HumeLink West | UGL | CPB CONTRACTORS

Transgrid

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2025

Workers in climbing safety harnesses help erect the first transmission tower on HumeLink West.

First transmission tower erected on HumeLink West

The first transmission towers on the 140km alignment of HumeLink West are being built, with construction set to ramp-up from January 2026.

HumeLink, which will connect Snowy 2.0 into the power grid, comprises 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines linking Maragle with Wagga Wagga and Bannaby, two new substations and the upgrade of two others.

The HumeLink West project alignment is marked in yellow.

The first towers being erected on the HumeLink West section of the project are located to the southeast of Wagga Wagga.

Over the coming months, construction will will continue to progress with the team working on tower pads and foundations along the HumeLink West alignment.

Meanwhile, local civil earthworks crews are ramping-up construction of the heavy vehicle access points and access tracks needed to reach each of more than 360 individual tower sites. Around a third of the more than 330 kilometres of access tracks needed for HumeLink West have been built so far.

Tower steel and other materials are being delivered in bulk to strategically sited storage yards at Gregadoo, Ellerslie, Batlow and Maragle to maximise supply and construction efficiency.

HumeLink West also includes two new 330/500 kV substations (Gugaa at Gregadoo southeast of Wagga Wagga and Maragle in the Snowy Mountains) and the upgrade of an existing 330 kV substation at Wagga Wagga.

The HumeLink West portion is being delivered for Transgrid by two CIMIC Group companies, UGL and CPB Contractors.

The nation-critical HumeLink project is on track to generate up to 1,600 jobs and provide consumers with access to more affordable renewable energy.

When completed in late 2027, the project will significantly increase power grid capacity by better connecting and distributing electricity in Australia's eastern states.

With the tower leg stub in place, the foundation pile is filled with concrete.

Each tower leg stub must exactly conform with the construction plan.

Laying foundations for success

Piling rigs will drill almost 1,500 concrete foundation excavations along the 140km length of the HumeLink West alignment over the next two years.

Guided by detailed ground investigations and the design requirements of each transmission tower location and type, four deep pile footings are bored for each tower structure.

The foundation stubs that the splayed tower legs will be bolted to are carefully positioned at the centre of cylindrical steel reinforcement cages, and in some cases steel sleeves, before being set in concrete.

The concrete foundations are left to cure while the piling team moves on to drill, form-up and pour foundations at the next tower site.

Next, the transmission tower construction team moves in with the prefabricated, galvanised and pre-dulled tower steel materials to begin preliminary ground assembly of the structure.

Individual segments of each tower are assembled on the ground. When the concrete foundations have cured, the lowest tower segment is lifted into place by a tall crane and bolted to the foundation leg stubs (shown left).

Successive tower segments are lifted by the crane and fitted into place by appropriately trained and accredited crews wearing climbing harnesses and other essential safety equipment.

Nine different transmission tower types have been designed to account for the varying topography and load bearing requirements on HumeLink West, which range between flat farmland to more challenging mountain terrain.

Later, 500 kV conductor cables will be strung between the towers before being tensioned and tested.

The first tower segments are lifted and bolted together during tower erection.

Bulk civil earhworks for the Gugaa Substation are nearing completion.

Gugaa substation site takes shape

Workers are rapidly progressing bulk civil earthworks for the new 330kV/500kV Gugaa Substation at Gregadoo to the southeast of Wagga Wagga.

Workers are now nearing the completion of cut and fill operations in preparation for construction of the substation foundations early in 2026.

At Maragle in the Snowy Mountains, the building site of a similar substation is being readied for foundation concrete pours before Christmas.

Both worker camps now operational

Two fully self-sufficient worker accommodation facilities, each providing a comfortable home away from home for about 350 temporary construction workers, are now operational.

The Tarcutta facility, located on Mates Gully Road 1km west of the township, features comfortable individual ensuite residential cabins, a laundry facility, a large commercial kitchen and dining hall, a fully equipped gymnasium, a prayer room and an all-weather outdoors recreational area.

A virtually identical residential facility at Kunama near Batlow is now occupied by about 180 workers, with that number set to rise to around 350 in early 2026.

The Kunama worker accommodation facility near Batlow.

HumeLink in the community

Transgrid and its HumeLink delivery partners have engaged with around 120 community groups, local Councils and individuals as part of a selection process to determine which nominated initiatives will receive funding through Transgrid's Community Investment & Benefits Program (CIBP).

The CIBP will support HumeLink's delivery of select initiatives that offer the most enduring social, economic and environmental legacies to communities impacted by the project.

Following shortlisting and community prioritisation, the submissions are being evaluated to assess which offer the best benefits and most secure pathway to implementation.

Community members have had their say on proposed CIBP initiatives.

Student driver training a winner

HumeLink West has partnered with the NRMA to design and deliver a learner driver training program for high school students living in the project area.

The decision to run the initiative was underpinned by research showing that not holding a driver's licence can be a barrier to young people entering the workforce, accessing further education or enrolling for vocational skills training.

So far, one hundred and eleven driving lessons have been provided to high school students through the initiative.

Local year 11 and year 12 students are benefitting from driver training.

Increased local road traffic

Communities across the HumeLink West alignment may have noticed an increase in the volume of light and heavy vehicle movements on some local roads with the recent start of main construction.

Traffic volume will continue to grow in 2026 as the number of workers on the project, and the movement of construction materials such as tower steel, concrete and equipment to tower location access points and substation sites, increases.

Select roads may temporarily be subject to reduced speed limits and changed traffic conditions, including extra traffic controls and signage in some locations.

Please keep to the signposted speed limits, follow the direction of traffic controllers, and drive to the conditions.

For the latest traffic updates, visit livetraffic.com or download the app Live Traffic NSW.

A heavy vehicle delivers materials for transmission tower foundations.

To find out about specific locations where we are working and any associated traffic condition changes, please visit the project website. **Click here** to see the latest Notifications or use the QR code.

What to expect over coming months

Construction on HumeLink West will pause from December 23 until December 28. From January 2026, works will include:

- Civil construction at three substation sites
- Construction of transmission towers
- Materials and equipment deliveries to storage compounds and work sites
- Traffic controls at some worksite access points
- Civil earthworks for construction of access points and access roads
- Installations of drainage, utilities, gates and fencing
- Geotechnical investigations at tower sites
- Water trucks spraying access roads and work sites on hot and dry days to reduce potential for construction airborn dust.

Motorists are asked to drive with caution and be prepared for longer travel times.

Transgrid and our HumeLink West project delivery partners, UGL and CPB Contractors, thank you for your patience and wish you an enjoyable and safe festive season.

HumeLink West three month lookahead

Activity (subject to change)	December	January	February
Civil works at Maragle, Gugaa and Wagga Wagga substations	●	●	●
Geotechnical investigations at transmission tower locations and other sites	●	●	●
Construction of transmission towers along the HumeLink West alignment	●	●	●
Steel and concrete deliveries to multiple transmission tower sites	●	●	●
Vegetation clearing in select forestry areas along the alignment	●	●	●
Works at Ashfords Rd Gregadoo, Mates Gully Rd Tarcutta & Greenhills Rd Kunama	●	●	●
Establishment of access points and access tracks along the project alignment	●	●	●

Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities through the development of HumeLink. Please connect with us for more information.

Transgrid | HumeLink West UGL | CPB CONTRACTORS

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For an interpreter, call **131 450** and ask the service to call Transgrid on **1800 317 367**.