



HumeLink West Project Director, Tim Burns near one of the transmission tower sites.

First HumeLink transmission towers to be built

Preparations are in place to erect the first transmission tower on the 140 kilometre HumeLink West section of HumeLink.

HumeLink, which will connect Snowy 2.0 into the power grid, comprises 365 kilometres of 500 kV overhead transmission lines between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle, and new or upgraded infrastructure at four substations.

The first tower to be constructed on the HumeLink West section of the project will be located on the eastern outskirts of Wagga Wagga.

Local civil earthworks crews have been busy building around 70 access points and the first third of about 300 kilometres of access tracks needed to reach individual tower sites.

Tower construction from now through to the end of the year will progress from Wagga Wagga towards the south of Tarcutta where preparations are being made for the alignment to hurdle the Hume Highway before progressing east to Ellerslie and Greenhills.

Separate laydown yards to store tower steel and equipment have been established at strategic locations along the alignment to optimise materials supply and construction efficiency.

HumeLink West also includes two new 500 kV substations (one at Gugaa and the other at Maragle) and the upgrade of an existing 330 kV substation at Wagga Wagga.

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

The nation-critical HumeLink project is on track to generate up to 1,600 jobs and drive \$6.3 billion of direct and indirect investment into the surrounding regional economy.

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



The HumeLink West project alignment is marked in yellow.

How is a transmission tower built?

HumeLink West requires up to ten different tower designs along the project alignment to account for changes in topography and varying load-bearing factors.

The site of every tower location is drill-tested to ensure that foundation design for each structure meets the required stability and performance criteria.

With the required depth and scale determined, excavators remove soil and rock to clear the site for construction of the tower foundation. The area is then fitted with steel liners and reinforcement cages, followed by a concrete pour to install the tower legs (the base of the tower).

Individual segments of each tower are then assembled on the ground before being lifted into place by a tall crane and bolted into place by trained and accredited crews wearing specialised harnesses and other essential safety equipment.

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



Preparing one of the tower site access tracks needed for HumeLink West.



Construction of a similar transmission tower on an earlier project.

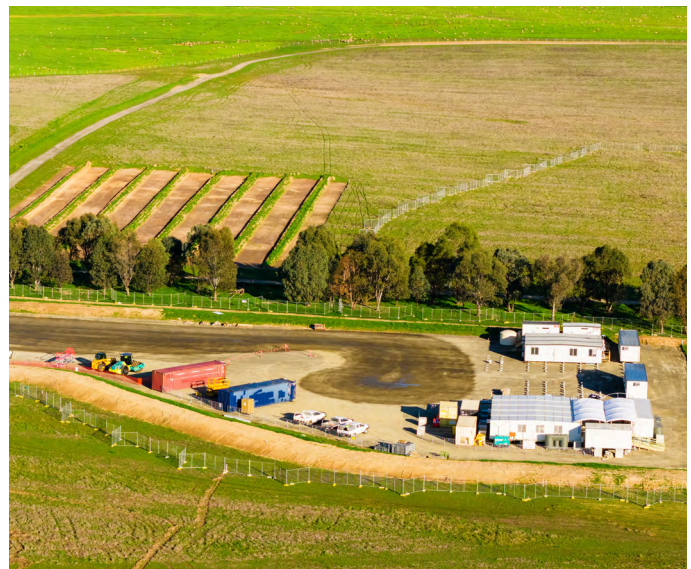
Substation construction underway

Bulk civil earthworks are nearing completion at the site of the new Maragle 500 kV substation in the Snowy Mountains and the HumeLink West team has begun preparing for construction of the substation foundations later this year.

The substation is being constructed alongside a new Transgrid switching yard connecting Snowy 2.0 with HumeLink.

At the western end of the alignment at Gregadoo, the HumeLink West team is ready to begin bulk civil earthworks for the new Gugaa 500 kV substation, with site offices, utility buildings and a carpark already in place.

A short distance further west, the upgrade of the Wagga Wagga 330 kV substation is now also ready to move ahead.



Earthworks to prepare the Gugaa Substation site are well underway.

Laydown facilities gearing up

Material and equipment storage yards at Gregadoo, Ellerslie and Snubba near Batlow have been completed and are now beginning to serve their role as transport and logistics hubs for the delivery and distribution of vital construction-related materials and equipment.

The HumeLink West team completed civil works at the Snubba laydown near Batlow before arrival of some light snow falls and managed to work around the wet and cold winter weather to complete the laydown yard at Ellerslie.

Logistics Manager at the Gugaa laydown yard at Gregadoo, Ravindra Kolagani and the team are looking forward to further tower steel deliveries over coming weeks, having already received the foundation steel pile liners and reinforcement cages. Current shipments include sufficient steel components to erect more than 30 transmission towers.



Logistics Manager, Ravindra Kolagani with pile cages for tower footings.



The Tarcutta accommodation facility is entirely self-sufficient.

Tarcutta worker camp ready

The first of two fully self-sufficient worker accommodation facilities providing a comfortable home away from home for about 350 visiting construction workers is ready for occupancy at Tarcutta.

Another virtually identical 350 worker facility is under construction at Kunama near Batlow with expected completion in early November.

Both facilities utilise state-of-the-art, thermally insulated prefabricated modular building units which lock together to form a comfortable and functional residential site, incorporating individual ensuite bedrooms, a large laundry facility, a large commercial kitchen and dining hall, a fully equipped gymnasium, a prayer room and an expansive covered recreational area.

The Tarcutta and Kunama accommodation camps are co-located with site offices, training rooms and off-street parking for project light and heavy vehicles.

Each of the temporary facilities will be dismantled and removed, with the topsoils and site profiles reinstated, following project construction completion in 2027.

HumeLink in the Community

A total of 118 expressions of interest have been lodged in Transgrid's Community Investment and Benefits Program, which aims to deliver a number of enduring social, economic and environmental legacies.

Community members were invited to attend showcase sessions in September and help with the prioritisation of shortlisted projects. The prioritisation survey was open from 15 to 28 September and can be accessed through the [Community Investment and Benefits Program page](#).

A panel from Transgrid and its delivery partners will assess the shortlisted projects after considering the community feedback and successful projects are anticipated to be awarded in late 2025. For more information visit the [Community Investment and Benefits Program page](#).

Meanwhile, the Chair of the Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub Ray Billing and Mayor Julia Ham have officially opened the combined Snowy Valleys Resilience Hub and HumeLink information centre, located at 37 Pioneer Street Batlow. The facility is jointly supported by HumeLink West and Transgrid.

Say hello to the HumeLink team at these upcoming events:

- Adelong Markets 11 October
- Tumbarumba Spring Flower Festival 25-26 October
- Snowy Valleys Markets Tumut 15 November



Ray Billing and Mayor Julia Ham open the combined community facility.

Changed traffic conditions

The start of main construction will result in extra light and heavy vehicle movements on some local roads, in line with government planning approvals.

In addition to workers travelling to and from construction sites, motorists and pedestrians will notice more frequent heavy vehicle journeys delivering essential materials such as tower steel, concrete and construction equipment to substation sites and tower location access points.

To maintain road safety, some sections of road may temporarily be subject to reduced speed limits and changed traffic conditions, including extra traffic controls and signage in select locations.

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



Temporary traffic controls will be required at some project access points.

For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW app or visit livetraffic.com by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code.



What to expect over coming months

Construction work beyond mid-September 2025 will include:

- Civil works at substation sites
- Construction of transmission towers
- Construction at worker accommodation facilities and storage compounds
- Equipment and materials deliveries to storage compounds and work sites
- Civil earthworks for construction of access points and access roads
- Traffic controls at some worksite access points
- 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 airborne dust.

Due to increases in light and heavy vehicle numbers, motorists are asked to drive with caution and be prepared for possible longer travel times.

HumeLink West three month lookahead

Activity (subject to change)	October	November	December
Civil works at Maragle, Gugaa and Wagga Wagga substations	●	●	●
Geotechnical investigations at transmission tower locations and other sites	●	●	●
Construction of transmission towers	●	●	●
Construction at Kunama Workers Accommodation Facility	●	●	
Tarcutta offices, materials and equipment compound	●	●	
Works at laydown areas near Batlow and at Maragle, Ellerslie and Gregadoo	●	●	●
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.



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(free call)

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www.transgrid.com.au/humelink-west/



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

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