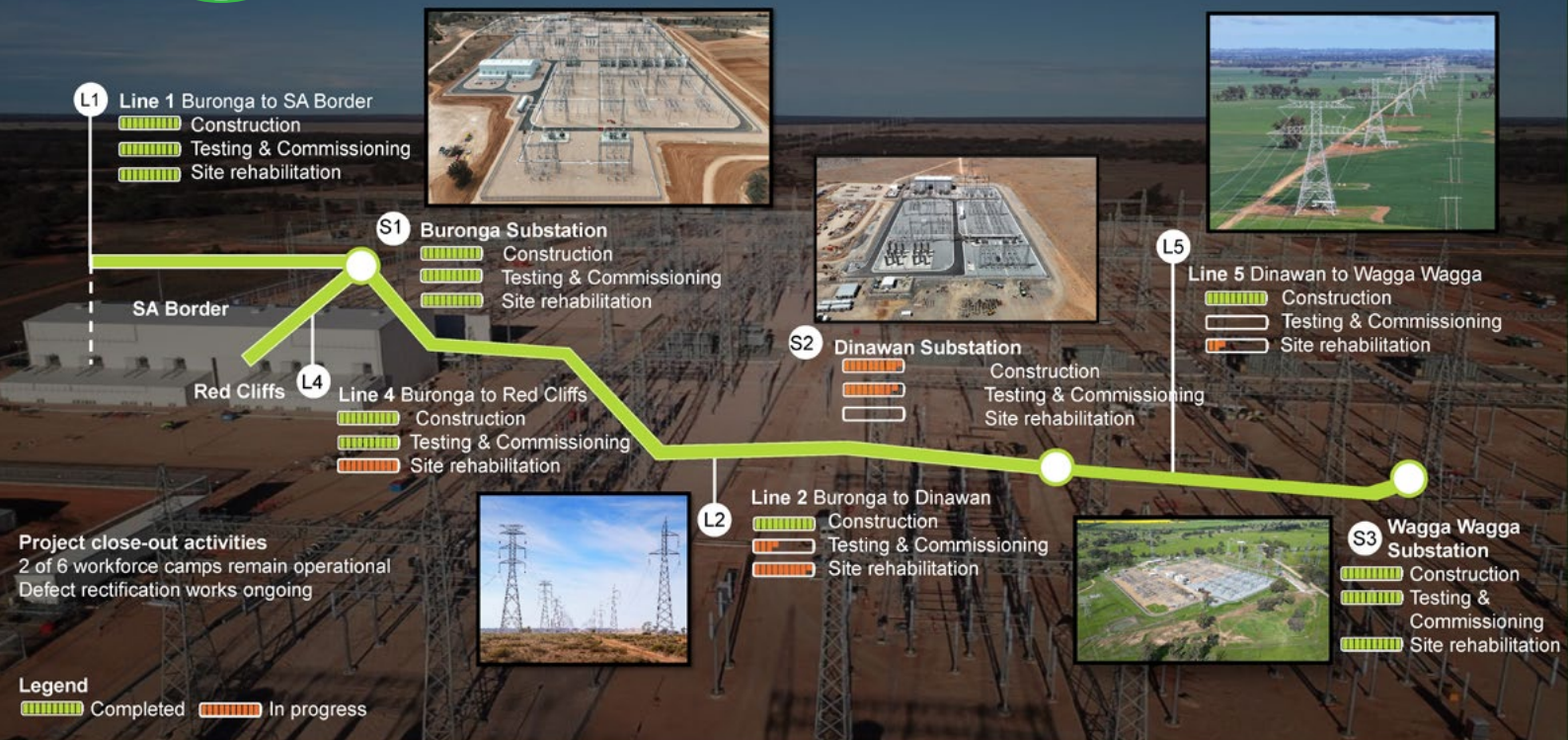


Image acknowledgement: StructureCorp



Project progress



Worker camps closing

EnergyConnect is progressing with the demobilisation of the Cobb Highway Camp, south of Hay.

This leaves just two camps remaining on the project – the Dinawan camp near Coleambally and the Lockhart camp, both of which will be demobilised once the project is completed.

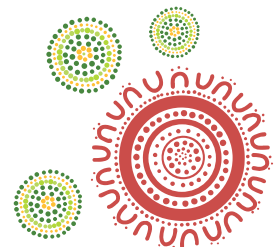
Over the life of the project six temporary workforce camps were established to relieve demand on local housing and short-stay accommodation.



Acknowledgment of Country

Transgrid acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this great land. We recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first explorers, scientists, farmers, astronomers and storytellers.

We pay respects to the people, the Elders both past and present and celebrate the diversity and successes of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing connections to the lands and waters where we work and live.



Connect with us

Transgrid and Elecnor Australia are committed to working with landowners and communities through EnergyConnect project. Please connect with us for more information.



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